

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.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, everyone wants to make health care more affordable and more accessible, but for the past year, the majority has been working on pieces of a puzzle they call health care reform. And now that their puzzle is complete, the picture doesn't make any sense.

Their final image includes billions of dollars in new taxes, over \$1 trillion in new government, increases the premiums of the 85 percent of those who have health insurance, and cuts Medicare by half a trillion dollars. And I continue to hear from Kentuckians from home who remain concerned over the possible passage of this bill and who are frustrated with this process.

We need to start over. We need to piece together better solutions in an open and honest system. Now is the time to work on incremental reforms that will lower the cost of health care without spending trillions and bankrupting future generations.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I went to dinner with my family in New Haven, Connecticut. As we left the restaurant, a young woman stopped me. She said to me, ROSA, can I talk to you for a moment? I've been waiting for you. I said, Why didn't you come over to the table? She said, I didn't want to disturb you or your family. No disturbance.

I looked at this beautiful young woman with tears in her eyes. And she said to me, ROSA, I have lung cancer. I have lung cancer, and I cannot get the kind of help that I need. I can't leave my job because I will not be able to get insurance. Preexisting condition is killing me. Pass health care reform.

You don't know Melissa Marotolli. I do, and Melissa Marotolli's face haunts me every single day. And this is not just one story. It is writ large across this Nation, a people who can't leave their jobs; they can't get the care they need because the insurance companies have run roughshod over them. Yes, they are rationing health care in this country. I know where I stand. I stand with the Melissa Marotollis of this Nation. My Republican colleagues stand with the insurance companies.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, this bill really is not about health insurance reform. If you watched the Presi-

dent's televised health care forum, you heard them say it time and time again: This is about entitlement expansion. And that is really where the real debate comes down this center line. Both sides agree that there needs to be health care reform. Republicans have put forward a thoughtful bill since last April promoting reform, competition across State lines, covering people with preexisting conditions, on and on and on.

But how can my friends on the other side of the aisle endorse this bill when the Congressional Budget Office, the nonpartisan determiner of how much these bills cost us, has not come out with their cost estimate for this bill? I know from my home State of Illinois, our Governor is talking about a 50 percent tax increase to pay for \$9 billion in unpaid Medicaid bills. This bill we do know will cost my State of Illinois \$1.89 billion over 5 years just for their match. I don't know how anyone from my State can support this bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, some of the most egregious insurance industry practices in our health care system disproportionately harm women, and this needs to change. Under the current system, women pay more and get less and often are denied care. If a woman is of a certain age or is already pregnant, insurers can deny her, of all things, maternity coverage. In eight States, it is still legal for insurance companies to deny a woman coverage if she has been the victim of domestic violence.

These examples illustrate how our current system discriminates against over 50 percent of the population of our country. And that is why I offered a motion on this important issue in last night's Budget Committee hearing. My Republican colleagues joined me in supporting this motion, acknowledging that health care reform must end these harmful insurance practices. So many of the health care reforms that are so important to women, families, and our Nation hang in the balance. We must pass these commonsense changes in our health care system.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, the American people are increasingly rejecting government-run health care. They are saying "no" to backroom deals and gimmicks used by the majority party to ram this bill through by any means necessary. The Democrat leadership has greased the skids to ignore the will of the American people and make their vision of socialized medicine the law of the land.

Abusing the rules of when it suits the majority party's purpose is not what the American people want. Madam Speaker, allow us to do the work we were sent here to do. Let this bill stand or fail on its merits. An issue so important to America's future demands transparency and a legitimate up-or-down vote.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, as a direct result of the White House submit a couple of weeks ago, good ideas from both parties are in this plan. But there is a philosophical difference between the two parties that I think came out last night. On weekends I very often go to the supermarket and see these little notices for beef and beer socials for people trying to raise money for a medical emergency in their family. Most of the people trying to do this have insurance. But their daughter has leukemia or their son is on a ventilator and they ran out of health insurance benefits because they run up against what is called a lifetime policy limit.

Last night, we took a vote on whether or not to abolish those lifetime policy limits so no family should have to do that. Our side voted "yes." Their side voted "no." But Members of Congress, in their own health plan, if our families have this problem, there is no limit on what we get.

So we think that the American people should get the same benefit that the men and women who vote in this Chamber every day do. We believe we should stand on the side of the families of this country, not the insurance industry.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, the health care reform debate has become a farce, and I am outraged. I am outraged at this proposed law. I am outraged at the process. I am outraged at the majority party's sham of a health care bill. But I'm not the only one. The American people are outraged. Americans have marched, they have protested and they have written letters and they have made phone calls. Americans have spoken, Madam Speaker, and they do not want this health care bill.

But the worst part about it is that we may not even vote on it. The majority party wants to deem the Senate bill passed and then hope that the Senate changes the bill later. Was this the hope and the change that we can all believe in? Madam Speaker, this has become a legislative sleight of hand, a gimmick, a parlor trick.