

creation is at a 17-year low, and Americans are asking, Mr. President, where are the jobs?

Unemployment has now languished at the highest level since the Great Depression, and Americans are asking, Mr. President, where are the jobs?

One in seven families is now on food stamps, and Americans are asking, Mr. President, where are the jobs?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released that the time it takes to get a new job is at an all-time high, and Americans are asking, Mr. President, where are the jobs?

House Republicans have a plan for America's job creators to put the Nation on a fiscally sustainable path to restore confidence, to make our Tax Code competitive, and to take the burden of regulation off our job creators so that American workers can get the paychecks they need and deserve.

REPUBLICAN PLAN TO END MEDICARE AND GUT MEDICAID

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, the more we learn about the true impact of the majority's plan to end Medicare and gut the Medicaid program, the more there is to dislike.

For starters, under their plan, seniors will pay \$6,000 more in annual out-of-pocket costs for health care services. Current seniors will see higher costs on prescription drugs as a result of reopening the donut hole, as well as a spike in the price of preventative care because free annual wellness visits will be eliminated.

Individuals who are 54 years of age and younger, including 540,000 people in my district, will be denied access to Medicare's guaranteed benefits.

Additionally, the majority's budget slashes Medicaid funding by \$800 billion over 10 years and converts the program into block grants. Nearly 60 million Americans that rely on Medicaid for their health coverage will be in jeopardy of losing their health care.

From my district in particular, their plan will impair the health care of 21,000 dual eligible seniors who rely on Medicaid to supplement their Medicare coverage, and 82,000 children who receive coverage under Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, given the current economic climate, now is not the time to be cutting valuable services to our most vulnerable citizens.

MEDICARE HOME INFUSION BILL

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there are massive inefficiencies in Medicare that are causing the program to go bankrupt. One example is infusion therapy, or the intravenous delivery of medication administered to patients suffering from cancer or seri-

ous infection for which they cannot just take a pill. But it requires specialized equipment and supervision and often lasts several hours a day over a period of several weeks. It's very expensive for patients to get this care in a hospital.

Although private plans have been covering home infusion therapy for decades, Medicare still forces people to go to a hospital, where they also have increased risk for infection by going there, and it costs thousands of dollars for delivery, as opposed to hundreds of dollars when they get it at home.

That's why today, Representative ELIOT ENGEL and I are reintroducing the Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Coverage Act, so patients can receive the same treatment in the comfort and convenience of their home at a lower cost. Our bill saves taxpayers money, about \$6 billion over 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, our proof is that this is one more way we can find significant savings in Medicare, or simply wait for the program to go bankrupt. And I urge all of my colleagues to support our bill to give patients better quality and better care at lower costs.

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, America's seniors have given a lifetime of service to our Nation. It is our responsibility to demonstrate the same commitment to them by providing a safety net like Medicare and Medicaid.

Sadly, the Republican budget will have a devastating impact on our seniors, forcing many of them to sell their homes and rely on their children just to get by because they can't afford health coverage.

In my district alone, the Republican budget plan would throw out 3,200 Medicare beneficiaries into the prescribed donut hole, eliminate preventive care benefits for 56,000 seniors, deny 630,000 individuals aged 54 and younger guaranteed Medicare coverage, jeopardize nursing home care for 1,100 seniors whose expenses are paid by Medicare.

Yes, we must lower the deficit with intelligent spending cuts, but it is wrong to balance the budget by cutting vital service to American seniors.

Let's preserve Medicare and Medicaid. Let's work together, Republicans and Democrats, and find a solution.

THE IMMINENT MEDICARE CATASTROPHE

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, we are at a great turning point in history when it comes to the survival of Medicare. The CMS actuary just informed us that Medicare will become insolvent in just 12 years. That means that if

you're on Medicare, or expect to be on Medicare in the next 12 years, you need to think about how you will finance your health care after that period.

And what is the President's plan or the Democrat congressional plan? Sorry, there is no plan.

When asked, Mr. President, why no plan when the law requires you to have one? He said, and I paraphrase, that he would rather Republicans take the lead so he can demagogue ours. Never mind that ObamaCare takes one-half trillion dollars from Medicare to subsidize its crazy schemes.

The Ryan budget plan that was passed here in this Chamber has the only credible plan to save Medicare. It ensures traditional Medicare coverage indefinitely if you're over 54 years of age. It provides for a choice among many private plans with premium support based on financial need for those who are under. It is time congressional Democrats and the President step up on this vital issue.

□ 1220

THE TRUTH ABOUT MEDICARE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the more people know about the Republican plan for Medicare, the less they like it. So it's no wonder that the Republicans are trying to prevent House Members from telling our constituents about the plan to end Medicare by actually censoring our mailings to our own districts.

The Democrats aren't alone in saying the Republican plan ends Medicare. Tom Scully, former Bush administration head of Medicare, says the Republican plan "gets rid of the current Medicare program" and that it is "a fundamental structural change in the program." It's so fundamental that beginning in 2022 the out-of-pocket costs for enrollees would double, and they would be forced to pick a private insurance plan without guaranteed benefits.

Republicans can call their plan whatever they want—sorta-care, maybe-care, we don't care—but they can't call it Medicare. They can try all they want, but they can't keep seniors from learning the truth.

This program that they introduced ends Medicare.

MEDICARE IS GOING BROKE, MR. PRESIDENT

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

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this administration has failed to lead, they have failed to budget, and now they have failed to produce any viable solution for saving Medicare. In fact, their solution is to let it go broke.

In 13 short years, Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will run completely out of money. Bankrupting this

program will leave many of our Nation's seniors high and dry and our future generations without a health care program to depend upon.

And guess what? The Obama administration doesn't care. Instead of making Medicare reform a top priority, the administration has passed the task off to a panel of unqualified bureaucrats—like it was busy work that they couldn't be bothered with.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is going broke. That's a reality this administration has to face. The program is already driving up the larger-than-life debt, and it will only get worse from here. I urge the administration to at least present us with one option for fixing Medicare's present money problem. And if they can't, the House GOP doctors have plenty of suggestions of where to begin.

REPUBLICANS ARE HIDING THE TRUTH ABOUT MEDICARE FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, before I came to Congress, I was a newspaper editor in Louisville, Kentucky. And as an editor, my job was to make sure that our stories revealed the truth and made things easier to understand for our readers. Right now, the Republican majority in Congress is editing to obscure the truth and to hide the facts from the American people.

Ever since a Republican candidate in New York lost a special election in a heavily Republican district because she supported the reckless GOP plan to end Medicare, the majority in this body has been petrified about what it might mean for their political careers if the American people actually found out the truth, and they are doing everything they can to hide the truth.

The Republican-controlled Franking Commission—which controls content of mailings from congressional offices—is now dictating that any reference to the end of Medicare be cut out from correspondence. Whenever the word “end” is used, they say we have to use the word “change.” They won't let the truth be told. But the truth is, if you have eliminated something, you haven't changed it. You can't change something that has been killed. That's what the American people need to know. That's what the Republican majority is trying to hide, but they will not deceive the American people.

HAPPY 236TH BIRTHDAY TO THE U.S. ARMY

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the birthday of the United States Army; 236 years ago, the United States Army was established to defend our families.

The Army began June 14, 1775 as the Continental Army. The Continental Congress established the Army to coordinate military efforts among the 13 independent colonies.

With victory in the Cold War, more people and more countries today live in democracy, freedom and peace than in the history of the world due to the success of America's military. Promoting the values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage, today's soldiers represent the best of our Nation.

As the grateful son of an Army Air Corps Flying Tiger and as a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserves and Army National Guard, I know firsthand the competence and patriotism of servicemembers. Especially my wife, Roxanne, and I are grateful to have three sons currently serving in the Army National Guard. My youngest son, Second Lieutenant Hunter Taylor Wilson, was commissioned last month an engineer through the Clemson University ROTC.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CENSORSHIP BY FRANKING COMMISSION

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to object to the majority Franking Commission's exercise in blatant and transparent censorship on a Medicare mailing I and other colleagues of mine wish to send to our constituents.

I'm not allowed to call it the “Ryan budget” even though the Republicans called it the Ryan budget, because, of course, it has become unpopular. I'm not allowed to refer to changing Medicare to a voucher system even though Mr. RYAN himself referred to it as a voucher system. I must now call it a “premium support system.”

These changes, among many others, are censorship at its worst. When we don't like something, when it's not going well for us on the majority side, we suppress it. This censorship would make former Soviet censors blush at the breathtaking nature and sweeping scope of the suppression of free expression, of free ideas here in the Nation's Capitol.

REPUBLICANS WORKING TO CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about jobs.

Last week, during the district work period, I met with local business leaders, toured businesses throughout my district, and listened to their concerns. It should not come as a surprise to

anyone the main topic of conversation was where are the jobs and what is the state of the economy.

Over and over, the small business leaders told me that government regulations and uncertainty are negatively affecting their ability to grow and create jobs. Businesses are afraid to invest in the future due to the uncertainty in our Tax Code, the increased costs and regulations stemming from the Affordable Care Act—which they can't afford—and the increased burdens of an out-of-control regulatory process that has stifled job creation.

Just yesterday, the National Federation of Independent Business released their report showing a decline in optimism for small businesses for a third consecutive month. It has been 28 months since the ill-conceived stimulus passed and a year since June 2010 was declared “recovery summer” by the administration; yet 1.9 million fewer Americans have jobs. This is why we need to get our fiscal house in order, cut spending, repeal the Affordable Care Act, and end onerous regulations.

The Republican majority gets the message, and everything we're doing is to create a climate where we can expand and create jobs in America.

□ 1230

EMPOWERING BUSINESSES TO GET ECONOMY GOING

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, it is no coincidence that Illinois' corporate tax rate is the fourth-highest in the Nation and yet ranks 48th in economic performance. Businesses, big and small, can no longer afford to keep their doors open and hire more workers when they face a 45 percent tax increase.

If we are serious about creating jobs, then we must stop allowing the government to pick winners and losers in today's economy. In order to create economic certainty, we must have a level playing field and clearly defined rules that don't change halfway through the game. We need to encourage businesses to invest and to expand here at home. One way that we can do that is through corporate tax reform, eliminating tax loopholes that currently exist in the system.

One thing is clear: Increases in taxes without spending reform cannot work. It is time that we start to empower businesses to get our economy moving again. Illinois has lost 750,000 manufacturing jobs over the last decade. Now is the time we have to focus on job creation.

A REAL, ACTIONABLE JOBS PLAN FOR AMERICA IS NEEDED

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