

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.

□ 1415

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(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

be passed by anyone unless they eat it. If they eat it, then I'm in favor of them passing it. Otherwise, don't pass it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, higher premiums, higher taxes, and cutting Medicare is not health care reform. Republicans care about health care, but we don't care for this bill. Unfortunately, the White House and congressional Democrats are still insisting on their massive, 2,700-plus page bill that includes higher premiums, \$500 billion in higher taxes, and \$500 billion in cuts to seniors' Medicare. That is not reform.

There is a reason why Congress has been debating this for a year. The reason the majority is having such trouble securing passage is because Americans have made it abundantly clear that they don't like this bill either. I want to make something clear: killing the Democrat plan for a government health care takeover does not kill the health care debate. It simply allows us to start from scratch and focus on real solutions that will lower the cost of health care for small businesses and families across this Nation. Stop this bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Isn't this troubling? Eight out of ten Americans now believe Congress governs without the consent of the governed. The Democratic Congress and White House simply aren't listening. Americans oppose this \$2 trillion takeover of health care, but Democrats are ramming it through over the public's objection. Americans oppose the tax increases, mandates, deficits, Medicare cuts, and government interference in their most intimate health care decisions, but House Democrats arrogantly claim they know what's best for you.

Americans want open, honest government. Democrats are cutting backroom deals, pressing Members of Congress, proclaiming bills passed without a vote of the House—all to circumvent the will of the American people. Americans want Washington to start over immediately; to go back to the basics, to have a step-by-step bipartisan bill that focuses first on lowering health care cost. So, Madam Speaker, why aren't you listening? But know this: A Congress that governs in secrecy and arrogance will not govern long. The American people will see to that.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PLATTS. Everyone agrees that the status quo in health care is unacceptable, but the proposed health care reform legislation is also unacceptable. Two of the greatest gifts that my parents gave my four brothers and sisters and I was a solid foundation in the ideals of common sense and right versus wrong. This health care bill fails to pass both of these principles. Common sense tells us that a health care bill that increases health care costs by over a trillion dollars is wrong; that raises taxes by over \$500 billion is wrong; that cuts Medicare by \$500 billion is wrong; that forces millions of Americans off of private insurance into a government-run health care plan is wrong; and a plan that allows taxpayer funds to be used for abortion services is wrong.

A simple application of the "right versus wrong" test tells us that seeking to pass such a monumental piece of legislation by deeming it passed without an up-or-down vote is wrong. Basic principles—common sense, right versus wrong. This proposal fails both of those very important principles. My mom and dad got it right. These matter.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, Article I, section 5 of the United States Constitution states, "the yeas and nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the Journal." This is to ensure that important pieces of legislation, like the one before us this week, are given a clear up-or-down vote. Yet here we stand today with the possibility that a massive, trillion-dollar government takeover of our health care system would actually not be voted on in this Chamber. Not only does this violate the spirit of fairness within the rules of the House and the confidence entrusted in us by our constituents, it potentially violates our Constitution. Legislative gymnastics should not be used to pass a bill of this magnitude that will impact the life of every American. Change is needed within our health care system. We can all agree on that. But in an effort to pass a health care bill—any bill—this congressional majority has lost their way.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HELLER. Another day, another missed opportunity. Nevada's unemployment rate is at 13 percent. So you have to ask the question: Where are the jobs? I do tele-town hall meetings weekly in my district. I survey thousands. The question asked is: What should be the priority of this Congress? Should it be jobs and the economy or

should it be health care? Over 80 percent say we should be concentrating on jobs and the economy. Instead, the majority leadership wants me to vote for the Louisiana purchase or the Cornhusker kickback or the Gator-aid. The list goes on and on.

Despite the majority's effort to hide this vote, the American people will not be fooled. The American people know the purpose of this health care bill is to make sure all Americans have the same bad health care. I encourage my colleagues to listen to the American people, create bipartisan health care reform, and get Americans back to work.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROONEY. Madam Speaker, I'm astounded by the Democrats' blatant abuse of the House rules established in our Constitution by entertaining the possibility of what is known as the Slaughter rule. If they choose to deem the Senate health care bill law under this self-executing rule, without a traditional up-or-down vote on the actual text, they will strip the American people of their right to checks and balances in a bicameral Congress. If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle truly believe that this health care bill will solve the Nation's health care problems, then why are they afraid to go on the record and put their names on it?

Like most Americans, I am disillusioned with this Congress. We need to go back to the drawing board and focus on reducing health care costs, where constitutional, and not by creating a new entitlement in a backroom deal.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to speak out on the Democrats' proposed "Slaughter solution." This is a sleight-of-hand with an unconstitutional move to avoid a true vote. Article I, section 7 of the Constitution reads, Every bill shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate before it is presented to the President of the United States.

With the Slaughter solution, leadership is attempting to manipulate the rules to circumvent this fundamental constitutional requirement. In the Senate, they have a bill there with so many special deals—taxes on insurance, coverage for abortion—even they cannot pass it for a second time. And so Democrat leadership here in the House tried to avoid a traditional up-or-down vote. The Supreme Court has even spoken on this and said a bill must contain the exact text before it is approved in one House and then the other—precisely the same text.