

I urge my colleagues to listen to the American people and kill this bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I am outraged also. I am really outraged at the amount of money that the insurance industry has spent trying to defeat this bill that will help the American people. The companies claim they support health reform, just not this bill. But they have done nothing to reform. They could have taken this time to reform. They still deny coverage for preexisting conditions. They still charge exorbitant rates. They still fight antitrust legislation. They still cancel people's policies when they most need them. And they still limit the payments when people get sick.

They have a secret code word. It's called "start over." What they really mean is defeat it; we don't want it. The question has to be here, whose side are you on? Are you on the side of the insurance companies? Or are you on the side of the American public, the people, the small businesses who have to carry the burden of these fees? Whose side are you really on? I am on the side of middle class Americans, small businesses, and those who are healthy and those who are sick.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. McCOTTER. We live in a very dysfunctional time. We have heard a parade of speakers come to the microphones here in the well of the House and say they stand on the side of the American people. Yet in my 44 years of life, I have never stood on the side of someone who disagrees with me so vehemently.

Overlooking it is a fundamental proposition. The Democratic Party believes that you can take an imperfect health care system and fix it by putting it under the most dysfunctional and broken entity in the United States today. It is called the Federal Government. That proposition is insane. The reality is they do not stand with the American people. They stand for Big Government making decisions in your lives.

We trust the American people, and we will not turn the intimate decisions between you and your doctor over to some Federal bureaucrat. We will leave it in your hands, and we will empower patient-centered wellness and free market reforms if given the chance and a real vote.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. PETRI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, the American people want health reform. They want affordable, reliable care. But after watching the current majority wrangle for over a year to produce gargantuan bills filled with complicated and punitive policies, tax increases and special deals, the American people are right to say, no, we don't trust the current Congress to do this right. They have seen how the Congress has worked over the past year and have rightfully said that it's crazy to give the government greater control over our health care. They look at aspects of the legislation before us and say, yes, there are provisions here that we like, but at what cost? They have projected trillion-dollar deficits stretching to the horizon. And we are told that this big, new entitlement will truly restrain costs. Is that credible?

I believe the more sensible approach is a simpler approach. I would favor expanding health savings accounts coupled with catastrophic insurance and paid for with subsidies when necessary. It is a simple arrangement that everyone can understand and would help to restrain costs because everyone would have incentives to spend carefully. It's not all I would do, but it's understandable.

Instead, the current majority is pushing ahead with a breathtakingly expensive bureaucratic and regulatory monstrosity. This is no way to restructure one-sixth of our economy.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, quality, affordable health care should be a fundamental human right, not a privilege for the few, as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would have it. Today, 47 million Americans are uninsured, including 9 million kids.

Meanwhile, the CEOs of private insurance and drug companies are raking in huge profits. Take the case of WellPoint. They proposed increasing rates by as much as 39 percent in California, even as they made \$4.2 billion in profits last year and paid out million-dollar compensation packages to their top executives. These rate hikes would hit Democratic and Republican districts alike. And the other side would have us do nothing.

We talk about the big banks making a killing off of taxpayers. Well, insurance company executives are literally getting million-dollar compensation packages while our constituents are dying.

Health reform is long overdue. The 31 million people this bill will cover are Democrats, they are Republicans, they are Independents, they are Greens, and they are people with no party affiliation. This should not be a partisan

issue. The costs of inaction are much too risky, they are much too costly, and we must act now.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, if health care reform weren't such a serious subject, something that will affect every person in America, then what the Democrats are trying to do would prove to provide enough fodder for comedians like Letterman, Leno and Jon Stewart that their writers wouldn't have to work on new jokes for the next month.

Last week, the Speaker of the House said, "We have to pass the bill so we can find out what's in it." That would be like buying a house before checking it out to see how many bedrooms were in it or what the colors were or whether we could even afford it in the first place. Most Americans don't buy shoes without trying them on, buy a car without test driving it, much less support a takeover of our health care system that will include life-changing decisions that are being kept from you in the dark.

This morning, the Speaker said we may actually vote on the health care bill without voting on it, something that she calls "deem and pass." What a pesky little thing voting is, you know, where those of us who work for you have to actually cast our votes first so you can find out whether you should vote for us in November.

This is an insult and a sham.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, following me will probably be as many as 40 or more of my colleagues on the other side. Many of them will use terms like "ramming," and "the American people." I don't know what part of discussing a matter for the greater portion of the last 14 months that people do not understand.

I also get a little tired of hearing my colleagues talk about socialism. And I would ask the American people if socialism, as you understand it, is so bad when government acts than perhaps it is. Some of my colleagues believe we should eliminate Medicare. Let's eliminate Medicaid. Let's eliminate the Social Security safety net. Let's eliminate the Centers for Disease Control. Let's eliminate the National Institutes of Health. All of these are government-run programs.

In the greatest country in the world, it is morally wrong for millions of our fellow Americans to not have affordable, portable health care. We all should be willing to share in order to help the least of us.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, we are all asking ourselves, What do the American people want to see from us with health care? They want to see health care more affordable, more accessible.

There are ways to do that in a bipartisan manner that we can agree on: buying health care across State lines, eliminating defensive medicine practices, preexisting conditions. Why aren't we doing it? That is the question America is asking. That is why America is upset.

My colleagues are asking us, me, whose side are we on? Unabashedly, on the side of my constituents, on the side of my health care providers, my doctors on Main Street, my hospitals on Main Street, my nurses on Main Street, who are the front line in providing health care, who don't want any part of this monstrosity, for a good reason. They and our constituents understand this is not the right way for America to go.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, after so many on both sides of the aisle have spoken, it is perhaps hard to find something new to talk about. I will endeavor to do so.

Madam Speaker, President Obama has said the American people deserve the same high quality health care as Members of Congress have. Michelle Obama said the same thing. Speaker PELOSI said the same thing. HARRY REID said the same thing. As a matter of fact, virtually everybody in the Democratic caucus in leadership has said that.

Then why is it H.R. 3438, a simple, seven-page bill that gives every member of America the opportunity to have the same high quality health care that we have as Congress is being ignored? Why is it it doesn't even exist in the Democrats' comprehensive health care bill? Thousands of pages, and yet it doesn't give you exactly what they say they want to give you.

On top of that, who is beholden to the insurance companies? More than 50 percent of American dollars are insured by the Federal Government already. It is Medicare. It is Medicaid that have, in many cases, been driving up the cost of health care, and yet this bill has no real reform for Federal health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I am a physician who has treated the uninsured in a teaching hospital for the last 20 years and, indeed, not just the uninsured, but oftentimes the people who have Medicaid. So I applaud the President and my Democratic colleagues because they want to lower costs and expand access to quality care.

On the other hand, where we greatly differ is, as my colleague just said, he is quite content with giving Medicaid to more and more people.

Now, it ignores the fact that it is bankrupting the States. It ignores the fact that right now I treat patients who have Medicaid in a public hospital because they can't be seen in a private place. And, it ignores an article in The New York Times which points out that, as Medicaid payments shrink, patients and doctors lose. In this case, a woman with cancer has lost because payments are so low for Medicaid that no longer can she find a provider who can afford to treat her.

So we do differ. I do not want to give Medicaid to everybody. I want to strengthen the private insurance market and allow those with preexisting conditions to have the same health care we have, not lose their health care because of a government program.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, for more than 1 year, Congress and the administration have failed to make health care reform a reality.

The 2,700-page bill, which can only pass through convoluted, inside-the-Beltway shenanigans, has over \$500 billion in tax increases, not to mention the \$500 billion in Medicare cuts that come with that increase, which jeopardizes million of seniors' existing health care coverage. And this bill includes millions of dollars in cuts to home health care for the elderly, millions of dollars in cuts for Alzheimer's programs, millions of dollars in cuts for food for seniors programs.

This bill makes no sense for America's families, no sense for America's seniors, and it is a fiscal time bomb for future generations.

I do not want to leave a legacy of debt to my granddaughter, Morgan Elizabeth.

In Congress' scramble to get any kind of bill passed, regardless of its cost or impact, they have taken the wrong approach. We can do better.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, this week Speaker PELOSI and the House Democrats are trying to ram through one of the most ill-conceived

pieces of legislation of all time, and they are considering not allowing Members an up-or-down vote on the bill.

One House Democrat recently said, "I don't need to see my colleagues vote for the Senate bill in the House. We don't like the Senate bill. Why should we be forced to do that?" Good question.

This attitude perfectly sums up the Democrats' push to have Washington bureaucrats take over our health care system. President Obama and the Democratic leadership don't think the rules apply to them.

First, the House Democrats had to twist arms enough to get Members to vote for their bill despite a 40-vote majority. Then, Senate Democrats had to give a sweetheart deal to Senators from Louisiana, Nebraska, Florida, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and so on. Now the House Democrats are preparing to pass this legislation without even having an up-or-down vote.

It is no wonder the American people oppose this bill by such a wide margin. They feel like they are being duped by the Democratic leadership.

It is time to reject this Democratic health care and start over.

EMPOWERMENT

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, Article I, section 7 of the Constitution states, "The votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for or against this bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively."

So why is Speaker NANCY PELOSI trying to prevent Congress from doing the job of voting yea or nay on the most important piece of legislation that will probably face this Congress?

Just yesterday, when she was talking about the Slaughter solution, she said, "But I like it, because people don't have to vote on the Senate bill."

Well, Madam Speaker, if this bill is so bad, why are you trying to jam it down the American people's throat? Shame on you, Madam Speaker, that you would use a process to circumvent the very foundation of this Nation, which is the United States Constitution.

I encourage my colleagues to take a gut check here and look across the aisle and look at their citizens across the country. We have young people from all over America here. Look them in the eye and say, "You know what? We are going to bring the most important piece of legislation to this floor. We are not going to actually make our Members have to take a vote on it, but you will be paying for it for the rest of your life."

Madam Speaker, that is not the way we should do business, and you should be ashamed.