

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.

Madam Speaker, if we ignore the basic requirements of the Constitution, whether by disregarding procedural restraints or overstepping our congressional authority by dictating people's health insurance, we will descend from the freedom of democracy toward the tyranny of a dictatorship.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Medicare will be expanded. Medicaid will be expanded to allow more people to be insured. Our children will have more health insurance. It will be a major change for America—a positive change. It is interesting that every time America makes a historic and catastrophic change for the better, there are large voices of opposition—confused voices; voices without the facts. I'm reminded of the history of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. They did not pass with large margins. The Dixiecrats raised their voices in opposition. Africans Americans, Negroes, should be second-class citizens forever.

It is time now for the courageous to recognize that Americans cannot be second class and third class in the climate of needing health insurance. That they must be able to go to hospitals and not be kicked out; that they must be able to get insurance without saying you have a preexisting disease; that women cannot be discriminated against.

Where's the courage to stand up as we did in the time when African Americans needed their freedom? It is now time to free others who do not have health insurance. Do you have the courage to make these hard decisions when others are chatting away, saying the wrong thing? It is time to pass health care reform. I want to stand with the courageous on behalf of the American people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, it is very difficult to criticize a bill that is still being put together behind closed doors. But we do know that it is more about consolidation of power in Washington than about real health reform for the American people. We also know that a poor process always equals poor public policy, and the procedural shenanigans being proposed by the Speaker and Democratic leaders to slip this past the American people make all of Lucy Ricardo's schemes to be a part of Ricky's show look like clear and logical plans of action. This also would be a comedy if it wasn't such a tragedy for the American people.

Madam Speaker, my State has already instituted real health care solu-

tions that deal with our demographics and give people options in the State of Utah. All of our efforts will be destroyed if this one-size-fits-all, trillion-dollar tragedy is actually passed here on the House floor.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. TERRY. There will be no straight up-and-down vote on a health care bill. Instead, the leadership has chosen a procedural trick to insert the Senate bill into a rule deeming the Senate bill passed. So if you vote for the rule, you are voting for the Cornhusker kickback, the Louisiana purchase, and language that allows funds to flow to abortions. What won't be in this bill is the Terry bill or amendment that allows people to join the same health care plans that we have as Members of Congress. Why? Because it's not controlled by the government and its bureaucrats.

Yes, this is about government control, where bureaucrats and Congress will be in control of your health care. And somehow the leadership and authors of these tricks in this bill wonder why the American people don't want this bill.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, to paraphrase James Agee, "In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances, and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the entire human race is born all over again." The Democrats say compassion is the fundamental motivation behind this government takeover bill. But if compassion was the motivation, Madam Speaker, Democrat leadership would not be so doggedly determined to include the increased taxpayer-funded murder of little unborn children in this bill. Nothing so completely destroys the notion that this bill is about compassion than the arrogant disenfranchisement of those who are helpless and have no voice. It is an unspeakable disgrace.

Madam Speaker, it is obvious that Democrats are determined to ram this bill down the throats of the American people using the so-called Slaughter solution, a shameless political gimmick that would avoid even an up-or-down vote on the bill. But if they do, Madam Speaker, the world will know that it was never about compassion, and Democrats will find that they have dangerously underestimated the American people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, later this week the Speaker is going to ask the House to take the final vote on health care reform, including the Senate health care bill. The Senate bill contains such rarified legislative compromises as the Cornhusker kickback, the Louisiana purchase, and Gator aid, and for the first time ever, it allows for Federal funding for abortions. Nevertheless, the Speaker has asked us to vote on it. I understand my Democratic colleagues are being assured that the Senate will take up the bill of fixes if the House will simply just pass their underlying reform bill.

I offer a word of caution to my friends on the other side of the aisle: once you pass their bill, there is not a guarantee that can be made that will force the Senate Democrats to take up your fixed bill and pass it. The bill that passed out of the Senate satisfies 59 sitting Senators, all of whom voted for it. The compromise that will pass out of this House will please far fewer. Simple logic tells us that the Senate Democrats do not have a real and abiding interest in bailing out House Democrats for having passed the Senate bill. Of course, simple logic has never really been a part of this debate.

Madam Speaker, my Democratic colleagues are playing a game of chicken with the United States Senate. In the end, the President might just go ahead and sign this Senate bill into law, along with the Cornhusker kickback, Louisiana purchase, Gator aid and abortion funding, and every other twisted deal jumbled into this mess.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, of this massive almost 3,000-page bill, there is not one thing that lowers cost; not one. A recent Heritage Foundation article focused on the fact that the health care system is fraught with perverse economic incentives that generate artificially high and rapidly increasing spending. This system does nothing to incentivize the doctor, the patient or the insurance company, let alone the Federal Government, to spend the health care dollars efficiently. However, I'm not suggesting that patients have to bear higher out-of-pocket costs. By this, the doctor and the patient must be reengaged, however, with the cost of their care. And how can we do that?

One amendment that we have tried to get into this bill a number of times and has failed is a robust system of health savings accounts for all. This way, we get to have our cake and eat it too. By that I mean that a portion of