

The monopoly of government-run health care will have the efficiency of the post office, the competency of FEMA, and the compassion of the good old IRS.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, we must not let this historic opportunity slip away. If we do not act, rising health care costs will continue to crush families and businesses, forcing small business owners to choose between health care and jobs. If we do nothing, in 30 years, \$1 out of every \$3 in our economy will be tied up in the health care system. If we fail to pass reform, premiums for both single and family policies could more than double by 2020, continuing to pad the bottom line of insurance companies at the expense of the American workers.

If we can pass health reform, consumers will be able to select their insurance plan and doctors, and they would no longer be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions and they can keep their coverage when they change jobs.

Finally, reforming our health care system will allow us to free up more money for jobs and for economic activity while assisting small businesses to add an estimated 80,000 new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, how long are 46 million uninsured Americans supposed to wait? The American people deserve to take back control over their health care system.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, the government draws its legitimacy from the consent of the governed. I have here over 3,000 letters from the constituents in the Fourth District saying this: I write this letter to emphatically say I do not want this massive health care bill. I believe it costs too much, it taxes too much, and it will kill jobs. Reconciliation is the utmost of partisan maneuvers on such a bill and would be ill-advised. Health care reform needs to be addressed. Getting the economy going and restoring jobs should come first. I'm among those who favor a step-by-step commonsense approach that focuses on lowering costs for families and small business.

Mr. Speaker, reject this bill. Give us the consent of the governed, allow us to pass a bill that has the consent of the governed, and then we restore the legitimacy of this body. Stop the cram-down of health care reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, we must pass health care reform now. A step-by-step approach is not the answer. If we do nothing, Americans will continue to pay higher premiums and higher out-of-pocket costs now and in the future. There are too many Americans that are without health coverage.

In my district in San Bernardino County, California, there are over 220,000 without coverage. We also face a 15 percent unemployment rate and the fourth highest foreclosure rate in the Nation.

Health care reform will lower the costs and hold health insurance companies accountable; end discrimination based on preexisting conditions; cut and eventually close the doughnut hole for thousands of seniors, including 5,200 seniors in my district; cut the national deficit by \$100 billion over 10 years; and produce over 4 million new jobs in the coming decade.

Families, not insurance companies, deserve the right to make their own health care decisions. Congress must not kick the can down the road. We need health care reform now. I state, we need health care reform now. This is a historic moment.

I ask us to support health care reform now—not tomorrow, not in the future, but now.

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. Mr. Speaker, when you practice law, there is an old expression that goes something like this: If you have the facts, argue the facts; if you have the law, argue the law; if you have neither, attack your opponent. That appears to be what's happening.

There are those of us who have argued that the process that we are engaged in—that is that we will not vote on the Senate bill but we will kind of vote on the Senate bill; we will deem it passed—is unconstitutional. And in response to that, the Speaker of the House has said this: I think it's ridiculous and the people who are telling you it's unconstitutional know better, and you should be very outraged that people who know better would say things like that. They know when they talk they're not telling the truth.

I resent being called a liar by the Speaker of the House. I resent the fact because there are constitutional scholars who have said this is unconstitutional.

Now, I have only argued one case before the Supreme Court—which I won on behalf of the People of the State of California—so I am not considered one of the great practitioners before the Supreme Court, but we have spoken to one of them who will work with us in bringing this case to the Supreme Court if we try this outrage against the American people.

Let's stick to the facts, stick to the law, and stop attacking people personally.

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

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

Mr. CHILDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Ag Week. This week we honor our farmers and the agriculture industry as a whole for their critical contributions to America's local economies, communities, and families. Agriculture is the backbone of the South and the number one industry in the State of Mississippi. Not only is it responsible for providing the necessities of everyday life, food, fiber, clothing, and fuel, to name a few, but it also plays a key role in spurring local economic development and strengthening American competitiveness in today's global economy.

I'm very honored to serve as the only member of Mississippi's delegation on the House Agriculture Committee. I'm also proud to co-chair the bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus, which I joined Republican ADRIAN SMITH in reestablishing last year to address important challenges unique to rural America. Together we've reached across party lines to promote universal broadband access, economic development in rural communities, and the creation of a White House Office of Rural Policy.

I urge my colleagues to join the Congressional Rural Caucus in recognizing National Agriculture Week.

NO CLOSER FRIEND THAN ISRAEL

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Despite the diplomatic inconsistencies of the Obama administration, one thing is certain: Support for the U.S.-Israeli alliance remains strong in Congress. Israel is America's closest friend in the most volatile region of the world. It is a democracy that shares our values and hopes for a more peaceful world. Regrettably, the administration's recent misstep undermines our shared goal of peace and distracts from more pressing issues.

Israel has a history of making peace with its neighbors and is prepared to make peace now. But peace is a two-way street, and the Palestinians' commitment to that peace is in doubt. Rather than make demands upon Israel for concession after concession, President Obama should work closely and privately with Israel, recognizing our two Nations' long and trusted alliance. Israeli peace agreements between Egypt and Jordan have been reached in the past when U.S. support for Israel was strong and consistent. The same level of commitment and closeness is now needed.

Make no mistake: Israel is our ally and friend. The administration needs to confirm that fact with its words and deeds.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Congress is on the brink of passing comprehensive health care reform to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable and high quality care, health care that protects consumers and not just insurance companies. We need reform to rein in these companies and to hold them accountable for discriminatory and inhumane practices, policies like gender rating that force women to pay higher premiums than men just because we are women, and denials for preexisting conditions that can even include a history of domestic violence.

We need reform to change the practice of insurance companies denying children with preexisting conditions or dropping someone's coverage if that person falls ill. We can't put it off. We can't wait. If we do nothing, in 30 years, one out of every \$3 will be spent on health care. If we fail, families will see spending on premiums and out-of-pocket costs jump 34 percent in 5 years and 79 percent in 10.

The American people not only want reform, they need reform. They are asking for reform. We made a promise to the American people to pass health care reform. It's time to keep our promise. It's time to get this done, and it's time to pass health care reform.

NO TRUER FRIEND THAN ISRAEL

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

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, America has no truer friend than Israel. We stand together on freedom, on democracy, and on security. More importantly, America and Israel share the unique ability to trace our roots back to the hopes and dreams of our ancestors. Even before the days of King David and King Solomon, Israel has been the center of the Jewish tradition. Israel is a sovereign nation surrounded by sworn enemies determined to wipe it off the map. Yet Israel remains committed to freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned about the recent counterproductive statements made by the administration that threaten to undermine America's 60-year relationship with Israel. Criticizing Israel for developing its land in Jerusalem is just plain wrong. Directing public demands and unilateral deadlines with Israel while Iran continues its pursuit of nuclear weapons is beyond wrong. It is dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, if America is to be a superpower, we must remain steadfast

when the political winds blow. If America is to lead the world, we must act as a true friend to our ally, the nation of Israel.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a physician out of concern for my Republican colleagues, many of whom seem to be suffering from chronic amnesia or chronic ignorance. When we started talking about the possibility of using this "deem and pass" procedure to finish the job on health care reform, Republicans couldn't run fast enough to find a television camera to complain. Fact check: This procedure has been widely used since the 1930s and was, in fact, used no fewer than 202 times under Speakers Gingrich and Hastert, amounting to 30 percent of the rules put forth by the committees under their leadership.

All this hypocrisy is kind of galling. I hope my Republicans can recover from this amnesia in time to watch the Congress pass a bill that the American people need and want. They do not like the health care system that is in this country. They want reform, and we are going to give it to them.

PATH TO CONFLICT

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my great concern over the recent statements by administration officials regarding Israeli housing construction in that nation's capital city. History warns us that appeasement of mutual enemies is the surest way to destroy alliances and to invite aggression. And yet the rhetoric of this administration is taking us down this dangerous road. Israel has every right to allow construction in its capital city and throughout the West Bank, over which it exercises rightful sovereignty.

The administration seems to have forgotten that Jordan attacked Israel in 1967, not the other way around, and the result was the Israeli acquisition of this land. The Israelis haven't forgotten that, nor have they forgotten the folly of unilaterally giving up the Gaza Strip from which rockets are now routinely launched against Israeli citizens. Imagine the danger to Israel's capital by repeating that mistake in east Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, appeasement all but guarantees an escalation of conflict.

AIDS/HIV

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the HIV-

AIDS epidemic in African-American communities. While African Americans are 12 percent of the United States population, approximately 50 percent of HIV-AIDS patients nationwide are black. Just over the the last 6 months, 452 new cases of HIV were reported in Los Angeles County alone. Our prevention strategy is clearly not working for many of our constituents. That is why I support H.R. 1964, the National Black Clergy for the Elimination of HIV-AIDS Act. They sit up on our right in our gallery, and I welcome them here.

This bill seeks to expand and increase programs for HIV education, prevention, testing, care, and treatment in ways that are responsive to the needs of African-American communities. Moreover, this bill recognizes how important faith-based outreach is.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker reminds Members that it is against the rules to refer to guests in the gallery.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, over months of debate over the government takeover of health care, a growing list of terms created by the Democrats have been added to the American lexicon, terms such as "Cornhusker kickback," "Louisiana purchase," "Gator aid," the "doc fix," "reconciliation," "nuclear option," "taxpayer-funded abortions," and now worst of all, "deeming a bill passed," "self-executing" and the "Slaughter solution."

The Democrat House members carp that the American people don't care about the process. After speaking to thousands of Americans about this—not only do they absolutely hate this bill 3 to 1 and feel it will damage America forever, they feel the Democrat Party's arrogance of power is unprecedented in American history.

Mr. Speaker, process does matter, especially when Members of Congress and a President get themselves elected to power on the promise of transparency and ethics, and then stoop to a system of bribes and creative parliamentary procedures to ram through a government takeover of one-sixth of the economy, health care, merely to advance their ideology of incremental socialism, which is strongly opposed by the American people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, it's March. That means March madness. Normally it means hoops and basketball, but, no,