

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.

The court has told us it has to be the exact text. If you change one paragraph, it is unconstitutional. They want us to adopt a rule that includes the bill but a lot of other language. It's not the same text. It's unconstitutional.

The inconvenient truth is we have to follow the law, and this is the supreme law of the land.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, this week marks a defining moment for this Congress and our Nation. With our national debt over \$12 trillion and continuing to grow while government encroaches into every aspect of our lives, the American people have spoken out loudly against any government takeover of their health care. All we have to do is listen to our constituents. Yet this administration and this Democrat leadership continues to force a \$1 trillion health care bill of Congress into law.

This bill will increase the health care costs for millions of Americans who are satisfied with their current health care coverage. It will cut Medicare and reduces benefits for seniors, such as Medicare Advantage. It will raise taxes on families and small businesses.

We all agree that our health care system can and should be improved. Unfortunately, Members of Congress are not listening to the American people, and that is that more government is not the answer.

It is time to work together on a commonsense, step-by-step approach that will lower costs and make health care more affordable and accessible while keeping your doctor-patient relationship and choices.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong objection to what occurred yesterday in the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee passed a shell of a reconciliation bill. This shell bill will be replaced with whatever the Rules Committee deems as appropriate health care legislation. No one has seen what the Rules Committee plans to insert.

This is not an open and transparent process. An open and transparent process wouldn't be resorting to using shell bills. An open and transparent process wouldn't have had backroom negotiations that are far and away from the C-SPAN cameras. What happened in the Budget Committee and what's happening in the Rules Committee is not what the American people want.

I strongly oppose the majority's use of the parliamentary gimmicks to pass

big government takeover of health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, looks like we may have a mystery worthy of an investigation by Scooby Doo and his gang here. This week, the House may pass a bill to overhaul one-sixth of our economy. But here we are Tuesday, and Scooby and Shaggy are scratching their heads trying to figure out, one, what's in the bill; two, what special backroom deals have been cut, and three, how can Democrats impose on the American people a bill they don't even have the courage to vote on.

Here are our clues. Speaker PELOSI says we're not allowed to see what's in the bill until it passes, and she says "no one" wants to vote for the bill that she's forcing through. We know there are special payoffs for States like Nebraska. We know there are political payoffs. We know there are tax hikes and Medicare cuts, and it's not a mystery why the Democrats are going to try to invent a ghostly scheme to pass this terrible bill.

And when the Scooby gang unmasks the ghost, we'll hear the Speaker say, I would have gotten away with it, too, if it weren't for those meddling Americans. Ruh-roh.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, the basic tenets of a democracy are those that protect life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Accessible, affordable health care that protects life is one of those tenets. This is why I applaud President Obama for his strength and determination in pushing for health care reform in the face of great adversity.

I support H.R. 3962, the Health Care Reform Bill, that passed the U.S. House on November 7, 2009, because it tries to provide affordable health care while protecting life. And I stand ready to support health care reform again so long as the reconciliation bill seeks the same goals.

As of now, the Senate health care bill falls short and even contradicts the most basic principle of civilization: Thou shalt not kill. The Senate bill willfully excludes the language of the Hyde Amendment and seeks to expand funding and the role of the Federal Government in the despicable killing of the unborn. It also fails to incorporate provisions to protect the conscience of medical providers regarding abortion, as found in the Hyde-Weldon Amendment. These flaws are so devastating in their effects that they over-

ride any good the Senate health care bill seeks to promote.

Until this House fixes the abortion language and incorporates a conscience protection clause, I stand firmly in opposition.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I am just a bill, and I am sitting here on Capitol Hill waiting for a vote, apparently, unless you're in NANCY PELOSI's House. Unlike in "School House Rock," NANCY PELOSI says that this little guy doesn't need to wait around for a vote. He can be deemed to be passed.

Now, this is a new one for my daughter Jessica's high school government class. They can't understand how Speaker PELOSI can deem a bill passed without a vote. There is no deeming a bill passed in "School House Rock" or in the expectations of the American people.

In today's Washington Post, Speaker PELOSI tells us why she wants to deem the health care bill passed without a vote. She suggests that it politically protects lawmakers who are reluctantly supporting the measure. However, the American people are smart. They know that for this bill to become law, it takes a vote.

Madam Speaker, let's stop the parliamentary tricks. Let's bring this bill to a vote, and I will be voting "no."

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, the American people have made it very clear that they do not like or want this bill. How arrogant is it for the other side of the aisle to say to them, We know what's best for you, and we're going to pass it anyway. And then how arrogant is it for the other side of the aisle to say, We don't have to take a vote on this bill. We'll just deem it law.

In both cases the other side of the aisle is grossly underestimating the intelligence of the American people. The American people know that deeming is a vote on a bill that they don't like. Let's just have an up-or-down vote if we have to have a vote on this, and I vote "no."

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, the Founding Fathers established this Congress so that individuals would be elected from all over the country, come here with different points of view, discuss those views, yes, but ultimately