

again, Mr. Speaker, every example in history speaks to the contrary. Those living under socialized medicine across this planet can only dream of living in a free market economy like America, because they know that if they have a cold in their country, they can call a doctor. But if they have something serious like cancer or diabetes or heart disease, they had better call a travel agent and come to America if they possibly can.

Democrat leaders say that this will make health care more accessible to the people, and yet we have testimony from doctors themselves that say that anywhere from 20 to 50 percent of them say that they will quit the practice of medicine if this health care monstrosity passes.

□ 2015

And it will be the poorest of the poor, Mr. Speaker, who will fall off the table when the scarcity of health care resources comes. So much for accessibility.

But the big one, Mr. Speaker. Liberals say that this bill is about compassion to those who can't afford health care. But it is such a false argument, Mr. Speaker, because there are so many ways that we can help those who don't have health insurance without destroying the best health care system in the entire world. One of those would be to wipe out frivolous lawsuits, the savings of which would pay for a Cadillac insurance policy for every last one of the 11 million Americans who say they want health insurance but can't afford it.

And to say this is about compassion, Mr. Speaker, when Democrat liberals are doggedly determined to prevent any amendment that would be included to stop the taxpayer-funded murder of little unborn children is the most insidious distortion of all. Mr. Speaker, nothing so completely destroys the notion that this bill is about compassion than the arrogant and cruel disenfranchisement of helpless unborn children who have no voice in this twisted and corrupt process.

No, Mr. Speaker, this is not about compassion. This bill is about power. It's about robbing the American citizens of power and putting it in the hands of left-wing liberal bureaucrats and elitists who think they know more about running people's lives than the people themselves do. It's about robbing America of one of its greatest distinctives: the freedom of the individual.

I just have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, if left-wing Democrats in this Chamber arrogantly disregard the voice of the American people and shove this socialist obscenity down the people's throat, the people themselves are going to shove it somewhere else in the next election.

But there are still Members, Mr. Speaker, of this body who are going to support this bill anyway because they're willing to sacrifice freedom in

the interest of gaining either a political advantage or somehow some free lunch to them in some capacity. And to those, I would just repeat the words of Samuel Adams during the time when there was another great struggle in America over whether the power of the government or the rights of the people would prevail.

During the early days of the Revolution, when America was about to be born, Samuel Adams admonished those who would give up freedom and accept tyranny and government control over their lives in its place. And I repeat this admonition to those who would still intend to vote for this bill. He said, "If you love wealth more than liberty, the tranquility of servitude more than the animating contest of freedom, go home from us in peace. We seek not your counsel nor your arms. Crouch down and lick the hands that feed you. May your chains sit lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen."

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

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to take my entire 5 minutes here, but I wanted to come to the floor after hearing about, experiencing, and reading some reports of what happened here today in the Nation's Capitol to some of the finest servants that this institution has ever seen by some of these tea bagger protestors who have been out today.

It's one thing to have disagreements on policy and it's one thing to have disagreements on political philosophy and how that is implemented and the role, either more or less of government, and what the government role and responsibility may be, but today, we had several Members of Congress, as they were walking from this Chamber back to their office, get spit upon; get called derogatory, racial remarks; derogatory remarks about a Member of Congress' sexual orientation. That is unacceptable. And I am calling upon, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans who spoke at this tea party today and who have supported this movement to come out and condemn this tea party.

This behavior is irresponsible. It does not belong in a civilized society. It shows that many people in this country want to divide this country, want to seek out our differences and not what unites us. It's a shame. One of those Members was JOHN LEWIS, one of the greatest civil rights leaders this country has ever seen.

And let me say this in closing. Baseball bats and dogs and firehoses didn't stop JOHN LEWIS from the last cause that he had, and spitting on Members and calling them names is not going to stop the progress of this bill. Have your disagreements about our philosophies, but let's conduct ourselves in a responsible way—not spitting on Members of Congress. Disagree with them. Give them your ideas. Calling them names? One of the greatest civil rights leaders in the United States of America has to walk, as a Member of Congress, from the House Chamber to his office and get worried about getting spit upon, getting called the N word?

The Republican Party needs to distance themselves from this kind of behavior. It is irresponsible. It diminishes this office. It diminishes this country. And we call upon the Republicans to say: shame on the tea party for that type of behavior.

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

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

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

(Ms. FALLIN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I request that we enter into a colloquy with our colleagues from the Democratic side.

Earlier today, I had the opportunity to exit the Chamber and go out to the veranda overlooking the east lawn of the Capitol, and there were a couple thousand folks out there protesting this legislation. And in their chanting they were saying: Kill Obama bill. I suspect they're referring to the health care bill, not to the President. And I was thinking about what does it mean to kill the bill. What is the effect of killing this legislation and letting time go on with the current situation in the United States?

Next to me here is what is happening in the United States today. Forty-five thousand Americans die each year because they are uninsured. They lack health insurance. Forty-five thousand. That's about twice the number that are found in any of the arenas today as March Madness continues. Forty-five thousand. But that's not the end of it.

So we start with 45,000 Americans. What about the rest of the Americans? We rank 19th among the industrialized nations of the world in the health of our citizenry. Our children die earlier. All Americans die earlier than the other 18 industrialized countries. The rate of increase in the health care market for the individual market in California and in many other States was nearly a hundred percent within a 1-year period. Some 50 percent last year and a similar amount this year, an unaffordable rate increase.

In California, the average number of claims denied by the insurance companies was 21 percent, and the range was from 39 to 17 percent. You talk about a death panel. Here's where the real death panel is. It is in the insurance companies themselves, denying benefits, denying claims, denying treatment for illnesses and for afflictions that cause death. This has to end. On Sunday, we will bring this kind of unacceptable situation to an end, because on Sunday we will pass affordable, available health care for America.

I'd like now to call upon my colleague from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI.

It is important, I believe, for us to recognize, as you're suggesting, the benefits that we're bringing because of this reform for Americans across this great country. Now, the chants that we heard today were concerned about taking away freedoms. I would suggest that as we look at the dynamics of this legislation, we're going to see great improvements—great improvements to access, to affordability, and to the quality of care, all of which are, in-

deed, important to our families, our individuals, and certainly to our businesses, as they continue to struggle with the cost of health care insurance.

As we think of these dynamics, it's important to know—and I look at the benefits personalized to my congressional district in upstate New York, in the capital region, and amongst those benefits is an improvement where 1,100 to 1,200 families will be spared the pain of bankruptcy. When you think of the growing dynamic that health care costs have as they relate to bankruptcy, it's staggering. It's staggering. Eleven hundred to 1,200 families will be saved from the ravages of bankruptcy driven by medical costs, health care costs.

I'm reminded with recent data that 62 percent of bankruptcies in this country are caused by exorbitant medical fees, health care that is not covered even though in some cases people are insured. In fact, I'm reminded that of that 62 percent, 78 percent had insurance when they were impacted by this illness, by the catastrophic situation. That tells us something.

So we want to talk about freedoms. Yes, I want to provide for the freedom from bankruptcy, the freedom from claims being denied by insurance companies when you are insured. And as you indicated, Representative, in your home State of California, the number is staggering. I want to promote freedom—freedom from the greed of insurance executives who say the sky is the limit for compensation and the profit column rules the day.

These are the freedoms that we believe are important to the American public: freedom from bankruptcy; freedom from denied claims; freedom from ever-rising costs, premiums that are escalating beyond belief; freedom from grief. That's what we're talking about here.

And tomorrow will be an historic day as we look to change that situation and to strengthen the fabric of our American families and our business community as we continue with this employer-based health care delivery system that will allow us to go forward with a sense of access, affordability, and quality of care.

Thank you for bringing us together this evening, Representative GARAMENDI.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, thank you very much. You raised the issue of the insurance companies and how they act in the marketplace. I was insurance commissioner in California 1991 to 1995 and again 2003 to 2007, and I can tell you horror stories about what the insurance companies do, and I will tell this to the insurance companies.

When the President signs the bills tomorrow, the era of the insurance companies discriminating against Americans because they have a preexisting condition, it's over, folks. It's over. No longer will the insurance companies be able to say to you, No, I will not give you insurance because you had acne

when you were a child or because you may have taken some asthma medicine early in your life or you have any of the four pages of preexisting conditions. The insurance companies will end their discrimination because the law will make it illegal for them to do so.

And the issue of bankruptcy. The policies that will be available through the networks will provide, by law, that there is no longer lifetime maximum payments so that the bankruptcies that you specifically spoke to will no longer be existing.

□ 2030

The maximum lifetime limitations that the insurance companies have used for years will be over, and shortly the annual limitations will also be over, and the benefit packages will be full because there will be national standards for benefits. The kind of cheap, useless policies that plague Americans when they can't afford a standard policy, they seek something that ultimately will not provide them with the care they need. So that is one of the major reforms in this. This is an insurance reform of extraordinary importance.

Let me now yield to our colleague, the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me thank both the distinguished gentleman from California for the background that he brings to the United States Congress as an insurance commissioner of a State and the distinguished gentleman from New York who made some very valid points.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, in fact, we have lived with this for now almost 10 years. I remember trying to reform the bankruptcy code to protect people from things like alimony payments or women being denied the ability to receive alimony payments because credit card companies wanted to stand in front of the alimony payments and take first in line. So we have seen people being destroyed in a number of ways, and we do know that by catastrophic illnesses they are destroyed.

I just want to focus on two or three points. One, the big sign, about 45,000 Americans dying every year. I don't know why that doesn't send out a clarification call. We should not be so insensitive to life that 45,000 people dying does not impact our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We've been saying this over and over again, 45,000 people. That means somebody is dying as we speak because they did not have health insurance or that they were denied.

I want to remind our colleagues of some horrible stories. I remember one of a young girl who had leukemia, and it was on national television. I think the company was CIGNA where the family actually went to the insurance company and begged for this young girl to be able to have this very special blood procedure. They were turned away, and they were turned away, and