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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.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, by now, we all know the many flaws with the health care bill that is going to be rammed through this House, and there certainly are many.

It cuts Medicare by one-half trillion dollars. It raises taxes, jeopardizes patient access to health care, and puts an unelected bureaucrat, or many bureaucrats, in charge of your health care.

I want to tell a brief story about something that happened to me this weekend.

I was in a local drugstore with a friend of mine waiting for a prescription, and a woman came up to me and she said, Are you GINNY BROWN-WAITE? And I said, Yes, ma'am. And she said, I want to talk to you about the health care bill.

She proceeded to tell me, she said, I am about to lose my job, which means I will lose my health care. And I thought I knew what she was next going to say, and she totally shocked me. She pointed to her daughter, who she told me was 9 years old, and she said, But I don't want you to vote for that bill, Congresswoman, because I don't want this child and her children paying for an out-of-control health care system in America.

I believe that she really speaks the way most Americans believe.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to the majority's attempt to have the Federal Government take over the national health care system. This has been a yearlong debate, and it is clear that the American public does not want this bill. People are justifiably outraged at the contempt the majority has shown to them.

Everything my constituents dislike is still in the majority's health care bill: billions in new taxes on small businesses and families, over \$1 trillion in new Federal spending, a health care czar to make health care decisions for families, a Federal mandate to buy health insurance, hundreds of billions in Medicare cuts, expanding access to abortion, and sleazy backroom deals.

If this is the panacea that the majority claims it is, then why is it that they are refusing to allow a straight up-or-down vote? Do you think you can fool them with procedural gimmicks such as deeming a bill passed without actually voting on it? I don't think so, and I think it is shameful to try.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, as I stand here today, congressional Democrat leadership has yet to finalize or publish the so-called fix-it bill that will ultimately be the basis to gather the 216 votes necessary to pass health care reform, and they certainly haven't said how much it is going to cost; yet Democrat after Democrat has gotten up here today saying that they are for this legislation.

So think about it. How can you be for a bill that is not yet written, not yet finalized, not yet published, and for which no one knows how much it is going to cost? The answer is simple. It is really not about how much it costs or how many people it will cover; it is about control, government control over who is going to make health care decisions in this country. And that is exactly what the American people are rejecting.

Madam Speaker, the swamp isn't being drained through this process; it apparently is just getting deeper and wider.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Wake up, America. The Speaker is trying to pass the health care bill without letting America see it first. In fact, she said, "I have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it." She is also shooting for a voteless passage, and that is unconstitutional.

Well, I can tell my Democrat colleagues what is in it. The health care bill is littered full of sweetheart deals, one after another, from the Louisiana purchase to the Cornhusker kickback. What is another term for hustling votes? Buying them.

The American people are fed up with secret backroom deals in smoke-filled rooms. It is no wonder all Americans are clear in their opposition to what they have seen, read, and heard on health care.

Bring the real Senate bill to the floor for an honest up-or-down vote. These sneaky shenanigans defy common sense, and the American people want, need, and deserve better.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, this morning I stood at the American Cancer Society in my district and announced that I will support the President's historic reform effort. I am supporting it because right now sky-

rocketing health care costs aren't just crippling the U.S. economy; they are emptying pocketbooks in central and western New York.

Regular, middle class people can't afford the health care they need. Insurance companies have denied care. Kids are graduating from college and they can't find care. People with life-threatening conditions need to hold bake sales and bowl-a-thons in order to pay their health care bills. Families are going bankrupt not because they were irresponsible, but because they trusted their health insurance companies.

Now, experts and nonpartisan organizations say that this bill will save money. I believe that the cost-savers in this bill will save money, but I know that doing nothing will bankrupt our country and our families and our small businesses.

I stood this morning with two remarkable women from my district. One had insurance and one did not. They are both battling cancer. For them, this debate isn't about partisan politics; it is about their lives. They strongly support this effort, and so do I.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, in 2017, Medicare goes insolvent. It goes broke in 2017. So do the Democrats have a plan to reform and save Medicare? No. The Democrats' plan actually raids one-half trillion dollars from Medicare to create a massive new government-controlled health care program.

So even though the Speaker is writing this bill behind closed doors in secret, Madam Speaker, the American people, particularly senior citizens, are not being fooled. They oppose this massive bill that will nationalize health care and that will raid one-half trillion dollars from Medicare. They oppose it, and so should we.

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, this bill is based on so many fictions, it should not be passed. One is that we're going to do a rule and then that is going to be self-perpetuating. And that's going to pass the bill. That's a fiction. It ought to be an up-or-down vote on this bill. And if you read the very basics on this bill from the Senate, it says, Resolved, the bill from the House of Representatives, H.R. 3590, entitled: An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces.

We're going to pass this on the backs of the Armed Forces. This should not