

under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HEALTH CARE DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Thank you, Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity—we've had a pretty full day with a lot of debate on the floor regarding the health care legislation that's going to be coming to the floor on Sunday—and I wanted to read into the RECORD some correspondence that my office has received. First, is a letter from the Governor of Texas, received March 19, 2010. The Governor, says: Texans deserve affordable, high-quality health care, but not higher taxes, increased health insurance premiums and unprecedented mandates. It goes on to say, We recognize the need for true health care reform that controls rising costs and ensures hardworking Texans can afford health care for themselves and for their families. But government programs should not be the first place we look to expand coverage.

It goes on to say, In addition to the enormous cost to Texas, we believe the backroom negotiations and special deals that some congressional leaders have cut may well be unconstitutional. Additionally, it appears that congressional leaders might resort to employing an obscure parliamentary procedure to avoid an actual vote on the bill. This is not how the public expects legislation of this magnitude to be debated or enacted. It's signed, Governor Rick Perry, Governor of Texas.

A letter from Tommy Williams, who's the chairman of the administration committee of the State senate. He's also on the senate finance committee. He says, Recently, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission provided me with an analysis of the impact of President Obama's proposal on our state budget. It would, in a word, be devastating. The analysis estimates that the President's proposal would cost the State of Texas over \$24 billion over the next 10 years. This includes a \$6 billion reduction in available disproportionate share of funding for hospitals. Our State simply cannot afford an additional average cost of \$4 billion to \$5 billion per biennium over the 10 years it would take to implement this plan. Signed, Tommy Williams, State senator from Texas.

Attorney General Greg Abbott wrote to Senators HUTCHISON and CORNYN earlier this year in a very detailed correspondence about the problems he saw with the Senate bill as it was passed on Christmas Eve—and do remember it will be the Senate bill that will be here on the floor on Sunday. There will be a reconciliation bill to fix some of the things in there, but it will be the Senate bill, make no mistake about that. It will be the Senate bill that passes.

All of those technical corrections could just as easily pass by the wayside if the administration is not interested in fixing the problems in the Senate bill.

Nebraska compromise. We've heard a lot about that. The attorney general was concerned about the equal sovereignty and due process contained within the Cornhusker kickback, the Nebraska compromise. The individual mandate was particularly instructive. The attorney general talked about the commerce clause. And he concludes by saying, The individual mandate is constitutionally suspect because it does not fall within any of the normal categories.

The mandate provision in H.R. 3590 attempts to regulate a nonactivity. The legislation actually imposes a financial penalty upon Americans who choose not to engage in interstate commerce because they choose not to enter into a contract for health insurance. In other words, the proposed mandate would compel every American to engage in commerce by forcing them to purchase insurance and then use that coerced transaction as a basis for claiming authority under the commerce clause. That is Attorney General Greg Abbott from the State of Texas.

Now I have a list of many physician specialty societies that are opposed to this legislation. This list was current as of today. This list represents nearly 500,000 physicians in the United States of America—parenthetically, more than the American Medical Association. The dermatologists; plastic surgeons; eye doctors; head and neck surgeons; trauma surgeons; neurological surgeons; American College of OB-GYNs; the College of Osteopathic Surgeons; the American College of Surgeons; the American Academy of Orthopedics; the Society of Breast Surgeons; the Society of Anesthesiologists; American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery; colon and rectal surgeons; metabolic and bariatric surgeons; the American Urological Association; the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

State medical associations. That is not a complete list, but State medical associations: Alabama; Delaware; District of Columbia; Florida; Georgia; Kansas; Louisiana; Missouri; Medical Society of New Jersey; Ohio; South Carolina; Texas; and Tennessee. I will submit the entire list for the RECORD.

AMERICA'S PHYSICIANS DO NOT SUPPORT THE CURRENT HEALTH REFORM BILL VOTE NO

Physician Organizations Representing Nearly 500,000 Physicians (Many More than the AMA) Do Not Support the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

NATIONAL MEDICAL SOCIETIES

American Academy of Dermatology Association, American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Congress of

Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, and American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics.

American Pediatric Surgical Association, American Society of Breast Surgeons, American Society of Anesthesiologists, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, American Society of General Surgeons, American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery, American Urological Association, American Society of Plastic Surgeons, and Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, Heart Rhythm Society, National Association of Spine Specialists, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society for Vascular Surgery, Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, and Society of Surgical Oncology.

STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Medical Society of Delaware, Medical Society of the District of Columbia, Florida Medical Association, Medical Association of Georgia, Kansas Medical Society, Louisiana State Medical Society, Missouri State Medical Association, Medical Society of New Jersey, Ohio State Medical Association, South Carolina Medical Association, Texas Medical Association.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, after hearing the hysterics of my Republican colleagues over the last several days, I was reminded of the adage I've heard about the legal profession. It said that if you have the facts, pound on the facts. If you have the law, pound on the law. But if you have neither the facts nor the law, pound on the table.

I give my Republican colleagues credit for doing a remarkable job of pounding on the table for the last few months. I've heard my colleagues saying outlandish things about how we're doing violence to the Constitution and sticking our fingernails in the eyes of the American public. But it's all an elaborate distraction from what the real debate is about. What we're talking about is what happens when you don't have health insurance.

I heard a story last week that I think gets to the heart of what we're doing and why we're doing it. It's about a family of five, including a newborn child, that's going through a rough patch. When the baby was born, the mother's employer didn't offer her maternity leave, so she was unable to earn an income. When the father's entire drywall crew was laid off because there was simply no work, the family lost their income, aside from the unemployment benefits her husband received. All five of them had to move into a relative's living room. And when stress and strain caused the mother to stop producing breast milk, she had to buy formula that she couldn't afford.

So she applied to get some supplemental food benefits under the WIC program, which comes only once a month. When those benefits ran out, she went to the office for more help, and they said there was none. Without additional support, she was forced to dilute the formula with water, causing the baby to become malnourished. As a result of malnourishment, the baby developed something called starvation diarrhea, a very serious and very painful illness. When the baby's parents took her to the hospital, her diarrhea had become so severe that she was treated in the same way as people with severe burns. She stayed in the hospital for 10 days. Remember, this is a family with parents who worked, whose baby was born healthy, who had health insurance. They simply fell victim to this economy.

I read another article recently about an insurance company called Fortis, one of the largest in the country. Fortis designed a computer program that would automatically flag any policyholder with HIV-AIDS and trigger an automatic fraud investigation. Knowing the treatment was expensive, the executives were looking for anything they could use to revoke health insurance policies for people with HIV. Then, when nothing turned up, they would essentially invent a reason.

Now I know everyone in this room has at least 20 stories like this. And after hearing just one of them, I can't understand how anyone with a conscience can stand in the way of reform for one second. I've sat in this Chamber and listened to hours of foolishness and nonsense about what this bill will allegedly do. Despite being deafened by a year's worth of Republicans banging on the table, I'm thrilled we're going to get a chance to vote on a health care reform bill that will help millions of Americans. Eighty years from now, like the 80 years ago when Social Security passed, 80 years into the future people will look back at this as the bill that helped them take a sick child to the doctor. They'll look back and be shocked that there was a time when insurance companies were allowed to deny health coverage—even to children—just because they were sick, because they had a preexisting condition. And they'll be appalled that anyone would refuse to vote for this bill for no other reason than political grandstanding or trying to gain political advantage in the next election.

When we hit 216 votes on Sunday, I'm going to be proud that we will be helping millions of Americans right now and here in this day but also generations that are yet to come. A country is judged by how it handles the people who are least able to care for themselves. And when you're sick and you don't have health insurance and your country says, We don't care—go to the emergency room, that's your health care. Stand in an 8-hour line, that's your health care. We're going to change that on Sunday.

□ 1845

THE PRISON OF TYRANNY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country. But he that stands by it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

Thomas Paine spoke these words at another crossroads in this Nation's history, back when Americans were fighting the tyranny of King George and the British Empire. The question to be asked today is: Will we stand up to government tyranny as our Founding Fathers did over 200 years ago?

Government is taking over every aspect of our lives, and it's not just the big things, like the automobile industry, the banking industry, student loans, home mortgages. They're telling us what kind of cars we can drive, what kind of lightbulbs we can use, and they're even telling us how much water we can put in our toilets. We are living under the ever-growing oppression of government. The government has stolen our liberty one right at a time. They are building us into a prison of tyranny. Brick by brick, that wall of tyranny increases every day as the Federal Government intrudes into our personal liberty and takes over every single aspect of our lives.

Have we forgotten about the unaccountable czars who work in the shadows? At last count, we have 45 czars that rule over us. Most of them have not been confirmed by the Senate, as required by the Constitution. We've got a behavioral science czar that's studying human behavior. The government wants to know how they can influence human conduct. It sounds a bit like the book "1984" to me. We have a bailout czar. We have a border czar, but nobody knows whether the border czar is to secure the border or open it up.

We don't know what these czars do. We have a climate change czar and a communications diversity czar. We have a disinformation czar. It sounds like he should be called the "government propaganda czar" to me. We have two economic czars. We probably could use a few more of those. We have an energy czar, a food czar, a Great Lakes czar, and a Gitmo closure czar. We have a pay czar, and we have a religion or God czar. With our government, we don't know whether he's for or against God and religion.

We have a safe school czar, a science czar who wrote a controversial book from promoting population control. Now isn't that lovely. What are all of these people doing? Why are they working in the shadows, controlling our liberty?

Today as we debate health care, the government wants to take over America's health care system. We'll have a health care czar and a health choices czar because we're not smart enough, according to the government, to sit down with our own doctors and decide what's best for our own health care. So some bureaucrat here in D.C. has to decide for us. The health care takeover gives the Federal Government access to our bank accounts and our private medical records. The IRS will get 16,000 new agents to snoop around in these records. Whatever happened to the right of privacy?

This is not about health, and it's certainly not about care. This is about government control over every aspect of our lives without accountability and against the will of the people. In the long, lamentable catalog of human history, a person or a people yearning to be free have had to make tough choices. Will we stand at this hour for government tyranny or personal liberty?

As Patrick Henry once so famously said: "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death." Now our choice today is the prison of tyranny or the frontier of freedom. Let us choose wisely or suffer the abominable chains of the oppression of tyranny.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for a few minutes again on the health care bill that's pending that has millions of Americans upset, near panicked. Obviously, we have health care problems in America. I don't know how to answer some of the people who have preexisting conditions with their kids, who have lost their jobs or different challenges, but you don't need to have this type of bill to address those.

We've offered solutions from trying to limit defensive medicine to doing it across State lines. Clearly, we are going to have to spend some money to try to address the preexisting conditions and catastrophic, but you could do that and still keep the private sector by having some form of reinsurance that may or may not be subsidized to the individual or through the government in a pooling process. But there are ways to address this other than making the government the de facto center of the entire health care industry.