

House will unveil later this morning in Virginia.

The proposals House Republicans will put forward today are clear proof that, unlike Democrats in Washington, Republicans have been listening intently to Americans over the past year and a half. Americans have been telling us they want us to focus on jobs first, fight wasteful Washington spending, repeal and replace the health spending bill, and shrink an exploding deficit. They have been telling us they want a smaller, less costly, and more accountable government.

The House Republican plan is a clear and forceful response to these concerns, and, working together, House and Senate Republicans will continue to fight for the principles upon which it is based. Together, we will focus our efforts on making America more competitive, reducing the size and cost of government, keeping our Nation strong and secure, and reining in the massive health care costs and mandates imposed by the Democrats' health spending bill.

This is an appropriate statement to make on the sixth-month anniversary of the passage of the Democratic health spending bill, which—both in its contents and in the process used to enact it—so clearly undermined the principles House Republicans will discuss this morning.

Americans never wanted this massive government-driven intrusion into their health care, and virtually every day it seems we see that the concerns Americans had about this bill are being vindicated. Throughout the day, administration officials will tell people the things it wants Americans to believe about this bill. Based on the promises the administration made to pass it, Americans should be deeply skeptical.

They said: "If you like your plan, you will be able to keep it." Now we know that wasn't true. As the Associated Press recently put it: "This is a promise that is beyond the President's power to keep."

They said it wouldn't raise taxes—not by one penny. Yet even the administration's own lawyers now acknowledge that it does. One report, from the Joint Committee on Taxation, says that 40 million individuals and families will get hit with a tax hike as a result of this health care bill.

They said it would slow the growth of health care costs and that it was essential for that reason. Yet now the government itself says costs will go up as a result of the bill.

What about premiums? Well, the administration now says it knew all along that insurance premiums would go up as a result of this bill. Less than a year after the President said Democrats had agreed to "reforms" that would enable families to save on their premiums, the Secretary of Health and Human Services now says rates will increase substantially as a result of the bill—exactly the opposite of what was said during the debate.

And in what may turn out to be the most thoroughly discredited pledge about this bill, the President and other Democratic leaders assured their colleagues that Americans would come to like the health spending bill once it passed—they would come to like it. As for that claim, well, I think Politico put it best this morning:

Rarely have so many strategists been so wrong about something so big.

Rarely—rarely—have so many strategists been so wrong about something so big.

So Democrats were eager to listen to the strategists and the administration officials who told them what this bill would do and how it would be received, when what they should have been doing is listening to the American people, who never liked this bill—never liked it—and who knew it wouldn't deliver on the promises Democrats made. So this is no anniversary Democrats should be celebrating.

Americans have had it. The American people have had it. They have had it with Democrats focusing on their own pet issues at the exclusion of America's top priorities, and they are tired of being told that if only the Democrats pass their agenda these priorities will somehow be met. Well, the results are in. The results are in. The Democratic agenda has been a failure for the economy and for jobs. It is time to move on. It is time to start listening instead of dictating. Americans are speaking out. It is time Democrats in Congress start listening.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I withhold the suggestion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, in the midst of all the strife and partisanship and ideological rigidity that makes it so difficult these days for us to bring about consensus in the world's most deliberative body, there is the occasion at the first of each of these meetings in the Senate that we do come together—when the chaplain mounts the rostrum, prays for the Senate and for the Nation, and then we all join together in the Pledge.

I think it is worthy noting the way that the great master of the Senate, Senator Robert Byrd, taught all of us freshmen 10 years ago to mount the rostrum and to call the Senate together. As the Presiding Officer calls the Senate to order, he or she then announces the chaplain for the day and descends from the rostrum as the chaplain comes to the rostrum to offer the prayer. It is a recognition of the Deity, it is an expression of humility, it is a little symbolic act, but it is important.

I think it is important to note that in July, when the entire Senate filed

through that center door under that arch inscribed with "In God We Trust," we all stood silently at our seats as our Chaplain, Admiral Black, gave a prayer over the flag-draped coffin of our departed colleague, Senator Byrd. Each of us stood silently in reverence and recognition not only of a fallen colleague but in recognition of a supreme Deity. And so it is that that tradition continues. And it continues with my friend, the Reverend Dr. Joe Hunter from Florida, who has shared with us his message this morning in the opening of the Senate with a prayer.

The prayer started in the early days of the Continental Congress. It was in 1774, in that Congress, that a chaplain was called to open those sessions. Under the new government that came about as a result of the Articles of Confederation—which had not worked to keep a new spirited nation together because it didn't have a central government—they met together in that steamy room in Philadelphia to hammer out the Constitution, and the Constitutional Convention prayer was offered during those deliberations.

As a matter of fact, it was Benjamin Franklin who made the comment—when the delegates wondered whether this Nation could stand, a Nation that was seeking freedom, a Nation that was seeking democracy—Benjamin Franklin said something to the effect that if the Supreme Being knows even when a sparrow falls, will that Supreme Being not be involved in the affairs of a young and struggling nation?

In the beginning of that Nation under a constitutional government, in lower Manhattan, the chaplain of the nearby church was proclaimed the Chaplain of the Senate. When the government moved to Philadelphia, the second Chaplain of the Senate was appointed. When the government moved to this present location on the banks of the Potomac, the third Chaplain of the Senate was appointed. In that long succession of Chaplains, we are so pleased to have as our Chaplain now, after so many distinguished ones, Admiral Barry Black, whom we all love and appreciate.

So today continues a tradition with great selectivity of certain ministers being invited to come and pray for the Nation. Joel Hunter is the pastor of one of those mega-churches. It is a big church north of Orlando. But it is a church that has about five churches all spread out, with an incredible outreach to the community. Joel Hunter is a man who has reached out and ministered to Presidents, and Joel Hunter is a man who has done so much good for our community and our State and our country. He has suffered tragedy with the loss of a granddaughter just recently. Yet out of that suffering, all the more his compassion comes forth.

Indeed, we are very privileged to have Dr. Joel Hunter as our Chaplain for the day.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half.

The Senator from Wyoming.

A SECOND OPINION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today, on the 6-month anniversary of the signing into law of what has commonly across the country come to be called ObamaCare. I come as a physician, someone who has practiced medicine in Wyoming since the early 1980s, taking care of thousands and thousands of patients across the cowboy State—families. I bring that experience to the Senate floor. I have a doctor's second opinion, now that here we are, 6 months out. It is akin to looking at an x ray after something has happened, going 6 months later and taking a look at the x ray to see what has occurred to the patient.

Six months ago when Obama signed his new health care bill into law, he said: "All of the overheated rhetoric over reform will finally confront the reality of reform."

Here we are 6 months later. The American people have been confronted with the reality of the President's reform, and they do not like it. The American people who listened to Speaker PELOSI say: First, we must pass the bill before you get to find out what is in it, now have learned more and more what is in it, and they don't like it. The American people watched as this body came together, cobbled together legislation with things such as the "Cornhusker kickback" and special treats for different Senators so we would agree to vote for the bill, and the American people don't like it.

As a matter of fact, there was a Ras-mussen poll that just came out Monday, and as of Monday this week, 6 months after the bill was signed into law, 61 percent of the American people want Washington to repeal this new health care law—61 percent want it repealed. Once again, instead of listening to the American people, the President continues to try to sell his law. He tried it again yesterday in a back yard. He continues to make promises he knows he cannot keep and that have not been kept with this new law.

Now that we are 6 months into the new law, I wish to walk you through some of the President's promises and the reality that the people of this great country are living with as they look at

what has been crammed down their throats. Promise No. 1 by the President: If you like your current health care coverage, you can keep it. According to a new Obama administration regulation—this is the President's own administration, writing the regulation—a majority of Americans who get their insurance through work will not be able to keep the current health care plan they have. Even the White House admits it. The President keeps saying it, but the White House admits it is not true.

Promise No. 2: The law will bring the cost of medical care down and reduce the deficit. The Congressional Budget Office disagrees, saying it erases savings. The Actuary at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services says the new law will increase health care spending.

Let's look at promise No. 3. This says the law will strengthen Medicare. It actually cuts Medicare by \$½ trillion—\$500 billion cut from Medicare. The seniors of this country are furious.

To make matters worse, this money is not being used to save Medicare or to strengthen Medicare. The money is being used to start a whole new government program for other people. There is a rebellion among the seniors of this country.

Let's look at another promise the President made. He said: The law will create jobs. We have 9.6 percent unemployment in this country. We continue to learn about companies that want to employ people, that want to create jobs, but instead those companies are cutting their payrolls in order to deal with the massive new tax increases included in the law. If you look at the incentives that are given to small companies, in terms of helping them with health care costs, the incentives are the ones that say: If you want to get something, you want to cut the number of employees you have and cut the salaries of the people you are still going to employ. That does not create jobs. This law does not create jobs.

Then, of course, President Obama also promised that the Federal Government would not ration care. Then I would say why did the President make a recess appointment of a man to run the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid who has repeatedly acknowledged and said the government must ration care? He has a long history, but he did not come to the Senate to explain a number of statements he has made about redistributing wealth, rationing care. He does not need to explain it to the Senate. He needs to explain it to the people of this country. That is Donald Berwick, a physician from Massachusetts, still refusing to testify before Congress and the American people. He has been invited again to come today. There will be people waiting in a room to which he has been invited. We will see if he does arrive, but I doubt it.

You wonder why Americans are sick and tired of Washington. It is no surprise; yesterday, when speaking at the

event in Virginia, the President focused on provisions of the new law that go into effect today. As Paul Harvey used to say: "Now the rest of the story." Some of the changes the President touted yesterday actually don't start right away. Many Americans will not see how these changes will impact them until after January 1 of 2011. But yesterday, USA Today, the newspaper, actually ran a big story—a full-page story almost—on the new provisions. The thing that was so interesting about the story is, the story outlined the basics of each provision—a little thing there. Then underneath each one of the basics it had several paragraphs of things they called be aware: The basics are this, but be aware that this may happen to you, and this may happen to you and this may not apply or this may apply.

All those things are to alert the American people that there is a lot more to it when you look at this over 2,000-page bill and the so many agencies that are being brought forth to write rules and regulations—so many things the American people will still learn about this bill, and as they learn those things they will like it even less.

The story outlined the basics and then the "be awares" of each provision. I think it is very important for the Americans who are listening and who are focused on this to be aware of these "be awares," that they are so much longer than the provisions. What I would like to do is walk through some of them with you.

The law does allow young adults to stay on and be added to their parents' health insurance plan until age 26. That is what we hear. Make sure to read the fine print.

One of the things the Obama administration published was the so-called grandfather regulation—not when the bill was signed into law but in June. This Washington White House regulation defines the rules that employers must follow if they want the health coverage they currently offer their employees to be exempt from the new law's mandates. It says be aware that children are not eligible to be added to their parents' grandfathered employer group plan if the child can access coverage in other ways, if they have a job—another very complicated situation of rules and regulations.

Second, the law now requires insurers to cover more preventive services—immunizations, mammograms, colonoscopies. It is important for people to take responsibility for their health and things such as screening mammograms and immunizations; those help people in the long run. It says insurers cannot charge copayments or deductibles for these added benefits. Then let's get to the "be aware" section. Be aware these cost savings only apply to new health insurance plans, not the so-called grandfathered plans, so you have them describing the grandfathered plans and who can be a part of it and who cannot.