

them. When we talk about rationing, that is who is rationing. They tell the physicians what to do, they tell the hospitals what to do. It is time to take the insurance companies out of control and let the people have their right to pick their health care.

We have always said if you have a health care plan you like, keep it. We are trying to make sure that the people that the insurance companies will not insure or will drop get a chance to have health insurance. This is misplaced anger because these insurance companies are spending a million dollars a day to kill this bill. And their cheering squad is right over here to my left.

We have got to do this for the people. It is time for the people to have a choice in their health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, what part of “no” don’t the Democrats get? They were going to pass this health care bill last September and the American people said “no.” They were going to pass it in October and the American people said “no.” They said we’re going to get it done by Thanksgiving and the American people said “no.” Oh, we’re going to get it done by Christmas and the American people said “no.” We’re going to get it done by the State of the Union and the American people said “no.” And now they say, oh, we’re going to get it done before Easter, and the American people continue to say “no.” What part of “no” don’t they get?

The American people don’t want this big government takeover. They want real reform that will help them, their small businesses, and their families. That is what we should be doing, not taking this over by the government.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Ladies and gentlemen, the question that we have got to ask ourselves this day is whose side are you on? Are you on the insurance companies’ side or are you on the American people’s side?

Now, ladies and gentlemen, the American people are in pain. There are 13,000 American people who are losing their insurance every day. There are American people who are being denied coverage because of a preexisting condition by insurance companies. Whose side are you on? There are senior citizens who, because of the doughnut hole, cannot have the level of treatment for their prescription drugs that they should have because of the insurance companies. The American people are sick and tired, quite honestly, of being sick and tired of our waiting.

Now, we have had arguments to say why don’t we start over. Ladies and gentlemen, the insurance companies aren’t starting over. They have already raised the rates in California by 30 percent just 2 weeks ago. The side to be on is the American people’s side.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, we talk about reform—we’re for reform and you’re for reform. But 2,700 pages of what? 2,700 pages. The Bible only has 1,341 pages in it.

Let me give you an example on page 752 of this bill. Let me read it to you:

“Eligibility for non-traditional individuals with income below 133 percent of the Federal poverty level. (1) In general. Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)(10)(A)(i) is amended by striking “or” at the end of subclause (VI); by adding “or” at the end of subclause (VII); and by adding at the end the following new subclause: (VIII) who are under 65 years of age, who are not described in previous subclauses of this clause, and who are in families whose income (determined using methodologies and procedures specified by the Secretary in consultation with the Health Choices Commissioner) does not exceed 133 1/3 percent of the income official poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981).

Now, did anybody understand that?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, I couldn’t be more pleased to have spent the last year and a few months working on this issue and to be here this month where we may get the opportunity to vote on this bill.

Because I want to tell you, Madam Speaker, what I hear from my constituents is get this bill done. When are you going to move forward on this? It is not a perfect bill. In fact, 50 percent of the doctors in my State wish we were passing a single-payer health care bill. But this is going to go a long way.

We have heard a lot of talk about process. When are we going to talk about the process of insurance companies? The process that denies my constituents coverage because of a preexisting condition. The times I hear from people who say their health care was cut off. And in my State, where Anthem Blue Cross wants to continually raise rates. You know, last year they asked for a 23 percent increase. When our insurance commissioner said no, you know what they did? They sued the State of Maine.

Well, I am ready to make sure that we are standing for our constituents, passing this health care bill, and doing away with the bad process of the insurance companies.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, this week March Madness comes to college basketball teams as teams across America meet in the NCAA Tournament. And this week March Madness also comes to this House in the culmination of this health care debate.

The American people have watched as this bill has lumbered forward for the past year, and they have been outraged by both the substance and the process. The American people want jobs, Madam Speaker, but this bill is funded with job-killing tax increases.

Seniors need the protection of Medicare, but this bill cuts \$500 billion from that vital program. We all want freedom, of course, but this bill includes an unconstitutional mandate requiring individuals to purchase government-approved health care or face taxes, fines, or even jail.

The American people have been outraged at the vote buying epitomized by the Louisiana Purchase, the Cornhusker Kickback, and Gator Aid. And now the Democratic leadership is preparing to pass this bill without actually voting on it and deeming the bill passed through trickery.

It is time to end Washington’s version of March Madness and do what the American people are asking us to do, and that is to start over with a clean sheet of paper and look for real health care reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am from Ohio’s Sixth District, my district is in Appalachian Ohio, and we have a large population of seniors and retirees, so I’m truly interested in how this reform bill strengthens Medicare. If we don’t do anything, the Medicare trust fund is projected to be insolvent by 2016. Medicare takes care of our seniors, but it is high time that we take care of Medicare.

The health care reform bill keeps Medicare solvent for 9 more years. We extend that timeline by finally getting tough on the waste in Medicare. So as we make services better for seniors, we also fight fraud and waste.

The inspector general of the Health and Human Services Department has found a number of problems in Medicare with false claims for wheelchairs and orthotics, and overcharging for devices and prescription drugs. We need

to provide the tools to strengthen our enforcement mechanisms and fight these abuses.

I thank leadership for providing a long and thoughtful examination of health care, one of the most pressing issues of our time. I look forward to reading the bill soon.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Democrats' latest health care plan. For the past year, my constituents in South Carolina have done everything they can to make it clear they do not want a government take-over of health care. Yet here we are again today discussing a plan that calls for more taxes, more regulations, more spending, and more Federal control over our current health care system. This legislation is not what the American people want, and it lacks a single ounce of Republican support.

Despite the overwhelming opposition, Democrats continue to push their partisan agenda and have made it clear they will use any means possible to get what they want. This is a bad bill for South Carolina and it's a bad bill for the entire country.

I join my constituents in asking the Democrats to scrap this legislation and start over on bipartisan health care reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, our colleagues on the other side say they want to start over, completely over. They would like to privatize Social Security. They would like to make sure that Medicare, a program that has served our seniors so well over all of these years, is also, well, doesn't just wither on the vine, as Speaker Gingrich wanted it to do, they want to ban it, end it for people under 55 years of age.

The other side would like to frame this issue as a matter of process. It is a matter of process, insurance process and them denying people claims even on their way to the operating table. This is why we are putting forth this bill to reform insurance and create health care for this entire country that they can depend upon and rely on.

It becomes a question of whose side you are on in the final analysis. Are you siding with the insurance industry and the great job that they have done raising rates all across this Nation? Or are you standing with the American people and fighting on their behalf? That is what the people of this great country of ours want to know.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. The proponents of this health reform package are misleading the American public into believing that you can raise the baseline and reduce spending at the same time. You cannot expect to expand coverage to millions of individuals and to curb costs.

The Medicaid program already pays doctors and hospitals at levels well below those of Medicare and private insurance. And most of the time, below actual costs. Many doctors, therefore, do not accept Medicaid patients and the cuts may further discourage participation.

The most devastating cuts to the States' Federal Medicaid match have been deferred because of relief from the stimulus package. Those deferments end in December.

The health care bill before us now is a disaster waiting to happen and an expansion of an already broken program.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. HALVORSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HALVORSON. Throughout this entire health care reform debate, two numbers have concerned me more than others: 130 and 60. These numbers represent the health insurance costs that small businesses are facing and the effects on those who work for small businesses. Small businesses have seen their premiums go up 130 percent over the last decade. And of all of those Americans who are uninsured, 60 percent of them are small business owners, employees, and their families.

Madam Speaker, I believe America is facing a health care crisis, and I believe that we need to act to bring down costs for regular families and hold health care and insurance companies accountable.

Too many Americans are denied care because of preexisting conditions. Too many businesses are being priced out of affordable health care. We need health care reform that addresses these issues.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Within days, the House is poised to vote on a massive government takeover of health care. This trillion dollar, 2,000-page monstrosity will kill jobs, increase our debt, and raise taxes on working Americans. And it's a "pay now, buy later" approach: While the taxes start right away, the benefits don't begin until 2014.

In essence, this new entitlement program requires 10 years of new tax in-

creases and 10 years of cuts to popular programs like Medicare Advantage to pay for just 6 years of this new government expansion over health care. It's a smoke-and-mirrors approach to ram through a new entitlement we surely can't afford to pay.

The American people aren't that easily deceived. The people in my district of western New York want tangible solutions in taking real costs out. We need to start over.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. The utter hypocrisy of the debate about process is absolutely astonishing. I just learned that Speaker Hastert used the technique of a self-executing rule 113 times. Then we hear the Republicans attack reconciliation—which really means a majority of votes—and yet call for an up-or-down vote in the House.

News flash: People in the real world don't care about self-executing rules or reconciliation and don't even know what it is.

What they do care about process is the process of the insurance companies. Not the process of reconciliation, the process of rescission, which means canceling policies when you get cancer; the process of refusing a child who has asthma; the process of raising prices 39 percent, 50 percent, 60 percent, for your insurance policy.

We each have the opportunity in the next few days to be on the right or wrong side of history. We can either stand with the American people or with the insurance companies. I hope that the vast majority of us stick with the American people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, how bad is this health bill? Oh, my goodness. Let me count the ways. It's bad on policy, raises taxes \$500 billion, decreases quality of care, decreases choices for Americans, slashes Medicare by \$500 billion. It's bad on process, with backroom, secret, shady deals made that Americans abhor.

But as a physician, I know that mostly it's bad for patients. They know it will destroy quality care. They know it will dictate to them what doctor they have to see and where they have to see him or her, and they know it will result in more money being paid by them for less care—which is all the more troubling because there are so many more positive solutions like H.R. 3400, which would get Americans covered with insurance they want, not what the government wants for them. It would solve preexisting and portability problems with insurance that they want,