

their will. The American people do not want this health care bill to become law. In my district, they strongly and vocally oppose this plan, and I hear this every day in phone calls and emails, people coming into my office. But I also hear it when I go to the grocery store or to a restaurant in my district. People come up and tell me, BILL, oppose this bill. Stop this bill. And I fully intend on voting against it.

I have also talked to the small businesses and large businesses across this country. They oppose it also because it's creating great uncertainty for them, and this great uncertainty is causing harm to our economy. They're not hiring new employees because of the uncertainty of the cost this bill will have on them. They're not investing in their businesses because of the uncertainty these mandates will have, will push down onto their businesses. This is exactly the kind of uncertainty that's keeping our unemployment rate at 10 percent, and job creation is stagnant. The Democrats' health care plan is reckless, and I believe it will put America on a path to financial ruin.

#### THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEVADA

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, last week I hosted a telephone town hall with more than 3,500 people tuned in from District Three. This was an excellent opportunity to hear directly from my constituents about the issues that are important to their lives. This was the sixth telephone town hall that I participated in. In addition, we've answered some 95,000 letters, held 10 Congress on the Corners, and hosted five housing workshops.

These means of communication have helped me to be a powerful voice for the people of District Three and to provide as much transparency as possible about the proceedings here in Washington. In fact, thanks to these efforts, I've put \$1.6 million directly into the pockets of southern Nevadans by fighting for veterans to get their benefits, seniors to get their Social Security benefits, and homeowners to receive loan modifications that keep them in their homes. I've made it a top priority to stay closely connected to my constituents, fighting for them in Washington while serving them in southern Nevada. I encourage them to call on me any time.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GRIFFITH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage the rejection of this health care bill. The American people have spoken out time after time, and I'm puzzled why Congress is

still considering it. Done in secrecy, this bill will cost jobs, raise taxes, and slash Medicare benefits. And as a physician, I know this bill will be bad for patients. It's terrible for our economy, and it's damaging to the very people we are trying to help.

Although the past is no guarantee of the future, it is, however, instructive. This administration has a failed stimulus package, a failed banking system, a failed cap-and-trade, and numerous questionable interventions into General Motors, AIG, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and others. This kind of track record gives the American public no reason to trust this administration with its health care. I urge my colleagues to listen to the will of the American people and vote "no."

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, the process which the Democratic majority will reportedly use to ram their costly government health care program through this House is truly deplorable and likely unconstitutional. Article I, section 7 of the Constitution clearly states that both Chambers must pass their bills by a vote. Then the bill is sent to the President for his signature before we can reconcile a bill here in Congress.

It's unconscionable to disregard these principles after the American people have clearly said "no" to this plan. They've told Congress to go back to the drawing board and find a solution. It's wrong to flaunt the Constitution and the will of the American people by forcing this proposal down their throats.

Madam Speaker, it will be a sad day for this institution and our great Nation if a proposal of this nature comes to the floor of the House under these circumstances.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, we have been debating health care reform for over 1 year. Today I am urging my colleagues to step up to the plate with courage and vote for passage of this critical legislation. If we don't move forward, the American people will be faced with grave consequences due to our inaction. Rising health costs are crushing American families, forcing small businesses to choose between health care and jobs.

Madam Speaker, \$1 out of every \$6 in the U.S. economy is spent on health care today. If we do nothing, in 30 years \$1 out of every \$3 in our economy will be tied up in health care. If we fail to pass health care reform, families

could see their spending on premiums and out-of-pocket insurance costs rise 34 percent in 5 years and 79 percent in 10 years. Without reform, every 4 years 3.5 million American jobs will be lost. More importantly, if we fail to pass reform, insurance companies will be allowed to continue to deny coverage for preexisting conditions. Insurance companies will be allowed to drop coverage when you get sick.

I urge you to pass this bill now.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I am deeply concerned by reports that the majority party may try to move the health care reform bill through the House without a vote. To move such sweeping legislation, especially considering the price tag, using a parliamentary gimmick is unconscionable. The majority of the American people do not support the health care reform bill presently before Congress. It spends money we don't have, cuts the Medicare program when we should be coming up with ways to get our financial house in order and make sure the Medicare program is protected. The American people want a bipartisan bill that fixes what is broken and keeps what is working.

Where is the accountability? Where is the transparency? America expects more and deserves more. This morning The Washington Post said that what the Democrats are threatening to do is "unseemly." There needs to be an up-or-down vote on health care reform, not on a procedural sleight of hand.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. I often wonder what part of the world our colleagues are living in on the other side of the aisle. I arrived here on November 5. On November 6 there was an up-or-down vote on a major health reform bill in this House. The Senate did it just before Christmas. I think it was Christmas Eve. There has been an up-or-down vote, and now this week we will have an opportunity to take up this bill, pass it on to the President, get it signed, and simultaneously make corrections in the Senate. It sounds to me like that's an open process, and we've been at this now for more than a year here and this Nation for more than a century, trying to provide health care for all.

And let's keep in mind that our economy absolutely demands that we take action now. Seventeen percent of our economy is being used. The more we spend, the more uninsured we have. We solve those problems with this bill. It's

time for action. It's time to stop saying "no" and get on with solving a major fundamental problem here in America.

#### A REPUBLIC OR A MONARCHY?

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, 233 years ago this May, a group of American patriots met in Philadelphia to create a Constitution which has been the guiding light to freedom-loving people around the world. Now, as we gather here, the majority is planning a procedural gimmick to get around having to vote for a health care bill that Americans don't want or can't afford. Let's not circumvent the Constitution. Outside Independence Hall when the Constitutional Convention concluded in September of 1787, a Mrs. Powell of Philadelphia is reported to have asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" With no hesitation whatsoever, Franklin responded, "A Republic, if you can keep it." Let's keep this Constitution.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Your health or your home? Americans should not have to make this choice, but all too often they have to because of the high cost of health care. Lesley Czechowicz of Kihei, Maui, called my office yesterday to tell me about her 20-year-old niece. Last year, her niece collapsed and fell into a seizure. Medics rushed her to the hospital; and, ultimately, she was diagnosed with epilepsy.

Her niece had a part-time retail job that did not offer health insurance to their employees. Because of the emergency care and subsequent follow-up visits to the doctor, her niece was recently forced to sell her house so that she could pay her medical bills. Lesley called me because she wanted to make sure I would support health care reform. She told me that while it's too late for her niece, it's not too late for our country. I couldn't agree more.

Private health insurance companies run a business. Their goal is to make money for their shareholders. They pay their CEOs millions of dollars a year while raising health care costs for the rest of us. Whose side are you on?

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSE RULE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we're having the vote of the century on the Senate health care bill, but there's a sneaky snake oil gimmick afoot to pass the bill without voting on it.

First, we're passing bills without reading them, and now they want us to pass bills without actually voting on the bill. The trick is to deem the Senate bill passed without ever having a straight up-or-down vote. And it's a trick.

When we vote on the rules for debate, they want to make that count as the vote on the health care bill instead of actually voting on the health care bill. Let's have an up-or-down vote on this bill and not hide behind some procedural mumbo jumbo. The Constitution says: "But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays." It doesn't say anything about "deeming" in the Constitution.

To obtain votes for government-run health care, backroom secret deals are being made in the caverns of this building, and it's shameful. This is passing the government health care bill by any sneaking means necessary, including slaughtering the House rules.

And that's just the way it is.

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#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) was indeed correct. It's going to be a historic vote of 100 years that started with Teddy Roosevelt, who talked about the need for health care in this country. And that debate was continued by Richard Nixon, and it was also advocated by Howard Baker. It's been bipartisan for 100 years that we need health care reform in this country. And it's never been more critical than now, when it's eating up our Federal budget, our individuals' budgets, and hurting us economically.

But beyond that, we need a compassionate and responsible government, and we have a President who is compassionate, responsible, and trying, like Nelson Mandela, to reach out to his former enemies and have bipartisanship. And he's had none of it, but he continues to try. And we need to support this President, support our country, preserve our economy, and provide health care like every other industrialized nation in this world does, and make America among the leaders and not the followers.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, the Democrat claims that the Obama health care bill will reduce the debt and help balance the budget, but reviewing those calculations shows that they're going to collect higher taxes for 10 years and provide health care for only 6 years. Imagine that.

Isn't that a little misleading? Four years of health care taxes with no health care.

Imagine if you wanted to buy a house and you had to make 4 years of payments before you could move in, and then finally when you moved in, you found out you had rationed use of the property. You couldn't choose where to park your car, like in the garage. You had to drive blocks away down to a public parking lot and then wait in line for a stall.

Ten years of taxes, 6 years of benefits, followed by rationed care. You wouldn't buy a house under those terms, and Congress shouldn't pass a health care bill under those terms either.

We can do better. We can have health care reform that lowers costs by addressing preexisting conditions, by lowering defensive medicine costs, by having commonsense tort reform.

The Republican alternative lowers the price of health care by 10 percent, according to the Congressional Budget Office. That's what this Congress ought to pass.

I deem back the balance of my time.

#### WE MUST HAVE REFORM

(Mr. MOORE of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I want to read to you an email I just received from one of my staffers back in Overland Park, Kansas, my Congressional office there. It came at 11:55 a.m.:

"When I leave this job and have to seek new insurance, I will be largely uninsurable due to my preexisting condition, breast cancer, whether I show any remaining signs of the disease at that time or not.

"I was so fortunate last year to have this job and Federal employee insurance. The cancer treatment I received cost over \$50,000. My husband and I would have lost every penny we had and then some if we had not had this quality coverage.

"Without a bill like this one, I will likely not have access to that kind of coverage ever again due to my cancer diagnosis at the age of 24. Without quality coverage, and if, God forbid, I should ever have to go through this again, it would undoubtedly break us that time around.

"We must have reform.

"Thank you, Dennis."

This, folks, is what it's all about, people like this around the country. We've got to do something and reform our health insurance system, our health care system.

#### LET'S HAVE AN UP-OR-DOWN VOTE

(Mr. POSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I think that there's unanimous will on both