

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

with the minority leader on the designation of any matter considered for suspension. In order for suspensions to be considered on other days, the Rules Committee must authorize consideration of these motions.

And I want to remind my colleagues that any legislation passed under suspension of the rules still must receive at least a two-thirds vote. This rule will help us move important bipartisan legislation before we recess for the upcoming district work period.

A list of suspension bills will be provided by the majority leader at the appropriate time. We expect a number of important bills to be considered. Additionally, we expect the Rules Committee to meet again to make several other rules in order.

Before I reserve my time, let me just state the obvious. We are waiting for the health care bill to ripen and be ready for floor consideration. While we wait, there is business that this House must attend to, and this rule helps us do that.

But let me be clear. We will vote on the health care bill in the next few days. We will do so with a publicly released CBO score that shows the health care bill does not increase the deficit; in fact, it reduces the deficit. And we will do so while allowing 72 hours for anyone who wants to read and analyze the bill before we vote on it, and we will do so knowing that we will insure 32 million people, 32 million people who currently lack health insurance today.

Madam Speaker, this rule simply allows the House to conduct business until that health care bill is ready to come to the floor for a final vote, a vote which I am confident will prevail.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, we are on the cusp of voting on legislation to permit a Federal Government takeover of one-sixth of the Nation's economy.

This is the most significant piece of legislation in our generation. The American people get that, and they do not want this bill. They want health reform that makes sense and that will make health care more affordable and accessible.

When the chairwoman of the Rules Committee, Ms. SLAUGHTER, floated the proposed Slaughter solution last week, the outcry was immediate. You would think that my colleagues would take their title of "Representative" seriously and want to listen to the American people and have an open process. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question today, so that we can amend this rule to allow the House to consider H. Res. 1188.

This resolution, sponsored by Mr. GRIFFITH, will ensure an up-or-down vote on the Senate's health care takeover by preventing the Speaker from using the Slaughter solution to ram the Senate health care bill through the House, bypassing regular order. The

American people do not want the Senate bill, and neither do most Members in this Chamber.

The American people deserve an open process and an up-or-down vote. Voting "no" on the previous question, Members will be on the record opposing the Slaughter solution and voting to allow for consideration of a remedy aimed at protecting against this attempt to ram through the Democrat plan to socialize medicine.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment and extraneous materials immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, let me just state for the record that this has been an incredibly open process. And when I contrast it to the way my friends on the other side of the aisle handled a similar bill related to health care, and that was the prescription drug bill, I don't know what they are complaining about.

When they brought up the prescription drug bill, this is what it looked like, and it was given to the Rules Committee less than an hour before we were asked to vote on it, and then it was rushed to the floor a total of 27 hours between the time it was brought to the Rules Committee and the time Members were asked to vote on this bill. Contrast that to what we have done on this health insurance reform effort.

President Obama began with a health care summit at the beginning of 2009. Republicans and Democrats were invited and participated. Over the past year and a half, the House held nearly 100 hours of hearings and 83 hours of committee markups. We heard from 181 witnesses, both Democrat and Republican. Two hundred thirty-nine amendments were considered, 121 amendments were adopted. You know, this is the big lie that we are hearing from the other side that somehow this has been a closed process. The Rules Committee will convene on the health insurance reform bill with C-SPAN cameras present.

So this has been an incredibly open process. And I want to commend the Speaker of the House and the chairwoman of the Rules Committee for this open process, in contrast to the way they did their prescription drug bill, and just shoved it before the Rules Committee without anyone being able to read it. So I think that this has been an open process, and we stand by it.

But do you want to talk about process? Let's talk about the process by some of the big insurance companies in this country that routinely deny people coverage for the most silly reasons. They do it because they can.

In some States, Madam Speaker, believe it or not, insurance companies

consider domestic violence as a pre-existing condition. I mean, does anybody here think that is acceptable? And the gentlelady's home State of North Carolina, they are one of the States that still allow domestic violence against women to be used as an excuse to deny somebody health insurance. That is unconscionable, and the bill that we are talking about will fix that.

They were in charge for a lot of years, too many years, if you ask me. They drove this economy into a ditch. And during all that time, they did nothing, nothing, to deal with the rising cost of health insurance that families and small businesses face each and every day. They did nothing about the insurance companies denying people insurance because of preexisting conditions. They did nothing to deal with this issue that domestic violence in some States, including the State of North Carolina, can be used as a pre-existing condition to deny somebody health care.

So we need to do what is right for the American people, and enough of the misinformation and enough of the lies and enough of the distortions. We need to do what the people want, and that is, fix this health insurance industry that we have in this country that, quite frankly, has denied millions and millions of people in this country insurance.

And even those who have insurance have found out as they have been wheeled to the operating room that their insurance didn't cover what they thought.

The time is now for reform, and we are going to do that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, my colleague across the aisle talks about what the State of North Carolina does and does not do.

This insurance should be a State issue; it should not be a Federal issue. Maybe changes need to be made in the State of North Carolina, but that is up to the State of North Carolina. This is a Federal Government takeover, which is inappropriate.

Let me talk about the AARP and what they do about preexisting conditions, because our colleagues have put a special carve-out in this bill for the AARP. They deny access with preexisting conditions by imposing waiting periods on Medigap plans. They have a tremendous turn-down on preexisting conditions. Medicare turns down more people, twice as many people as the insurance companies do, and they want to put us all in Medicare-type plans. My colleague is a little disingenuous when he brings up selective situations like this.

I now would like to yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from California, the ranking member of the Rules Committee, Mr. DREIER.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding, and of course congratulate her on her fine management of this extraordinarily important rule because of what we are going to be doing when we deal with the previous question.

Now, before I get to that, I would like to engage in a colloquy, if I might, with my good friend from Worcester, and say that we have had this constant drumbeat of us versus them, class warfare. The Democrats are for the people; the Republicans are only for the insurance companies. I mean, we continue to hear that over and over and over again. So what I would like to do, Madam Speaker, is to disabuse my friend and others on the other side of the aisle and many people in the media who continue to put forth this argument by saying or making the charge that we have tried to do nothing to deal with this issue out there, and that is crazy. And, Madam Speaker, I would like to go through a few of the things that we have done that have been designed to bring the cost of health insurance down to make sure, to make sure that more Americans have access to quality health insurance.

Let's begin by something that I introduced, and I am happy to say we have put into law. I introduced it 23 years ago in 1987, the first bill to call for the establishment of medical savings accounts, which incentivize Americans to put more dollars aside to save for direct health care costs or health insurance costs.

The second thing that we have done, I am very proud of the work product of Medicare part D by ensuring that more seniors have access to affordable prescription drugs.

But, Madam Speaker, what I would like to do is talk about a couple of things that we have worked on and when we were in the majority that we passed through this House, but, unfortunately, were blocked by my friends on the other side of the aisle in the other body. Those two things are, number one, associated health plans.

Now, President Obama has said that he believes that the notion of allowing small businesses to come together to pool so that they can have the benefit of lower insurance rates is something that he finds somewhat appealing; and yet, when we passed that in this House, sent it to the other body, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle chose, unfortunately, to block that measure.

And what is it that has happened? Well, we have seen an increase in the number of people who don't have health insurance in this country because of the fact that Democrats in the other body chose to block our establishment of associated health plans so that small businesses out there can come together.

And the second issue, which, again, the President stood here in his address to the joint session of Congress, Madam Speaker, and talked about and

he believed was important for us to utilize, and that is real lawsuit abuse reform.

Now, unfortunately, one of the reasons that we see this dramatic increase in health care costs is that—what has happened? Many doctors—and listen to this: Many doctors have to engage in what is described as defensive medicine. They have to constantly prescribe all kinds of tests which are unnecessary, but they do it for one reason, Madam Speaker, and that is they do it because they are afraid of being sued.

Now, Madam Speaker, in the last Republican Congress, in our attempt to bring the cost of health insurance down we passed out of this House real lawsuit abuse reform legislation. It was blocked in the other body by our Democratic colleagues.

So this notion that was put forward by my friend from Worcester that we somehow have done absolutely nothing to deal with the plight of those Americans who don't have access to quality health insurance is preposterous.

Now, Madam Speaker, we have heard about this issue of transparency, and disclosure, and accountability, and I listened to my friend from Worcester argue that we have had this great deal of transparency. Then I ask you, Madam Speaker, why is it that the American people are saying that we should start over and we should in fact have a process that is transparent and open?

□ 1045

Never before, never before in the history of the Republic have we seen the process that is being contemplated used on such a massive issue and on the signature issue of an administration. We all know that this is the signature issue that has been put forth, argued for more than a year; and now what we've had is the Speaker and the majority leader and the distinguished chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules say that it is acceptable for us to completely deny accountability, to avoid accountability, and to prevent Members from actually being responsible for the votes that they cast.

Well, Madam Speaker, the American people get it. No matter how diligently they work overtime in the back rooms in this Capitol to block any opportunity for transparency, the American people are able to see through what it is that they're doing. It's one of the great benefits of the new technology that exists today and the fact that there are Democrats as well as Republicans who are decrying this.

I joke with my friend from the Grandfather community that sometimes I watch some of the programs on television that may be a little left of center. And I'm proud to do that. I watch them with regularity. And I have listened to a number of their commentators who would in no way be considered supporters of the Republican vision that is out there actually say that it is wrong. It is wrong for Demo-

crats to go down this road of self-executing this massive, massive bill. They're arguing for transparency and disclosure and accountability, and I believe that it makes a great deal of sense.

When we defeat the previous question—I hope, Madam Speaker, we will be able to do that—we will take the initiative that has been launched by our newest Republican colleague, PARKER GRIFFITH, who has come forward and offered a proposal to say that if we're going to debate this health care bill, we should have an up-or-down vote and we should have extended debate, because the process that's being contemplated right now, Madam Speaker, would not allow one single minute of debate on the floor of the people's House to debate the health care bill. The only thing that we would debate is 30 minutes on either side on the special rule that would come to the House floor.

And so, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the previous question. And when we do that, we will bring up and allow a vote on the Griffith proposal that will ensure that we will have an up-or-down vote on the health care issue and the kind of free-flowing debate that the American people deserve.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Give me a break. That somehow Republican ideas have helped anybody in this country dealing with the high cost of insurance, it's ridiculous. In California alone, 8 million people last year went without health insurance. That's about 25 percent of all Californians under the age of 65; 25 percent in California, where they have some of the strongest malpractice laws in place.

I mean, this is crazy. The fact is that people are struggling to pay for their health insurance. And people who pay for it ought to be able to get the insurance that they think they're going to get. We have a situation now where it's not just we have to worry about the uninsured; we have to worry about people with insurance who all of a sudden find themselves sick or a loved one sick and find for crazy reasons that they are somehow going to be denied coverage. This is the United States of America. We could do better. We can have the best for everybody. Why not?

At this point I'd like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. Let me thank my colleague from the Rules Committee for yielding me some time. The beauty of sports—you know, we're entering into March Madness; we just witnessed the Olympics. When you get to sports, there's a scorecard. All the talk and all the bravado really doesn't matter. You kind of look at what the score is. And we had a Republican President, we had a Republican House, a Republican Senate for 6 years. And on the question of providing insurance to tens of millions of Americans who didn't have it, they did zero. On the question of reining in

insurance companies in terms of excess costs, they did zero. In terms of dealing with the practices of insurance companies taking away coverage on a preexisting condition, because they say pregnancy is a preexisting condition or acne or domestic violence, the Republican President and the majority in the House and the Senate for 6 years did zero.

Now we have a Democratic President and a Democratic House and a Democratic Senate. In less than 16 months, we have provided health care to over 10 million children, even against the tobacco lobby and all of our Republican colleagues, many of whom voted against it. We prevailed. We in this House voted to take away the antitrust exemptions from insurance companies. Within just a few hours, some 72 hours from almost this moment, we are going to provide over 32 million of our fellow citizens with health insurance coverage through a health care reform proposal. We're going to rein in the worst practices of insurance companies. We're going to eliminate lifetime caps and yearly caps. We're going to make sure that children with preexisting conditions can't be denied coverage, and then down the road, adults.

So we are moving to look now at the scorecard. All of the talk is wonderful. I heard my colleague say, Well, they've done this and they tried to do this. Whatever the Republican President and majority did over those 6 years is overwhelmed by what was left undone. And we have begun this work. We're going to finish this work. And we're going to make sure that in this country we join the rest of the industrialized world in providing insurance for all of our citizens. We began this fight, and we're prepared to vote about it in just some 72 hours, all of this talk notwithstanding.

Ms. FOXX. I want to say that, again, our colleagues across the aisle are in the business of picking winners and losers. They do love one insurance company. They love the AARP, which in 2008, from their financial statements, had royalty fees of \$414 million. Pure profit on their bottom line. I raised this issue with Mr. RANGEL when he was at the Rules Committee before, because I am very concerned about the way AARP is being represented to the people. Their profits have skyrocketed in recent years, jumping 31 percent just from 2007 to 2008. So we find, again, that they want to pick the winners and losers instead of allowing individuals in this country to make their decisions on what they should be doing.

I'd like now to yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. I thank Ms. FOXX for yielding. I want to ask three questions of my Democratic colleagues: Are you so arrogant that you know what's best for the American people? Are you so ignorant to be oblivious to the wishes of the American people? Three-fourths of America does

not want this bill. Are you so incompetent that you ignore the Constitution; that you have to use tricks and deception to ram down the throats of the American people something that they absolutely do not want?

I hope and pray and I call upon the American people to speak louder, and I hope and pray that our Democratic colleagues will listen to the American people, listen to their constituents, and stop this government takeover of health care. I hope you will listen to President Obama when he says that the American people deserve an up-or-down vote.

I hope that I can encourage my Democratic colleagues to defeat this previous question so that Democrats and Republicans can work together, so that we can find some commonsense solutions to literally lower the cost of health care, so government doesn't take over the health care system that's going to drive a million people out of work, that's going to run the cost of everybody's health insurance up, if they have private insurance. It's going to destroy the private health insurance system. As a medical doctor, I'm not a proponent of the health insurance system. But please listen to the American people. Let's defeat this PQ and let's work together to find some commonsense solutions. This is in the best interest of America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia and all Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I think the gentleman from Georgia nicely summed up the tone of the opposition. They'd rather engage in name-calling than at finding solutions. Grand Old Party, indeed.

Let me tell you what I think incompetence and ignorance is, Madam Speaker. That's allowing 46 million Americans to go without health insurance. It's putting profits over patients. It's allowing insurance companies to discriminate for preexisting conditions. We can do better. This is the United States of America. We can do better for our people.

At this time I'd like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank my colleague. You know, it's fascinating to have been engaged in this discussion for the better part of a year now as we talk about the things that we know the American people are demanding. They want us to act. They want us to act now in a comprehensive way to solve some of the problems facing the delivery of health care in this country.

We know because we've seen polls, just as our colleagues on the other side have seen, that when you ask the American people do they want competition and choice in their health care insurance system, they say, by margins approaching 75 or 80 percent, Yes, we do. Do they want an end to the insurance practices of ending prejudice, dis-

crimination because of preexisting conditions; by overwhelming margins, they say, Yes, we do. When we say, Do you want protection against having your insurance canceled just because you happen to get sick, they say, by overwhelming margins, Yes, we do. When you work through all of the elements of the legislation we're considering and will approve this weekend, the American people overwhelmingly say, Yes, we want that.

I know our colleagues like to throw out these national poll numbers now and say, Well, these polls show that—now it's about 50-50—but the American people really don't want this. Well, there's one poll recently that asked those people who said they were against President Obama's reform plan, the congressional plan, they said, How many of you who say you're against it are against because it doesn't go far enough? And nearly 40 percent of those said, That's why we're against it. And that's kind of what I've been hearing in my district. Just like the shop owner I spoke to over Christmas who said, You know, I'm against what you're doing. I said, Really, why is that? She said, Because I have diabetes and I can't wait until 2014 to get the help I need. Is she against reform? Not on your life. Not on her life either. She wants reform. She wants it faster and she wants more of it.

And that's what I'm hearing all over in my community. I don't know what is going on in some of our Republicans' communities, but what I hear by overwhelming margins, people say, Do it. Do it now. We are desperate.

And you know what's interesting? As we've gone through this debate, and my friend Mr. DREIER was down here just a few minutes ago talking about how much they did when they were in control of Congress, well, they say they were for having insurance companies being able to sell insurance across State lines. Did they do anything when they had control of the Congress for 12 years? Did they make that possible? No. They say they're for ending preexisting conditions. Did they do anything about that? No. How about the rescission issue? Did they do anything about that? No. Yes, they passed the prescription drug plan. For some people, that's working out very well. For those who are in the doughnut hole, that middle portion where they pay 100 percent of the cost, it's not working out very well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. YARMUTH. Did they do anything about that? Yes, they did. They passed the bill, but they didn't pay for it. And now the CBO says that's going to add \$8 trillion to our debt.

□ 1100

So while the Republicans say they've been concerned about solving America's health care problems, they really

haven't done anything about it. And the one thing that sticks with me throughout this entire debate, 1 year long, nobody on the Republican side has ever said in any discussion that they had any interest in insuring the uninsured. Those 47 million people, many of whom are going bankrupt, some of whom are dying, 18,000 a year are dying, almost a million a year are going bankrupt, did they say anything about insuring the uninsured? Not a word.

So we're committed to providing the health care system America needs, wants, and demands. We're going to do it this weekend. And as I said before, this will be the proudest vote I ever cast on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I want to say to my colleague from Kentucky, even his own President has said that Americans will not have competition and choice in terms of what they are able to keep. He said that people will not be able to keep the insurance plans they like under this plan. So I wanted to make a correction of that.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague from South Carolina and the next Governor of South Carolina, Mr. BARRETT.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to vote "no" on the previous question so the rule can be amended and the House can consider H. Res. 1188. If passed, this bill will ensure a straightforward up-or-down vote on the Senate-passed health care bill.

From the moment this bill was introduced, Madam Speaker, this government takeover of health care has been on life support, kept alive only by closed-door processes and sweetheart deals. Over the past several months, I have spent a tremendous amount of time in South Carolina talking to folks about health care, and, quite frankly, the American people are tired of the games, the gimmicks, and they've been tired of us trying to muscle this bill through the legislative process. It's time we pull the plug on all these secretive schemes, Madam Speaker.

The cure is real and true transparency. The American people deserve an honest debate and an open vote by Congress on this legislation. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question. Madam Speaker, let's give the American people a true up-or-down vote on this legislation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, can I inquire how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 16 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to make something clear, and that is the President has said over and

over and over again that if you like what you have in terms of your insurance, you can keep it. No matter what my friends on the other side say, no matter how much they don't like the fact that people can keep their own insurance—and the President has assured that over and over again—no matter what you say, the facts are the facts, and that is a fact.

The other facts are: what will health insurance reform do starting the first day it becomes law? On day one, on day one annual caps on coverage would be eliminated. On day one, rescissions, the practice of dumping people even if they have paid their premiums, would be eliminated. On day one, preexisting conditions, exclusions for children would be eliminated, and, over time, all preexisting condition exclusions would be eliminated. On day one, parents would be allowed to carry their children on their health insurance policy until their 26th birthday. On day one, a down payment toward completely closing the doughnut hole for seniors would be met with a \$250 rebate for those in Medicare part D.

This is all what will happen on day one when we pass it. These things here are important to the American people. These are the things that when they were in charge, they didn't have time to do. We had to do tax cuts for people who were wealthy. We had to give corporations more tax cuts and more subsidies. Well, the time has come for us to care about the American people and do something for the American people, and this is it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Would the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. MCGOVERN. On your time, I will.

Ms. FOXX. Let me say, Madam Speaker, that the gentleman obviously did not pay attention to what the President said at the Republican retreat, because he said he had made a mistake in saying that people could keep their insurance plans if they liked them, that a few stray cats and dogs had gotten into the Senate bill. And what I wanted to ask my colleague is: Can he guarantee the American people that, in the Senate bill that they are going to vote on under a trick being used by the Rules Committee, that the American people will be able to keep their insurance plan if they like it? Because the President has said that isn't the case, and I think it's really important that we get that said here.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I do appreciate my friend across the aisle earlier saying that all lies and distortion must stop, and I am glad that he has finally agreed with us on that proposition. It is important, because, for one thing, people have been misled about what this bill does and doesn't do. I heard one of my friends across the aisle yesterday saying, Gee, great news. I've got 25 names of religious

leaders who are pro-life who have now taken a look, and they've said this is okay.

As a pro-life person, I don't believe this changes existing law. They look at page 119, and they see under subparagraph capital B, little I: Abortions for which public funding is prohibited. The services described in this clause are abortions for which the expenditure of Federal funds appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services is not permitted, and based on the law as in effect as of the date that is 6 months before the beginning of the plan year involved.

So they look at that and say, Oh, okay, that doesn't change existing law. That's great. And they don't look over to page 124 that says, Under this bill you have to provide insurance policies that will actually cover—it says here—there is at least one plan that provides coverage of services described in clause little I of subparagraph B. That's the one that says you can't use Federal funds to pay for abortion. And a few pages over it says you have to provide these policies that will fund abortions from the paragraph we said we won't fund. That's the kind of gamesmanship that's in here, and people will suffer as a result. That's just a small example.

Now we hear over and over that you guys are killing people by not letting them have this plan that we've got for them. Well, we heard the President say in 2007, Gee, the first step will be—this bill is actually what we're talking about passing here. That will be the first step, and then there will be the transition basically into full socialized medicine.

He said Canada had to start with this kind of bill and then go to the full socialized medicine. Well, let's look at what they did. Here you find out that if you want to die quicker from cancer than any other country, don't come to the United States because you'll live longer here. Folks, that's just not right.

I have a bill that does the things that we're talking about, and Newt Gingrich told me back in June, Man, that will revolutionize the discussion of health care. I've been trying since June to get that scored, and I can't get it scored. I'm shut out. Oh, yeah, they're objective. They'll snap their fingers. They'll get you a CBO score the next day, but not for this Republican, even with the support of all the people they said I needed to get it scored. Let's get fair for a change.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, gamesmanship my foot. There is no Federal money in this bill for abortion. The Hyde amendment applies to this bill. That's the law of the land. To get up here and to try to—

No, I will not yield on that. There is enough misinformation being said on this floor. I will not yield.

And, Madam Speaker, in terms of scores, let me read the CBO score today from how it appeared in Roll Call. "An analysis of the Democratic health care

overhaul by the Congressional Budget Office shows it would cost \$940 billion over a decade and expand insurance to 32 million people. The package also will slice the deficit by \$130 billion in the first decade and a whopping \$1.2 trillion in the second,' a House Democratic leadership aide said Thursday. 'The CBO report, which will soon be published, will show that the plan cuts the growth of Medicare costs by 1.4 percent per year while eliminating the doughnut hole. Those cuts would extend the solvency of Medicare for at least an additional 9 years.'"

If you want to talk about scores, that's one of the scores here. This bill will not only insure 32 million people, it will cut our deficit, which is something that everybody says they want to do. So let's stick to what's real here.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I think the thing that my colleague across the aisle fails to mention when he talks about the deficit is that, in order to do that, they raise taxes, and that's something they always leave out. They're never real about that.

I yield an additional 30 seconds to my colleague from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my colleague saying there is no money in here for abortion because the Henry Hyde amendment doesn't allow it. He is correct with regard to the appropriations through Labor and HHS. That's all the Hyde amendment applies to. It doesn't apply to the trillions of dollars that are appropriated in this bill around Labor-HHS. That is money the Hyde amendment doesn't apply to. My colleague asked us to get real. That's as real as you get. There's money that goes around the Hyde amendment.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself 30 seconds.

Again, just to reiterate that there are no Federal funds in this bill to cover abortion, there was an amendment in the Senate by Senator NELSON which made that clear. It is crystal clear. There should be no debate about it, and anybody here on the floor who is saying that somehow it does is just plain wrong.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding.

You know, here we're talking, and this is about the only opportunity we're going to have for real debate on this because Speaker PELOSI and her liberal lieutenants have decided that they're going to try to ram this down the throats of the American people without even having an actual vote on the House floor, which, of course, violates Article I, section 7 of the Constitution. There are a tremendous number of constitutional questions about the bill, but they keep talking about how good their bill is.

Let's just look at their credibility on this issue. Of course when Speaker PELOSI got the gavel in 2006 and became Speaker, she said, The Democrats intend to lead the most honest, most open, and most ethical Congress in history. Well, let's review the record. Of course, just a few weeks ago, Speaker PELOSI says, But we have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it. They don't even know what's in the bill. They won't even release the CBO score. There are rumors flying around. There are all these backdoor secret negotiations. They said all of this would be on C-SPAN. The President said it eight times. They're meeting behind closed doors this very minute cutting more sweetheart deals, and no C-SPAN cameras. They threw the public out of those hearings. They broke that pledge multiple times.

Now let's look at the latest on this Slaughter rule. Speaker PELOSI just said this the other day, But I like it because people don't have to vote on the Senate bill.

Now, do they really think the people of this country are stupid? Of course the people know what's going on. The people are watching this closely, and the people will not be fooled by this abomination of the process. But if their bill really was so good, why are they doing all of this behind closed doors?

They broke every promise they made along the way, but yet they want you to believe, Don't worry. It's still going to work out the way we want it. If you like what you have, you can keep it. We've seen multiple times where the President has said that, and that turned out not to be accurate. We know now—and it has been confirmed—that you will lose health care you have that you like under their bill. We have seen on abortion language, they keep saying even to this minute, Don't worry; no taxpayer funding for abortion.

Now, are you going to believe folks that broke every promise or are you going to believe the Catholic bishops and National Right to Life who confirm there is taxpayer funding for abortion?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Louisiana has expired.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman.

I will finish it up with this. Are you going to believe the people who have broken every other promise they have made about the bill or are you going to believe the Catholic bishops and National Right to Life who said this would be a career-defining pro-abortion vote? That was National Right to Life. Do you believe them or do you believe the folks who broke every other promise and are meeting behind closed doors right now, cutting more sweetheart deals that they don't want anybody to see?

If their bill was so good, why are they trying to pass it without an actual vote? Because they know the American people are sick and tired of this proposal to have a government takeover of health care, and they don't want it. The public will be heard on this issue. We need to defeat this bill.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I don't know how to respond to that tirade. Let me just say this. The reason why this bill is good is because it insures 32 million people right now in this country who don't have insurance. The reason why this bill is good is it's going to ultimately contain the costs that average families and small businesses have to deal with right now with the rising cost of health care. The reason why this bill is good is it prohibits insurance companies from discriminating against people with preexisting conditions.

We have heard story after story where people were denied insurance because their preexisting condition was acne. I mean, we have heard stories where insurance companies have cut people off from insurance because their weight was wrong on the application. I mean, we have heard stories where women have been denied insurance because their preexisting condition was they were a victim of domestic violence. I mean, give me a break. We are supposed to be the greatest deliberative body in this country. We should be talking about how we solve these problems, not all these rhetorical flourishes that are just misinformation, blatant misinformation.

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Enough. Let's get down to what matters, and that is doing something for the American people.

I know it may not be convenient for your elections in November. I know, you know, you're all trying to figure out how do you deny President Obama any victory. How do we obstruct the process? You here in this House, your friends over in the Senate who used the filibuster over and over and over again.

People are sick of that. People want us to help deal with this issue that, quite frankly, is becoming an issue that they can not handle because the costs are going up and up and up. Small businesses aren't hiring people because their health insurance costs are going up. Average families are going bankrupt when someone gets sick. So let's do the right thing.

I reserve my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I find it so interesting that our colleagues across the aisle talk about the problems with the filibuster in the Senate. But that is exactly why bills could not