

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,

not what the government wants for them, and address the lawsuit abuse that is so badly needed and is not addressed in the Senate bill.

How bad is this health care bill? Madam Speaker, it's bad enough that the American people are saying, "Just say no."

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it's time to unite behind President Obama's plan. We must deliver affordable health care for the American people. Insurance companies have taken advantage of hardworking Americans for far too long. It's morally wrong to put profits over people, and it must come to an end.

I urge my colleagues to put aside their differences and deliver a victory for the American people. This Congress was elected to accomplish this goal. How can we accomplish this goal of health insurance reform without holding the insurance companies accountable?

I'm for the people of America, and I stand with you. Now is the time for us to, in unity, come together and solve this dilemma for the American people. I urge you to vote "yes" for people over process.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, this time the process is substance. As the Democratic majority prepares to jam President Obama's health care through Congress despite his lack of support from the American people, our constituents need to know what is going on about the process.

Yesterday in Ohio, President Obama demanded that members of his own party show courage and vote for his vision of health care, yet this morning, the front page headline in The Washington Post reads "Pelosi may try to pass health bill without vote."

In the body of this story, the Speaker refers to a procedural scheme to allow the President to sign the Senate-passed health bill without the House actually voting on it or even debating it. She said, "It's more insider and process-oriented than most people want to know. But I like it because people don't have to vote on the Senate bill." Imagine that. Affecting 17 percent of the entire U.S. economy without a public vote in the House.

My colleagues, I ask you, is that courage?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, in the State of Connecticut last weekend, we had an opportunity to see the health care crisis up close. Mission of Mercy, a national organization that holds free dental clinics, was in Middletown, Connecticut, and Connecticut—the wealthiest per capita income State in America—shattered the Mission of Mercy record, serving 2,045 working adults sleeping in their cars, lining up two nights before to get access to dental care. We're not talking about teeth whitening or teeth cleaning; we're talking about people walking in with abscesses that were so pronounced that it threatened the stability of their jaws, extractions, major surgery. This is the state of health care in America today.

There is one group, though, that doesn't have to sleep in their car to get health care: Members of Congress, who participate in a Federal purchasing exchange subsidized by the American taxpayer. Madam Speaker, how do they demonize a plan which they benefit from every single day courtesy of the American taxpayer? I don't know how they do that.

This week they have an opportunity to help those people who were lined up in their cars over the weekend to get the same access to care that those people who work every day pay with their taxes.

Vote for health care reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, we have talked a lot about how this bill is distracting us from the issue that the American people want us to focus on, and that is jobs. But this bill isn't just merely a distraction. It will have a profoundly negative impact on the job market.

You cannot raise taxes by hundreds of billions of dollars on individuals and businesses and expect that it has no impact on employers and employees. Raising taxes per employee by \$2,000 would not encourage businesses to hire more workers, and workers receiving health care subsidies would see their new Federal entitlement evaporate when their wages increase by too much. Under this bill, more pay could mean less health care, effectively trapping workers in lower-wage jobs. So not only would this discourage job growth, it would discourage wage growth also.

The bottom line is this bill will destroy jobs at a time when we can least afford it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. CHU. It's as simple as this: Are you for what the insurance companies

are doing, or are you against it? Do you think it's right to cut your mother off her insurance because she's had a catastrophic cancer? I don't. Do you think it's right to deny your sister insurance because she had a cesarean section? Do you think it's right for insurance companies to raise rates 39 percent all at one time, forcing businesses to choose between health care or firing people? I don't.

If you think it's right for the insurance companies to do this to your son, daughter, or mother, join the Republicans in opposing health care reform. I don't think it's right. In fact, I think it's an outrage. That is why I know we must pass health care reform now.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. REHBERG. Today, as million of Americans around the country fill out their brackets, March Madness is in the air. Unfortunately, the madness isn't restricted to the basketball court. As Congress rushes to pass a health care bill that is so bad even the majority party can't stomach it, we've got our own case of March Madness right here in Congress, but ours is worse.

With March Madness, every game is played on TV in full view of the American public; in House Madness, the legislation is written in secret behind closed doors. In March Madness, you play for bragging rights; in the House bill in House Madness, it's matters of life and death, one-sixth of the national economy, and more than \$1 trillion in tax dollars.

In March Madness, the team with the most points wins. In House Madness, you rewrite the rules with procedural tricks so that the team with fewer votes can win. It's time to blow the whistle, call a foul, and stop this Madness.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I come here to let you know my mother turned 100 on January 4 after she had a broken hip, and 2 days before Christmas another broken hip, and last night she broke her femur. And just a few minutes ago, they called me to say she was in need of a blood transfusion.

I want you to know the only way we kept the mother of four who put all of us through college is because of Medicare and our insurances.

Madam Speaker, let us not let Americans die unnecessarily. This women's sister—my mother's sister—lived to 106, and I will do everything in my power to be sure that other Americans can benefit from the kind of health care reform we're proposing today.