

OUR FUNDAMENTAL HEALTH CARE PROBLEM: RISING COSTS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, when the health care bill was moving through Congress, I repeatedly made the arguments that the legislation was flawed because it failed to fundamentally address the problem with our current health care system—rising costs. Well, now guess what? A new analysis just put out by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services confirms that disturbing fact. According to CMS, the new health care law will actually increase our Nation's health care costs rather than decrease them.

Here are some of the staggering numbers: Health care spending is projected to increase by \$311 billion, and health care will now increase to 21 percent of our gross domestic product by 2019. So costs are going up, not down.

These numbers are alarming, and they're further proof that the health care bill missed the mark. Real reform would have lowered health care costs for individuals, for families, and for small businesses. Unfortunately, the partisan bill that was signed into law has failed to address this great need for our constituents.

HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Congress should have passed something on health care reform 40 years ago. We can't change what didn't happen for 40 years. But this year we had an opportunity to do something, and Congress finally did it.

When people in our country get sick and they don't have health insurance, they stay home, they stay home, they stay home until they're deathly ill. Then they go to the emergency room where they get the most expensive kind of health care there is in our country, and we all end up paying for it. We can and should do better.

We did better this year by passing health care reform for our people and our country. The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, says this will end up saving money on health care for people in our country. They are a nonpartisan entity that provides reliable information to both sides, Republicans and Democrats, and they're saying we can save money by this. We will do that.

We did the right thing for our people and our country by passing health care reform.

WE JUST BROKE HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, President Obama stated on February 7, 2010, "If we can start bending the cost curve on health care, that's the most important thing we can do to deal with the deficits long term." Well, we always agreed that he was bending the cost curve. But our position was that it wasn't being bent down; it was being bent up.

The chief actuary of CMS, Mr. Foster's, report supports this and states that health care costs will accelerate by over \$300 billion because of this bill. The health reform law will not extend the life of our entitlement programs, because severe cuts to the programs are used not to strengthen Medicare but, rather, to finance other outlays. And Medicare cuts could lead to providers ending their participation in the program.

This is not Republicans. This is the chief actuary of CMS who is saying this bill is a dog, and we'd better redo it because it's going to raise costs and decrease benefits.

There is an old saying. If you broke it, you have to keep it. We just broke health care in America.

MEDICAL CARE FOR WOMEN

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it takes a woman speaking up for other women to make unfair and inappropriate health care practices a thing of the past.

Last June, I introduced the Women's Obstetrician and Gynecologist Medical Access Now Act, the WOMAN Act, to ensure that every woman has direct access to her OB/GYN. As a State assembly member, I offered the law allowing women direct access to their OB/GYN in California. Unfortunately, many women have not had that access. But I'm happy to say that similar provisions were included in the final health care package.

Patients, employees, primary care physicians, and health plan providers all save money and time if women are allowed direct access to their OB/GYNs. Across the Nation, women will no longer have to contend with the gatekeeper system that can prevent or delay lifesaving care.

Women should not need a permission slip to receive OB/GYN care, no questions asked.

HEALTH CARE FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, it's always fun to listen to the debate because clearly both sides are saying the same thing but disagreeing to it. I am actually referencing some of the things we're speaking of.

We are told that the health care bill is going to create jobs in addition to its primary goal of increasing access to quality care at an affordable price. Now, a component of this is Medicaid, insuring 21 million people across the Nation, a combined Federal-State program where the State pays part, the Feds pay part. The problem is that Medicaid is not providing access to quality care at an affordable price.

There were two articles from the New York Times recently. One speaks of how people with Medicaid cannot get in to see a physician. They have to go to the emergency room because physicians don't see Medicaid patients because it pays so little and it has so much hassle. The other is about how a woman with cancer in Michigan cannot find a physician—she also has Medicaid—because the problem is it pays so little, has so much hassle, all the other things we expect in a bureaucracy. And lastly, regarding cost, despite paying less so it doesn't give access to quality care, according to articles in Politico, it's going to increase the deficit by \$1 billion for States like California.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT MEDICARE AND HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I have some excellent news to share. Just last week, the CMS' independent actuary released an analysis of the health care reform legislation that we passed last month here in this Chamber. Their report shows that we are strengthening Medicare.

Indeed, according to the Office of the Actuary, the Affordable Care Act will help extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by an additional 12 years to 2029, compared to 2017 today. It closes the prescription drug doughnut hole by 2020, with an immediate rebate this year of \$250 and a 50-percent discount on brand-name drugs next year. It lowers annual premiums by nearly \$200 per beneficiary. It lowers annual average coinsurance by over \$200 per beneficiary, and it provides preventive wellness care visits for free.

When we passed health care reform, Democrats stood up for seniors by strengthening Medicare and closing the prescription drug doughnut hole that was wide open and would be left wide open under the Republicans' plan. Under their radical plan to repeal health care, we will move in the wrong direction.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, last week the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services confirmed what we

already knew—that health care spending will increase. It violates the pledge made by the President last year, and it leaves the hardworking American taxpayers to pick up the bill. The report estimates a \$311 billion increase in total health care spending. And while this may be chump change for this administration, it's a lot of money for the American taxpayer.

There is one area of interest for me, and that is the high-risk pools for the uninsured. Back home in Georgia, we have been talking about the Democrats' approach to the high-risk pools. It is clear that their approach is not the best, and this report confirmed that.

The Democrats want to set aside \$5 billion for high-risk pools, but this report says that is not enough and that it will run out within 1 to 2 years. Plus, their plan only covers 375,000 Americans. What happens when the funds run out? Premiums will go up, services will be cut, there will be waiting lines formed, or States like Georgia will be forced to pick up the cost.

This is unacceptable for all Americans, and taxpayers especially.

MEDICARE SOLVENCY

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

Mr. ANDREWS. In the CMS report the minority references, the "M" stands for Medicare. CMS is in the business of counting and accounting for the Medicare program. Here's what they said:

Under the law before the health care bill passed, Medicare was going to run out of money in 2017. We have extended the life now to 2029 and can build on that to save Medicare.

The report also says that they made estimates, subject to interpretation, about health care costs in the rest of the system, but here's what they assumed:

They assumed that medical records sharing and technology won't save any money. Most people think it will. They assumed that wellness programs that stop people from smoking and start exercising won't save any money. Most people think it will. They assumed that insurance companies having to compete with each other will not save any money. Most people think that it will.

The fact of the matter is the health care law extends the life of Medicare by 12 years, something the erstwhile majority never did when it was in the majority.

THE SIDE EFFECTS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM ON BUSINESS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, American business owners, large and small,

have been telling the majority in this body for months that these health care bills were flawed and there is going to be a cost. There's going to be a cost in money—a lot of it—and a cost in jobs. AT&T had to restate earnings, lowering their earnings projections to \$1 billion for the first quarter; John Deere & Co. \$150 million, and it goes on and on.

The National Federation of Independent Business have said that the complicated and restrictive tax credits included in the bill actually help no one. And paperwork and increases in Medicare costs will cost small businesses millions of dollars and, in fact, cost the country millions of jobs.

Democrats claim that because of this new law, small businesses will no longer have to choose between hiring new employees and offering health insurance. Well, that's fantasy, and we all recognize that. Right now, small businesses across the country are making the decision that right now is not the time to hire. There is simply too much uncertainty that is created by this bill.

It should be no surprise that this bill will cost American companies millions of dollars. It will cost Americans millions of jobs. But Democrats express shock and disbelief when businesses, large and small, say the bill will cost them millions. That is just simply an inconvenient truth.

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BENEFITS OF HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I think we just heard something that is only a half truth. I was meeting with the realtors in my district a week or 2 weeks ago, and they had read all of this propaganda from the Republican Party. They said, "Well, we cannot afford to buy insurance."

I asked, "Are you buying it now?"

"Yes, we are."

I said, "Are you aware there is up to a 50 percent tax credit for every insurance policy that you buy?"

"No, we didn't know that."

"Are you also aware that if you have a child who is 23 who would drop off your insurance, they will be able to stay on your insurance until they are 26?"

"No, we didn't know that."

"How about the cap on the yearly expenditures and the lifetime cap, do you realize that there will be no cap, whatever you need, you will be able to have it paid for by insurance?"

"We didn't know that."

"And you're a senior; did you know that there is a \$250 immediate tax rebate if you are buying those drugs in that doughnut hole?"

"We didn't know that."

"And in 3 years it disappears?"

"We didn't know that. Well, then why do Republicans want to repeal all

that? We don't understand. Why do the Republicans want to get rid of all that good stuff?"

HEALTH CARE COSTS TO INCREASE

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

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, imagine this: The Democrats' health care bill will not reduce health care costs, but actually increase them. That's right. According to CMS, the costs will increase over \$300 billion. It brings to mind Yogi Berra's line: this is *deja vu* all over again.

Of course, taxpayers and families knew this would happen. Any time you have a big government, Washington-based program, it always costs more than advertised. The CMS findings underscore what taxpayers and families across this country understand: we need to repeal this bill and replace it with the right kind of reform.

WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Every day that Republican Senators block Wall Street reform, another day goes by that our Nation's middle class and our Nation's economy are at risk. Heads I win, tails you lose; I'm sure you remember that game.

Well, those are the same rules that Goldman Sachs rigged up to routinely bet against its own customers. Heads they won, tails their customers and the American people lost. And AIG, who the taxpayers bailed out, was a full partner in this fraud.

My constituents are angry. They want their money back. They want commonsense protections that will end too big to fail and make sure they never get stuck with the tab again. The House has already acted to protect hardworking middle-class families from the abuses of Wall Street. It is time for the Senate to do the same.

HONORING JOEL AND RUTH SPIRA

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two fine American business owners, Joel and Ruth Spira, for their donation of a significant collection of materials to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The items the Spiras are donating represent some of the most noteworthy technological advancements and energy-saving inventions in the history of electric lighting. The collection tells the story of American innovation and the 50-year history