

Do they really think the American people are going to buy this unconstitutional fraud?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, look, I'm surprised when I go home. My constituents will tell me unequivocally that they're in favor of health care reform, but they're not in favor of this plan. And yet I come to Washington, and they say, if you're in favor of health care reform, you have to buy into this sham of a health care bill. Well, my constituents know what a sham is and, unfortunately, it's this Senate bill that the House is going to be voting on.

Then I read headlines that the Speaker of the House doesn't actually want a vote on the Senate bill, and I recall the basics of parliamentary procedure that require the House to vote on the exact same bill the Senate does before it can be signed by the President to be enacted into law. So the Democrats are just trying to pull a fast one on the American people.

The American people know that this is a bad deal. According to the Congressional Budget Office, run by a Democrat, they're right to be worried, because premiums will go up between 10 and 13 percent under this plan. That means \$2,100 more for the average family in America in health care expenses. It's a wrong plan, and we should oppose it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, this past weekend I visited with four of my six counties in North Carolina—Moore, Guilford, Davidson, and Rowan counties—hundreds of people, and without exception, no one spoke in favor of this bill. Increased taxes, they said to me, increased costs. The heavy-handed way in which it's been administered, as if to say, By golly, this is the bill you're going to get whether you like it or not.

Madam Speaker, this proposal is a train wreck waiting to occur. We need no train wrecks.

I will admit that some attention needs to be directed to the delivery of health care in this Nation, but this is not the appropriate vehicle to deliver it. We need to scrap this bill and start anew with a sound proposal.

PASSING THE HEALTH CARE BILL WITHOUT A VOTE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, to protect Members from voting on the Senate health care bill, Democrats are using a self-enacting rule to deem that bill passed by the House.

As Speaker PELOSI 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."

Huh?

This is the same Speaker who stated, "We have to pass the bill so you can see what's in it." So that you can see what's in it.

Huh?

They are distorting the Rules Committee procedures and the reconciliation process to ram through a health care bill. Where is the transparency that Speaker PELOSI talked about?

Huh?

Last year, the House was passing bills without reading them. This year, they are passing bills without voting on them.

The Democrats desire passage of a health care bill in the darkness of a self-enacting rule. It's an affront to the constitutional powers of Congress and every voter in this country.

DEMOCRAT HEALTH PLAN IS THE WRONG PRESCRIPTION FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, with millions of phone calls, emails and personal visits, the American people have made it clear to Congress that they want health care reform that lowers costs, not a government takeover of their health care system.

I support reforms that will lower the cost of health care and increase choices for Americans, but the fact is that the bills being pushed through Congress won't achieve these goals. They, instead, lead to higher spending and more government control.

Instead of listening to the American people, Democrats in Congress have made it clear that they will do whatever it takes to have their trillion dollar health care proposal become law. These bills making their way through Congress ignore the clear desire of Americans to scrap the government takeover of health care, and they ignore the clear desire of Americans to start over again.

Congress must, instead, focus on commonsense solutions that reduce costs, increase choices, and help more Americans afford the coverage they deserve.

The bottom line, Madam Speaker, is that Congress needs to start over on a new bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, when we picked up the headlines of The Washington Post today, it says, "Pelosi may try to pass health bill without vote." And through nothing more than budgetary gimmicks, like counting half a trillion dollars reserved for Medicare twice, the Speaker claims it's going to pencil out.

I think the American people know better. They understand that you cannot create a massive new entitlement program behind closed doors and expect our dire financial situation, our dire fiscal predicament in this country to do anything except compound.

Instead of addressing the actual drivers of rising health care costs, like escalating legal liability cost, and structural flaws in the way insurance is regulated, this bill compounds the problem and shifts the cost curve up, not down.

Faced with trillion-dollar deficits as far as the eye can see, now is the time to take a step back and look for incremental reforms that can increase affordability for millions of Americans without saddling future generations with this unpayable tab.

The American people know that when so-called health care reform includes tax hikes, less freedom and more government control, it's a government takeover of health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, we are hearing about the problems with this health care bill, from its failure to address the real cost drivers, as well as its subversion of the democratic process. But here's another problem. The Speaker of the House, on Monday, asserted that the bill before us is "about health care, health insurance reform. It's not about abortion."

Now for the reality. The bill before us would permit the Federal Government to provide subsidies to insurance plans that cover abortion, oversee State plans that cover elective abortions, and allow Federal officials to mandate that private plans cover abortions. It is replete with abortion.

The American people have spoken, and they do not want their taxpayer dollars entangled in the provision of abortion. Abortion is not health care, and no American should be forced to pay for it.

We should be supporting those in vulnerable circumstances. Abortion is so often the result of abandonment. Women deserve better. But true health care reform must be life-affirming. I will not support this bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, as the vote on health insurance reform approaches, I've become increasingly troubled at the things that this bill fails to do.

Despite claims to the contrary, the Democrat bill fails to decrease health care costs. We keep hearing about how people are being cost out of the market; they can't afford their health care, but it does not decrease health care costs. In fact, the bill would increase the cost of health care in the form of higher premiums and exorbitant new taxes on families. Furthermore, it will not prevent funds from going to illegal aliens or abortions. So that's what it doesn't do.

What does it do? Well, this legislation will make sure the American people are more addicted to socialism because we will be more dependent on the Federal bureaucracy. What it will do is create a \$1 trillion new program, even when we can't afford the current programs.

Well, what we need to do is to make sure that we come up with a list of reforms that is a bipartisan list. The Democrats have actually ignored what Republicans have offered to reform the system in order to transform it. Well, they're transforming it by making backroom deals. That's not what the American people want.

Let's come forward with what we believe in and how to make the system better and work together. But we have to start by voting "no" on this legislation.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents who tell me time and time again that they do not want a government-run health care plan. In spite of all this protest, Democrats are seeking to jam the bill down the taxpayers' throats through a convoluted legislative rule known as the Slaughter solution. This scheme allows a vote on a rule that would deem the Senate version of the health care bill to be passed without bringing the actual bill up for a vote.

Constituents send their Members of Congress to Washington to represent their interests through votes. The Slaughter House rule would violate our constitutional pledge to protect and defend the Constitution.

To pass a bill of this magnitude through a procedural gimmick like the Slaughter House rule would be a cowardly cover-up. What exactly is the majority afraid of? Why are they trying to hide their vote?

The American people deserve an open and honest vote.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, you know, for the better part of a year, we have devoted the lion's share of our attention to health care reform, and this is where we are today. From the Speaker of the House, "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what's in it." That's simply unbelievable, and it's wrong.

You know, I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop proposals that will lower costs, expand access, and improve quality. I regret very much where we are today in terms of both the policy and the process.

Policywise, there is a lot we don't know. We haven't seen this reconciliation fix-it bill. We don't have a score from the CBO. We're talking about 1/6 of our American economy, but we haven't seen it yet.

Let's talk about what we do know, the bill that we have seen, the Senate health care bill. This bill will increase taxes by more than a half a trillion dollars. It will slash Medicare by nearly a half a trillion dollars, all to create a \$1 trillion entitlement program. Families who purchase coverage in the individual market will see an average increase in their premium of \$2,300.

This is not the reform the American people want.

Unbelievably, the process is even worse than the policy. In the coming days, the powerful Rules Committee will meet up there in that room on the third floor and, according to reports, it will use an arrogant manipulation of our legislative process.

I say defeat this bill. The American people deserve better.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my friends on the other side of the aisle some questions: Why do you want to let health insurance companies deny people because of pre-existing conditions? Why do you want people to lose their coverage if they lose their jobs? Why do you want to let insurance companies drop people when they get sick?

There is a simple choice. Either you want to stand up for the American people or you want to stand up for insurance companies. It has been clear over the last year that my friends on the other side of the aisle would rather stand up for health insurance companies. They would rather let insurance companies raise their rates by 25 percent like they did in my State of New Mexico. They would rather let families' premiums double by 2020, increasing from \$12,100 to \$25,600. They would rather let employer premiums increase by 98 percent by 2020.

This reform bill isn't perfect, but it stops insurance companies from denying people for preexisting conditions, it provides more choice, it lowers costs, it stops insurance companies from dropping people who are sick, it helps small businesses by giving them tax credits, and it helps seniors by making prescription drugs more affordable.

It's time to act. It's time to reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CAMP. Americans do not want a government takeover of health care. They do not want a 2,000-page bill that puts Federal bureaucrats in charge of their personal health care decisions. They do not want a half-a-trillion-dollar cut to Medicare to fund a new entitlement program. And they do not want a half-a-trillion-dollar increase in taxes, or \$1 trillion in new Federal spending. They do not want the back room deals that were cut to buy off special interests. And they certainly do not want a health care bill that will increase the cost of their health insurance.

But that is exactly what the Democrat bill does. And that is exactly what the Democrats are trying to cram through Congress this week. If the majority wants to pass this bill, they ought to have the guts to hold an up-or-down vote and not try to hide from the American people what is really being voted on.

Madam Speaker, Americans do not want and can't afford this bill. Let's scrap it and start over.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, process, process, process. What legislative parliamentary process are we using? It is a distraction. That is what someone talks about when they can't debate the content or they run out of lies or misdirections about the substance of an argument.

I don't think the woman from New Jersey is any more interested in our process today to guarantee that she has reliable coverage than she is concerned about what process the insurance company used to compose the letter saying that because she is sick, her coverage is rescinded. She prefers to have the guaranteed coverage.

Do you think a small businessman in New Jersey cares what process the insurance company used to arrive at a 25 percent increase in premiums? Or the process we use to limit the out-of-pocket expenses a person must spend for coverage?

Enough using procedures to stall and delay. Let's get it done, to provide consumer protections for everyone. Let's