

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

proposing to give to poor people a policy and incur all of the health care costs associated with that policy.

We need to give poor people health care. Give the doctor, the clinic, the hospital a tax credit for giving them their health care. Then we avoid all of the administrative costs associated with that. This bill fails on both of those counts.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WELCH. With all the controversy about the health care bill, the content of it, the argument about what is in it, what is not in it, this really does boil down to a fundamental question that this Congress and this country has eluded and avoided for over 70 years, and, that is, will we have a health care system where every American is covered and where every American helps pay? Will we have a health care system where we have a common desire and need to control costs and to reform the delivery system? That is one side.

The other question is, will we have a health care system that embeds the status quo that for the past 70 years has served the interests of the insurance companies very well, increasing their profits, salaries to \$24 million, where it is a fee-for-service, volume-driven system that is absolutely burying our employers and our families under a burden of costs that we can't keep up with? That is basically the question.

Will this health care bill allow Americans to have access to health care or ensure profits again for the insurance company?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. REICHERT. Listen. Can you hear the American voices loud and clear saying, I don't want a government takeover of health care? The Democrats' latest plan is still a government takeover of health care. It includes billions of dollars in new taxes, over a trillion dollars in new government spending, and will also cause millions of employers to cancel the health care of their employees.

We have also heard if you like it you can keep it. Not according to this plan. Not even according to the President of the United States, who recently said, quote, "I think that some of the provisions that got snuck in might have violated that pledge."

Madam Speaker, we don't know what is in this bill. The American people don't know what is in this bill. We need to start over.

Let's consider the Seattle Times' editorial this morning: "Right now the government should be focused on the

revival of business and the creation of private sector jobs. This cannot be put off. The responsible vote," according to the Seattle Times, "is 'no'. Take a break, let the economy recover and start over."

I couldn't agree more.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, after the Cornhusker kickback, the Louisiana purchase, the Gator aid, the labor union bailout, the sweetheart deals for the pharmaceutical companies, now we're told that the Democrats are simply going to deem the Senate bill without voting on it.

Not 1 hour ago, I had Jennifer Neill of Athens, Texas, a middle schooler, in my office, and she said, That's not right. Why is something obvious to a middle schooler such a mystery to the Speaker and the Democrats?

What's not right is to ignore the wishes of the American people. What's not right is to have the government force you to buy health insurance. What's not right is to take health care decisions away from your doctor and give them to Washington bureaucrats and politicians. What's not right is adding \$2.7 trillion in new spending as the Democrats triple our national debt and bankrupt Americans.

What is right is to scrap the bill, start over, and let freedom ring in America.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, we find ourselves in a unique circumstance in this Congress after over two centuries. This is likely the very first time that something is positioned to happen that the Founding Fathers never envisioned: That there would be a bill that couldn't be passed in the Senate, and that wasn't supported by the Senate, that wasn't supported by the House, that could nevertheless become law. The first time in history.

There are only 59 votes over there in the Senate. They would not pass this bill that this House is being asked to pass. Even the Democrats don't support the Senate version of the bill. That's on a promise that it would be on a reconciliation package that we know will not be sustained on the Senate side.

And another unique component of this is that ever since 1973, the people on that side have argued that the Federal Government has no business telling a woman what she can or can't do with her body. Now their position is

that the Federal Government has every right to tell everybody in America what they can or can't do with their body. Madam Speaker, this bill funds abortion. It funds illegals. It steals liberty. It's unconstitutional. It kicks off lawsuits. It spends trillions of dollars. It's irresponsible. It's a theft of liberty, and it's wrong.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I have been listening to the speeches that have been made on the floor: Tell them to wait and start over. Well, you know, it's nice to say wait and start over when you have insurance, but think about the 46 million people that are walking the streets of the United States of America with no insurance, but you are telling them to wait. And then of course you talk about people that are locked into jobs and working on those jobs because of the fact that the only reason they stay there is because they are able to get health insurance, and you're telling them to wait?

And then we talk about people that have preexisting conditions that can't get health care, and you're telling them to wait?

You know, I cannot believe that we're sitting here in the United States House of Representatives when we can do something about a problem that has existed for many, many years, and we are still telling people to wait. I don't think that you can afford the luxury of waiting when you do not have insurance.

Think about how many people will die today because of the fact they do not have health insurance.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, oftentimes on this floor this document becomes the inconvenient truth. It's called the Constitution of the United States. It tells us what we can and what we cannot do.

Not too many years ago, the House of Representatives and the United States Senate decided they would pass something called the line item veto. Sounded like a great idea. The only problem? It's unconstitutional.

The court at that time said the Constitution makes it very clear. The House has to pass a certain text, the Senate has to pass the exact same text, the President has to review it and then sign the same text.

You can't deem a law to be a law. The dictionary is over here. Deem doesn't mean it is. It means that it's not. It may be close. We'll pretend it is. That's not what the Constitution says.