

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a true bipartisan health care bill would have included real lawsuit abuse reform that provides savings for the American people. The administration refuses to consider lawsuit abuse reform because they want to protect their political piggy bank, which is filled by trial lawyers. The legal industry contributed \$43 million to President Obama's 2008 campaign. More than 78 percent of the money given to Congress by lawyers, mostly from trial lawyers, went to Democrats, almost \$100 million.

By bankrolling Democratic politicians, trial lawyers have succeeded in preventing any lawsuit abuse reforms from becoming part of the health care legislation, despite the overwhelming support for lawsuit reform by a great majority of the American people.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the whole Nation desperately needs health care reform, but no group of Americans needs it more than women, women who face discrimination and insult at the hands of the broken status quo.

We all know that the current system allows insurance companies to deny coverage based on preexisting conditions, but I wonder how many of my colleagues realize that, essentially, being a woman is a preexisting condition. Pregnancy, for example, or C-sections can be deemed preexisting conditions. And most unbelievably of all, insurance companies can legally turn their backs on women who have suffered injuries due to domestic violence, because that, too, can be defined as a preexisting condition.

We should all be ashamed of a system that puts insurance company profits ahead of healthy American women. It's time for women to no longer be a preexisting condition. Pass the health care bill.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, Speaker PELOSI recently said that we have to pass the health care bill so we can find out what's in it. I can tell you what's in it. It does nothing for cost.

I'm not a career politician. I have been in business for myself for 30 years and created thousands of jobs. Small businesses are dying. We need to bring down the cost of health care. Today it is \$12,000 for a family of four. A recent study said it's going to take it to \$28,000 for a family of four in the next 10 years. We are doing nothing about lowering the cost of health care. It's

killing small businesses. It's killing jobs.

What also is in the bill, \$740 billion in tax increases. Small businesses are going to be the ones that feel it the most. Most of them have pass-through income. It will be another big, job-killing opportunity for small businesses.

The third thing is that it really hurts seniors; \$500 billion worth of real cuts, not just waste, fraud, and abuse. I have looked at the cuts. They are very serious cuts.

And now we have learned that the Speaker wants to pass the bill without actually taking a vote that will cover at-risk Members. No wonder the American people are fed up with Washington.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. My colleague from Florida, my good friend, is incorrect: health care reform is great news for small business owners and middle class families. For folks that already have insurance, there are important consumer protections. If you are paying your premiums and copays, these insurance companies will no longer be able to cancel you if you get sick. If you switch jobs, you will no longer be barred if you have a preexisting condition like asthma or diabetes. For parents, now your children will be able to stay on your policy until age 26, and we will ensure that the bulk of your payments and copays will actually go to health care rather than CEO salaries and bonuses.

My colleague is incorrect. Medicare will get stronger. Our parents, our grandparents, and our neighbors will see substantial improvements in their benefits. Not one benefit will be cut. Instead, we are going to pay Medicare doctors more to stay in Medicare. We are going to close the doughnut hole and make prescription drugs more affordable, and we are going to emphasize preventive care so they don't skip their checkups.

And for small businesses owners and families who don't have insurance, they will have a new shopping exchange and new tax credits to ensure you can afford your health care.

#### FALLEN MARINE LANCE CORPORAL ERIC LEVI WARD

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled and honored today to recognize the sacrifice of a fallen marine from my district, Lance Corporal Eric Levi Ward from Redmond, Washington, who was killed in Afghanistan on February 21.

Soon he will be buried at Arlington, the final resting place for those who so

honorably sacrificed their lives for this country. When I talked to Eric's mom the other day, she said she understood her son's dedication to his country. She was a proud marine mom despite the sacrifice her family has made and the sense of loss and grief that they now bear.

It's important that we remember today that our country, the government, the people, our very way of life would not exist without those who sacrifice so willingly, who put on the uniform and sacrifice their lives, marines like Eric Ward, who gave their lives to honor our country to have freedom.

To Eric's family and to his friends, know that we will never forget Eric's sacrifice nor all those who have gone before him. His memory will live on, and we will continue to remember Eric's service to this country.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, thousands of my constituents have shared their health care stories with me about America's broken health care system, like Christopher from St. Louis. He said, I stayed in a job that I hated for 5 years just for the insurance. Or like Stacy, also from St. Louis. Her grandmother died without preventive coverage 2 years ago, she said, leaving her grandfather broke due to medical debt and her family wondering why her medical problems couldn't have been detected sooner. She wrote, Please vote for health care reform for my grandmother.

Well, Stacy and the thousands of others that I represent, I want to tell you I will. The American people have had it with the partisan bickering here, and so have I. The folks who want to play partisan political games with your health care need to get out of the way. The insurance companies have made record profits during this economic recession and are sticking us with higher premiums all across the country.

Enough with the obstruction and the delay. This bill has already passed the House. A bill has already passed the Senate with a supermajority. It's time for every Member of this Congress to stand up and be counted, to have a final up-or-down vote. It's time to stand up for millions of Americans. I know where I stand. It's time for an up-or-down vote on health care now.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to address some of the misstatements that have been made. I am also tired of the partisan bickering. I came in thinking that the Democrats who said, We want to work together, were serious.

We have been locked out of every single discussion except when the President came to preach to us, and he misrepresented it. Not intentionally, not lying, perhaps somebody who gave him the information was, but he wasn't. This bill that we're going to vote on starts with a lie. It says, This is an act that will modify first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and other purposes. It started with deceit.

Telling people they are going to have insurance, man, if that's true, if we can save money by adding 30 million people to our rolls, we need to go insure everybody in China and then we will be done with the deficit. This bill is a disaster. Seventy-plus percent of the American people want us to throw it out and start over. Let's listen to the people.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as we contemplate a historic vote to reform health care, I would like to emphasize how critically important this bill is to the women of this country. According to a report prepared by the Joint Economic Committee, which I chair, an estimated 64 million women in this country lack adequate health care; over one-quarter of our daughters between the ages of 19 and 24 lack health care, and women between the ages of 55 and 64 are particularly vulnerable. That's because so many women depend on their spouse's employer-based health care, and, all too often, they discover they are not age eligible for Medicare when their older husbands retire. A staggering 39 percent of all low-income women lack health care.

Ultimately, this is a vote about who we will be as a country. For our sisters, our daughters, and our mothers, yes, vote "yes" for them.

#### 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, it occurs to me that one of the strangest things that happens on this floor is when you bring the gavel down and say, The time has expired, and then people keep on talking and then turn to you and they say, I yield back the balance of my time. That is sort of a metaphor for the problem here in Congress. When we announce a tax cut, we say we are giving something back to you as if we had the call on your money in the first instance.

It's just one of the fictions we deal with, such as the fiction that this bill isn't going to cost us any money, or the fiction that the American people don't know what's in the bill, or the

fiction that the American people will love it once we pass it.

Let's remember August. It did occur. It's something that is a manifestation of the American people and how they feel. Let's not ignore the American people. Let's be the House of Representatives.

#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF ALEX CHILTON

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today I come before you with a heavy heart, for a friend of mine and a great friend of music in the world, and particularly from my hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, passed away last night. Alex Chilton, who was a rock-and-roller, who was an indie music alternative producer, songwriter, and guitarist, passed away. Alex Chilton, at age 16, had a number one hit with a group called the Box Tops, a song called "The Letter."

Gotta get a ticket for an airplane.

Ain't got time to catch a fast train.

Lonely days are gone. I'm a-going home.

My baby just wrote me a letter.

That was number one when he was 16. He went on with the Box Tops to do other songs.

And then he had a group called Big Star. Big Star wasn't well known. They did three albums. But "Rolling Stone" put all three albums in the top 500 albums ever produced in America, and two of his singles were among the top 500 singles ever done in America.

Alex Chilton was like so much in Memphis. He grew up at a time when Elvis Presley was our emissary to the world. He wanted to play music, and he did it, and he did it in his own way: independent, iconoclastic, innovative.

He never cared for the critics. He didn't have that much acclaim at the box office or in record sales, but he did with others. REM was a group that he influenced greatly, and the Replacements did a song called "Alex Chilton."

He was supposed to play at South By Southwest this week in Austin. They are mourning him. He was supposed to play in Memphis on May 15 with the reunion of Big Star at the Overton Park Shell. He won't do that.

His music will live on forever. He is an embodiment of Memphis music: hard, different, independent, brilliant, and beautiful. We are lucky he came our way.

He leaves a wife and a daughter.

□ 1030

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the people of this country like to have simple

truth; and the simple truth about the bill that we are probably going to vote on this week is that Americans are opposed to the health care bill. But the Democrats in charge of the Congress think they are smarter than the average American and are going to cram through this bill with tricks, and the people do not want it. It takes away individual freedom and puts the government in charge.

Even the President admitted at the Republican retreat that you would not be able to keep your health insurance if you like it, despite the fact that he had been saying that for months.

Even some Democrats don't like the Senate bill or didn't like the Senate bill that is what is going to be voted on. And the chair of the House Rules Committee said last year the Senate should, "go back to the drawing board," and that the Senate bill, "will do almost nothing to reform health care but will be a windfall for insurance companies."

Vote "no" on this bill.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1190 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1190

*Resolved*, That it shall be in order at any time through the calendar day of March 21, 2010, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland). The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx). All time yielded during consideration of this rule is for debate only. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1190.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, H. Res. 1190 authorizes the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules at any time through the calendar day of Sunday, March 21, 2010.

This rule is necessary because under clause 1(a), rule XV, the Speaker may entertain motions to suspend rules only on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of each week. The rule also provides that the Speaker shall consult