

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

get it done, to have caps on insurance premium increases. Let's get it done, for better health care outcomes.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. As we enter into the most important and eventful week of the 30 years since I have been up here, I think of the consequences of the votes we will cast, both Republican and Democrat. When we passed the health bill on this very floor, the Democrats, with a 40-vote advantage on the House floor, passed H.R. 3962 with only a five-vote advantage, which showed that the outrageous health bill had been lessened in severity in the Commerce Committee and was softened up enough for the Senate to kill it.

Then a series of Senators negotiated gifts they were not entitled to, each receiving a different consideration, into being the coveted 60th vote. If we take the floor back, I would consider subpoenaing those who may have made the overtures to compare it to the law of bribery or corrupt deals. I would send the results to the Federal and State prosecutors. The bribery penalty as set out in 18 U.S. Code section 203 is imprisonment for not more than a year and a civil fine of not more than \$50,000 for each violation.

I consider offering a bribe, for a personal benefit, as worse than accepting one. Let's clean up the United States Congress and listen to our people whose only request is to take back their country.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express the concerns of Arkansas's Third District regarding health care reform. I have received an unprecedented amount of mail because the people of Arkansas aren't in favor of the legislative gymnastics and procedural tricks Speaker PELOSI is playing. It's inappropriate to play games to pass a health care reform bill Americans overwhelmingly oppose, a bill that represents 16 percent of our economy.

The administration called for an up-or-down vote with no procedural maneuvering, but Ms. PELOSI and the Rules Committee are currently in the process of bypassing this up-or-down vote. By approving this rule, the Senate bill will be deemed as passed. This is not the way our founders envisioned the government working for the people.

We owe it to Arkansans and all Americans to fight for real health care reform and at least have a real "yes" or "no" vote. How in the world do you pass a bill without voting on it?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I would like to read a few examples of some of the emails I have been receiving on the health care proposal.

From Columbia, Missouri:

"Just a note to encourage you to fight hard against this horrible health care bill."

From St. Charles, Missouri:

"Please vote 'no' on the health care reform now before the House."

From Hannibal, Missouri:

"Congressman, please vote 'no' on the Senate's health care bill. We need to scrap that plan and start over."

From Ashland, Missouri:

"Please do not vote for the health care bill."

From Huntsville, Missouri:

"I sincerely hope you do not vote for the health care bill as it now stands."

Finally, from Columbia, Missouri:

"Vote what your people want you to do, which is against this health care bill."

Madam Speaker, my constituents have listened to the debate and rejected the proposed health care bill. No, no, no, no, no. What part of "no" does the majority not understand? I am going to listen to my constituents. I am going to be voting against the health care bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respond to what I think that the leadership is going to bring later this week. I understand that they are going to bring a vote to the floor that the President and our Speaker believe is a socialist plan—or I know it is a socialist plan for the government takeover of health care. And the Speaker wants her members to have the courage to pass this what she believes is a prescription for health care reform in America.

What it is is a prescription for disaster in our country, and it is also a prescription for disaster for the majority party. That is what I would like to address the balance of my remarks to. The majority party is being asked to vote for something that their districts and their constituents don't want. The President yesterday in a speech said that what he was hoping the Members would do is show courage for a change.

Well, I agree with the President. I hope that the Democrat Members do show courage later this week. Show courage to not be a lapdog for the leadership and the President, and show the courage to be a bulldog for their districts and their constituents who adamantly oppose this socialist takeover of government health care for our country.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I had two town hall meetings in my district on Saturday, and at both events my constituents raised this issue: How can Congress impose the most sweeping intrusion into personal health care decisions in the history of our country without a direct vote on the bill? You see, my constituents have read the Constitution, including the provision that requires both Houses to vote on a bill before it becomes a law.

If the Democrat majority attempts to impose this law without a direct vote, two things will be obvious to every American. First, that the Democrats are ashamed to cast the very up-or-down vote on the health care takeover that the President promised as recently as yesterday. And far more disturbing, they will know that the Congress has now placed itself above the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, 10 generations of Americans have defended that Constitution. Don't think for a moment that this generation will do any less.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, there is one difference between my friends over here who are speechifying against health care reform today and 50 million Americans. The difference is that the roughly 15 Americans over here all have health insurance, and it is largely paid for by the taxpayers. Fifty million Americans don't have that good fortune. In fact, that difference is shameful, that difference is immoral, and I hope to God that this House has the courage and the decency to vote to change it this week.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BARTLETT. Health care costs are increasing at two and three times the rate of inflation. Obviously, if this continues, it will bury us. So any health care reform needs to address health care costs. There are two major cost drivers in health care. This bill is silent on one and makes the other worse.

The one that it is silent on is tort reform. Some people think the defensive medicine associated with the threat of malpractice suits may account for a fourth of all health care costs. This bill does nothing to address that. A second cost driver is administrative costs, which may again represent a fourth of all costs. This bill makes that worse by