

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

take a vote on the issues of the day. And then the people who sent them here—the voters—could hold them accountable for the votes they cast here in this Chamber and in the other body across the way.

It would be inconceivable to them that this House would deem a bill passed without taking a direct vote up-or-down on the substance of the matter so that the voters back home could hold them accountable, and yet that is exactly the direction that this leadership tries to take the House today.

The American people already do not trust this institution. They do not believe that we are in touch with them and listening to them. The intentions of the leadership of this House will only carry those suspicions further and further betray the trust that American people should have in their elected representatives.

We should start over and do it again.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I don't think the American people can be any clearer. They do not want this government-run health care bill that the President and leaders in this Congress are trying to ram down their throats. The leadership in this House have declared that socialized health care will become law without taking a vote on the actual bill. They are forcing this reconciliation ruse.

It's a simple answer. This bill contains billions of new taxes, kills jobs, provides for taxpayer-funded abortions, and places an enormous debt on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren. The fact is, many Democrats in Congress do not like this bill any more than the American people. They will be forced to vote for it with a promise that it will be fixed later, but we all know that this is an empty promise. It is a reconciliation to nowhere.

The Democrats may control Washington, but the American people still control this country. I urge all of my colleagues to stand up for your constituents and vote "no" on this scam.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, analysts tell us that the Medicare system in this country will be bankrupt in 7 years and that Social Security and Medicaid are not far behind. What that means is we can't pay for the entitlements we've got.

So what does this health care bill do? It adds more entitlements. It's like

learning that you can't pay the mortgage on your house and buying a second one and five more cars. Americans wouldn't do that, but President Obama and the Democrats in this House are going to. We can't pay for the entitlements we've got. Let's pay for them first before we add new ones.

Unfortunately, because of the actions of this House, America is going bankrupt, and this health bill will hasten that bankruptcy. Vote "no" and kill this bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have all seen the television program "Deal or No Deal" where you look at this case and you decide whether you want that case or you don't want the case and take the deal or not take the deal. Well, that's what we have, except this time, the Speaker of the House is saying that there may not even be a case, we don't want you to know what's in the case, we just want you to vote for this self-executing rule so that whatever happens happens.

Well, that self-executing rule, Madam Speaker, is well named, because the people that vote for it are probably going to be victims of their own execution at the next congressional election.

Let's have an up-or-down vote, just as the President has suggested, on a real bill, and make people accountable in their congressional districts whether they are for this massive health care bill, a government takeover of health care, or whether they want to keep the current system of private markets, private initiative and the market-based health care system.

Do not make us vote on the self-executing rule.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I have sent or received nearly 750,000 letters and emails from my office and have held 225 constituent town hall meetings. I have a pretty good idea why my constituents are upset about this health care bill. They were promised that it wouldn't tax health care, but it does. They were promised that it wouldn't mandate health care, but it does. They were promised it wouldn't raise taxes on people with incomes less than \$250,000, but it does. You can only pay for this by doing some manipulation of taking \$52 billion from Social Security and \$72 billion from long-term health care. And it doesn't pay doctors to the tune of \$371 billion. It doesn't allow doctors to volunteer at community health centers. It doesn't reduce infection rates at hospitals. And it

doesn't deal with the \$700 billion of waste in health care that we've got to address.

You don't reform health care by demonizing insurance companies, drug companies and doctors. And Americans are saying we've got to reform health care, not just continue to pass bills that are facades to real health reform.

And that's why they're mad as hell.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, my colleagues, the American people, and I think myself would like to see health care reform. There is a lot of room for improvement. There are a lot of people that don't have coverage or access to affordable health care.

Most of the people I talk to want their premiums down if they do have insurance. If you talk to Americans, what do they want now? They want jobs, and they want the economy expanded so people can even get their own health care. What they also want is a bipartisan effort on behalf of Congress to get these things done.

Instead, what they've got in all of the proposals before us is a proposal to cut Medicare and to dramatically increase taxes. What they wanted was some transparency in this process and openness. Instead, they are getting a closed-door deal and a back-door deal that is not transparent, not open to bipartisanship, imposes taxes on all Americans and, in fact, cuts Medicare for our poorest and oldest citizens. They just don't get it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I think most of you all know that the movie "Alice in Wonderland" opened in a theater near you just this last week. It's in three dimensions. And it obviously has inspired our Democratic friends in an effort to explain what is going on in this make-believe world they have created up here. There is an exchange in that "Through the Looking Glass" where Humpty Dumpty is talking to Alice. And Humpty Dumpty says, When I use a word, it means exactly what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less. But Alice asks the insightful question, Well, can you really make words mean so many different things?

And I think that is the question the American people are asking. Alice figured out that Humpty Dumpty was just making words mean what he wanted them to mean. And I think the American people are figuring out that the Democrats are just making up words like "vote" and then giving it a different meaning. People are smarter