

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 déjà 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 Spirals 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

of a country that has transformed the use of electricity.

Joel Spira is the inventor and developer of the solid-state electronic "dimming device," and chairman and founder of Lutron Electronics headquartered in my Congressional district in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania.

A family-owned business, Lutron is governed by five principles: take care of the customer; take care of the company; take care of the people; innovate with high-quality products; and deliver value to the customer.

Lutron is known for its commitment to creating energy-saving products. Each year, the installed base of Lutron's products save the Nation nearly 10 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, or approximately \$1 billion in utility costs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joel and Ruth Spira for this record of accomplishment and for their many contributions.

BENEFITS OF HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the radical reactionary Republicans are at it again; they want to repeal everything. The radical reactionary Republicans want to repeal the fact that children can stay on their parents' health care policy up to age 26. The radical reactionary Republicans want to repeal the fact that there will be no preconditions.

The radical reactionary Republicans are the repeal Republicans. Any step forward, let's repeal them and turn them back. The radical reactionary Republicans are the new repeal Republicans; the no Republicans.

Let's keep the status quo as we move on to meet the foe. Let's move forward with progress.

HEALTH CARE JEOPARDIZED

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, over the past 18 months, the President repeatedly said about his health care plan, If you like your current health insurance, you can keep it. The majority of Americans knew this was nonsense, and now the Department of Health and Human Services confirms it.

A study just released by that department's chief actuary for Medicare concludes that the financial incentives in the new health care law will lead many employers to stop offering health care coverage altogether. That means about 14 million people with job-based insurance today will lose it, and instead will be required by law to obtain coverage individually.

Further, seniors in my State of Wisconsin have become big fans of Medi-

care Advantage plans. But the chief actuary for Medicare estimates that the President's and the majority party's Medicare cuts will reduce Medicare Advantage enrollment by 7 million people.

But there is more. The Medicare actuary reports that under the new health care law, 15 percent of all hospitals, nursing homes and other providers could be operating at a loss by 2019 which will jeopardize access to care. Doctors are threatening to drop out of Medicare because cuts in Medicare reimbursement rates mean they can't even cover their costs, much less make a living.

Sadly, these few problems are just the tip of the iceberg, as will be revealed in the months and years ahead as the health care law takes effect.

BENEFITS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, how can you repeal a law that helps millions of Americans for better health care? The repeal Republicans are once again off base and not right in their assumptions.

Millions of Americans will benefit from the new health care bill. You and your doctor will determine your care and not the insurance companies. Small businesses with 50 employees or less will get tax credits to help them pay their premiums. So the millions of people who work in small businesses can now have health care.

Your children who are graduating from college and find themselves with no job will be able to stay on your health care until age 26.

These were the same rumblings they had in 1965 with Medicare, health care for over 44 million seniors. Medicare today is one of the best programs for health care for seniors, and this bill extends its lifetime almost a decade. Social Security, passed in 1934, is one of the most successful programs we have.

It is a good bill. The repeal Republicans are wrong again.

HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, this radically Republican Texan rises today to highlight the CMS analysis for the government takeover of our health care system. As many have predicted, CMS concluded that the new law fails to contain cost increases in health care. CMS projects health care spending will rise to 21 percent of the GDP in the next decade. This places our country on an unacceptable path and getting less coverage for our money.

Even more alarming, CMS concluded that 50 percent of our Medicare Advantage patients will lose their coverage

over the next decade when the law is fully implemented. Thousands of seniors in my district depend on Medicare Advantage. We need to repeal and replace this now. We need a new bill that will control health care costs while still allowing patients to keep the coverage that they have now and as they were promised.

BENEFITS OF HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of health care reform, one can't help but ask rhetorically why there would be forces out there that would deny progress? Why promote misinformation? Why refuse to set up exchanges for the business community? Why promote a repeal?

I think it is pretty straightforward and easy to determine that there are those who are fighting for the people's interest ahead of those insurance profit column rises over the last decade. I think it is a threat to those asking for and ensuring that the doughnut hole will be closed, and adult children up to the age of 26 will be able to stay on their parents' coverage, no more caps on coverage but really benefit people in this insurance struggle they have faced in the past.

It is pretty obvious, this is an effort by those who have wanted to dismantle Medicare as we know it, those who want to privatize Social Security, those who want to protect the insurance industry's profit margin to yet score another victory with repeal.

I think we have a solid effort going forward. I believe we should stay the course.

START OVER ON HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, in June of last year, President Obama told a crowd of people, "If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. If you like your health care plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan. No one will take it away. No matter what."

Mr. Speaker, it turns out there is someone who will take your health care plan away, and that person is President Obama himself. A report done by the President's own administration concludes that under Obama care, 50 percent of seniors will lose their Medicare Advantage plans, and it says that some of the Medicare cost control mechanisms may be unsustainable.

Our seniors are already struggling under the weight of the recession and they can't afford to lose the insurance that they depend on. House Republicans have better, common sense