

And of course, in this bill they are hiring 16,000 new IRS health care police to enforce that dictate. The IRS health care police will verify that American citizens have acceptable health care insurance every month. I say American citizens because illegals are exempt from paying health care fines and taxes, although illegals can receive coverage in this bill. The health care bill also violates the people's right to privacy. People's most secret, private, intimate medical records will become the property of the U.S. Government.

Health care busybody bureaucrats will burrow through private medical records and decide what medical care people are allowed to have. Health care bureaucrats will stick their nose into private banking accounts and their records to decide how much people have to pay for that health insurance. They will be able to seize tax refunds, bank accounts, garnished wages all in the name of forcing people to buy insurance for their own good. And of course, this is in the bill.

This power grab is not about health, and it's certainly not about care. It's about liberty. It's about Federal Government control over people's lives against their will. The Federal Government has no right to dictate to the people their health care needs. And in my opinion, it's unconstitutional. Most of the American people oppose the government plan to take over this health care. There were thousands of people here today making their voices known that they are opposed to this bill. It costs too much, it borrows too much, it taxes too much, it's inefficient, and it gives government bureaucrats the control of our medical decisions.

Even Thomas Jefferson talked about government-run health care. He said, "If people let government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of those who live under tyranny."

Mr. Speaker, government-run health care is unconstitutional, and it's unhealthy for everyone. We must remember the Constitution says and begins with "We the People," not "We the Subjects."

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her 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 Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of an 11-year-old boy from Washington State

who visited Congress last week to lobby for health care reform. His name is Marcellas Owens, and he had lost his uninsured mother to pulmonary hypertension which could have been treated.

He shared his story with Senator PATTY MURRAY and then presented to an audience of 100 people at a hearing, telling them that he thought "health care should be for everyone." He was an articulate and bright young man, and his story exemplifies why we desperately need health reform.

So in one of the clearest signs of Republican desperation, Glenn Beck, Rush Limbaugh, and Michelle Malkin took to the airwaves to tear Marcellas apart. Mr. Limbaugh came up with the most unconscionable line, telling his listeners, I would say this to Marcellas Owens, "Well, your mother would have died anyway because ObamaCare doesn't kick in until 2014."

FOXNews' Michelle Malkin came in a close second with a column entitled "Desperate Dems Cling to Human Kiddie Shield." Perhaps the only accurate word in Ms. Malkin's piece was "desperation," but she used it to describe the wrong party.

In all my years of public service, I can't remember the last time I saw such a cheap and disgraceful campaign. Republican determination to derail reform at any cost is reprehensible, and I cannot find words to describe how shameful I think it is to direct vitriol at an 11-year-old boy who lost his mother.

On my way to work this morning, I saw a group of tea baggers, and I'm really happy that they will be in Washington to witness Congress pass this historic health care bill tomorrow. When I got to the office, I did a little research on my own and found the Web site of a tea bagger group called the 9/12 project, which includes a page which they call "the nine principles."

Number 7 reads, "I work hard for what I have, and I will share it with who I want to. Government cannot force me to be charitable." That reminds me of another gem Glenn Beck said on his show last week, when he had started criticizing a new poverty measure that would help us understand what it really means to be poor in this country. He said that if it were implemented, he would be considered poor. Glenn Beck reportedly made \$23 million last year, which means that in one workday, he earns the equivalent of what four families earn in poverty over a whole year.

"Government cannot force me to be charitable." I have always been a little confused about what would motivate someone to get up in the morning to attack an 11-year-old boy who lost his mom or compel someone to drive 500 miles to protest reforms that would help millions of Americans.

But I'm finally beginning to understand the mentality behind the tea party crowd and its spokespeople Glenn Beck, Rush Limbaugh, and Michelle Malkin. They are simply selfish,

greedy, and indifferent, and they don't seem to care about helping anyone in need.

I should note that when Marcellas heard what these three said about him, he graciously responded by saying, "My mother always taught me they can have their own opinion, but that doesn't mean they are right." When an 11-year-old outshines and outclasses your party's three top mouthpieces, it might be time to look for some replacements.

When I vote for health care reform tomorrow, I will dedicate it to Marcellas Owens and the memory of his mom. And if I had to write my seventh principle, I think I would use one of the my favorites quotes from the book of James in the Bible, "Suppose a brother or a sister is in rags with not enough food for the day, and one of you says, 'Good luck to you, keep yourselves warm and have plenty to eat,' but does nothing to supply their bodily needs. What is the good of that? So with faith; if it does not lead to action, it is in itself a lifeless thing."

That is what we are doing here. We are making the first step to return to the concept of the common good that we will take care of each other.

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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 Alabama (Mr. BONNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, here we are on the verge of one of the most significant votes that Congress has ever taken. The only time that I can think of which perhaps rivals the importance of this vote has been when we have had to decide to send our Nation's finest young men and women off into the perils of war. And yet it is mind-boggling, literally unconscionable to think that we are about to slap the American people in the face and have the audacity to say, "We know better than you."

In town meetings, at TEA Party rallies, from emails, faxes, letters, and literally millions of phone calls that have jammed the Capitol switchboard, the voices of America have spoken out, begging, pleading with their elected Representatives, Please, slow down, start over, and do this the right way.

Sadly, instead of listening to the American people, the Democrat majority, at least most of them, have chosen to tune the people out, to ignore the angst, the fear, the frustration, and the anger and hope that somehow this will all go away. Let me assure you it will not.

This whole process has been an insult. It is an outrage. It is an all-out

attack on freedom and liberty, on fiscal responsibility, and on the sanctity of human life.

On Thursday afternoon, right after work a man from my district left his wife and children, drove all night some 998 miles all the way from Fairhope, Alabama, to Washington, D.C., just to go door-to-door to those Members who were still on the fence to encourage them to do the right thing. When I thanked him for making the trip, he said, Congressman BONNER, I just couldn't sit back and look my children in the face and tell them one day years from now I didn't do everything I could do to keep this from happening.

Earlier this morning, another man from Mobile walked into my office. He had stopped in Knoxville, Tennessee, to pick up his mom, and together they came for the same reason: to thank those of us who are saying "no," and to reach out to every last undecided Member of Congress and beg them to listen to the American people.

All day long we have watched people come into our offices from towns in Monroe and Escambia Counties in my district to folks from New Jersey, all the way to the coast of California. All of them, literally thousands, who descended on the Hill today came for the same reason, to leave no stone unturned before the vote tomorrow afternoon.

Common sense tells us that with a bill this big and with so many last-minute deals that have been made, there are going to be a lot of angry people, a lot more throughout the entire country when all the details of this legislation are known in the coming weeks and months.

Isn't it ironic that just the other day the Speaker of the House told a group, "We have to pass this bill to find out what is in it." Well, earlier today we found out how true that promise was with the disclosure that Democrats have now added a new 3.8 percent Medicare surtax that will hit average middle-class taxpayers who have invested in real estate. Just what an already depressed real estate market needs.

Or the fact that just a couple hours ago on this very floor the House attempted to fix another little problem that we discovered in this bill, a provision that, if left unchanged, could have taken more than 9.5 million veterans out of TRICARE. Once again, just another example of the dangers of passing legislation on the fly.

While the outrage of the American people did help succeed in taking "deem and pass" off the table earlier this afternoon, we are still left with reconciliation, a process that leaves many Americans dizzy in terms of the ever-changing rules that are being rewritten to try to pass this bill.

The American people remember reconciliation. Back in October of 2007, then-Senator Obama said of reconciliation, and I quote, "We are not going to pass universal health care with a 50-plus-1 strategy." And a couple years

earlier then-Senator BIDEN said, and I quote, "I say to my friends on the Republican side, you may own the field right now, but you won't own it forever. And I pray to God, when Democrats take back control, we won't make the same kind of power grab that you were doing."

Back home this might sound like doublespeak. Sadly, in Washington it is just another day at the office.

Mr. Speaker, while many people understandably are focusing on the vote that will take place tomorrow on the third Sunday in March, trust me, the vote that will be taken on the first Tuesday in November is the vote that will allow the American people to have the last word.

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO 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 Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was on this floor just a moment ago, and I guess I am struck by this quote by Thomas Edison, because as I have listened to more of my colleagues, it seems as if they are driving themselves into failure and they just want to see this determined and committed number of Members who represent constituencies across America driven into failure as well. But it says: Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.

And so the stories that we have heard about a young 11-year-old who has the common sense to know that maybe his mother would have lived had she had the right kind of coverage, to my good friend who was just on the floor of the House and mentioned his constituents from his great State of Alabama, I don't know if that constituent that drove 900-plus miles realized that Alabama has one insurance company, only one, no competition.

And so when we think about where we are today on the eve of that magnificent vote, this is not arrogance, it is not an attempt to have the majority abuse the minority. It is to reflect on those Americans who did not come, who in silence suffer and die because they have no insurance.

I support this legislation, but there are fixes that I would like to have, and I am committed to working beyond the vote tomorrow. I don't like to see the comments that I have seen on signs. I respect it, because I am someone who appreciates the Constitution.

There is no instruction or demand on people to get insurance that is uncon-

stitutional. In States, we require people to buy auto insurance, get seat buckles, to wear helmets when they are riding on motorcycles. This is to save lives. And we provide incentives to small businesses and subsidies.

And so today in the Rules Committee I submitted amendments, because I want to help a body of hospitals that are in rural and minority areas. My amendments had to do with what we call physician-owned hospitals. My first amendment was to preserve physician-owned facilities. They have a greater percentage of Medicaid inpatient admissions than the State average in operation and allows them to expand, a fix that is not illegal but one that we want to work on as we move forward.

My second amendment is extremely critical for minority communities in high-poverty areas. This amendment would prevent physician safety-net hospitals from closing and preserves critical care access for impoverished communities and the disabled.

My third amendment, that is supported by the Physician Hospital Association of America, would effectively prevent the closure of 230 existing hospitals, save \$2.9 billion in total payroll, \$608 million in Federal taxes, \$3.5 billion in trade payables, and preserves 62,000 full- and part-time jobs, the Senate amendment, by striking all language that prohibits the grandfathered facilities from expanding.

I am grateful for what we have done so far. We have extended the time in which these hospitals can receive their Medicare certificate, which means that more hospitals can come online. That is a good thing.

That is why I understand that I am so close, that we are so close, to success, that I am not going to allow failure to destroy that success for millions of Americans.

But I do want to tell you about St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston that was going to close until many of us intervened. In fact, I said something like, Over my dead body would this hospital close and not serve our constituents. Well, a group of doctors were able to invest, and lo and behold this hospital now serves one of the most income-challenged and a hospital that serves in the African American community. Physician ownership provides an avenue for it to stay open.

Or in south Texas an out-of-state corporation forced over 700,000 Texans to travel more than 250 miles to receive life-saving medical procedures. Decisions not to offer needed services by out-of-state health care conglomerates and the lack of public or county hospitals left patients with two options: go without or transfer to another facility 350 miles away.

So there is value to physician-owned hospitals, and one opened in south Texas and therefore stopped this drain of sick people having to drive 350 miles just to get medical care or hospitalization.