

between your family and your doctor is not the solution, and losing the health plan you have today is not a solution. Yet the Democrats' bill would do just that. It puts a bureaucrat between you and your doctor. It doesn't have real reform. According to independent analysis, two out of three Americans won't be able to keep their plans, and it does nothing to bring down the costs. In fact, it drives up the deficit by over \$239 billion.

Meanwhile, if you're out in places like Oregon, rural Oregon, the CEO of Asante Health System, Roy Vinyard, in southern Oregon, said the government option under the Democrats' plan would be the death knell for hospitals since it pays Medicare rates. Currently, Medicare only pays 76 percent of their hospital's costs, and yet 52 percent of their patients are on Medicare. If the percentage of Medicare-like payments increases to 75 percent of their patients, the hospital will have to close its doors.

So that plan does nothing to rein in costs. It does nothing to keep the doors open. We need to reform health care, but let's do it in a way that puts patients first and that doesn't destroy small business.

SHOW US THE BILL

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to passing a health care bill, leadership insists "this will happen." Speaker PELOSI claims to have the votes to get it passed on this floor.

If that's true, Madam Speaker, then show us the bill. If the rhetoric coming from the Democrats is true and if they're planning to steamroll a \$1 trillion health care experiment through this body before August, let's see it. Let's debate it. Let's let the Americans see it.

The American people deserve to see a bill with plenty of time for an open and honest debate about exactly what is in store for them if this partisan experiment is passed. The American people have seen enough smoke and mirrors about the Washington bureaucrat who will be inserted directly between patients and physicians. They've seen enough smoke and mirrors about how many people will be forced off of their current health care plans. They've seen enough smoke and mirrors about the real cost of this plan. If you have the votes, then clear out the smoke. Show us the bill, and finally give hard-working Americans answers to their questions.

Show us the bill, Madam Speaker.

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

(Mrs. HALVORSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is responsible for putting in place one of the largest tax cuts in American history as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

We can see this benefit of the plan throughout all communities in our country. Because of this legislation, 95 percent of working Americans are receiving tax cuts through the Making Work Pay tax credit, which is a refundable tax credit of up to \$400 per worker and up to \$800 for couples filing jointly. This is an immediate tax relief for over 110 million working families at exactly the time they need it. Because of this legislation, families can also find tax relief through an expansion of the child care tax credit and through a new \$2,500 tax credit for families to help send more of our children to college.

In addition to this tax relief, the recovery plan has provided tens of millions of dollars of investment for improvement projects, like the improvements that have been made to infrastructure and to roads throughout our country.

WHO IS GOING TO PROVIDE THE HEALTH CARE?

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

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are proposing that they're going to take over 20 percent of our economy. They're proposing they're going to spend at least \$1 trillion, probably \$2 trillion, in doing that, and they're going to put bureaucrats in charge of health care decisions. Now, this is not really a new idea. This has been tried a lot by other countries. It's called socialized medicine. So the question before us is very straightforward. It is this:

If you get sick, where do you want to be treated? Do you want to travel to Europe? Do you want to travel to Canada or do you want to stay in the good, old USA?

I had that experience 9 years ago here. I had newly been elected as a Congressman. I got the first physical I'd had in 10 years because I'd had lousy health care. They told me, Yeah, you're doing great, Congressman AKIN, except for one thing: You have cancer.

When you hear the word "cancer," it causes you to stop and think. Because of the American health care system, I'm standing here today, but I'll tell you the statistics of what would happen if you were in the United Kingdom. There is a 50 percent chance you'd be dead with the type of cancer I had. That's the question: Who is going to provide the health care?

LET'S GET THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WORKING AGAIN

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to talk about what I mentioned this last week.

Back in the 1982 recession, in my State of Kentucky, we had unemployment rates at the level of over 11 percent. My father lost his job. He was one of those who'd worked for Ford Motor Company, and they closed the plant. Because of what happened in this House back in 1982, that being cutting taxes, cutting spending and putting faith in the American people, my father went from one who had lost his job to one who was starting a business and was becoming a job creator.

What has this House done, this Democratic majority, in the last 6 months? They've made it easier to sue businesses; they've raised energy rates on businesses if it has passed the Senate; also, they've put mandates on businesses for health care coverage; and they've instituted an 8 percent payroll tax.

I believe we need to cut taxes, cut spending, put faith in the American people, create jobs, and get people working again.

THE SYSTEM IS WORKING

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have news for the American public. The system is working. The Congress is working. The Energy and Commerce Committee is working. The reason that the Speaker and the President can't get their health care bill through is that there is not consensus on it.

I want to congratulate the other 22 Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee who are united against this bad piece of legislation. I want to also congratulate the 7 to 10 Blue Dog Democrats and conservative Democrats on the same committee.

The reason we're not supportive of the President and the Speaker's plan is that it's bad for America. It doesn't solve the problem. It costs too much. It has got too much bureaucracy. The word "shall" is mentioned almost 2,000 times. It's a \$1 trillion hit on the economy, and it doesn't solve the problem.

We, the Republicans on the committee, have over 80 amendments that we wish to offer. Our Blue Dog friends have over 20. I asked the Speaker and Chairman WAXMAN to bring the bill up for markup. Let it be an open and transparent markup. If it takes us until September or October to get it done right, it's better to get it done right than to do it badly. The system is working.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of an effort to improve

health care in this country. I have heard from countless Iowans about the need to change the current system. I have also heard from Iowans that we need true reform.

Just today, the University of Iowa, the Iowa Health Care Collaborative, and the Concord Coalition sent me a letter. They stated, "We believe that the primary focus for all policymakers should be improving the value in health care." I agree.

Last week, the Iowa Democratic delegation, along with many others, reached a compromise with leadership that improves the value in health care. I want to thank leadership and their staff for their work. The compromise will provide a significant cost savings, and it will fix a broken Medicare payment system so that we are rewarding quality of care and not quantity. Iowa has been a leader in quality care, and I am glad that Iowa and other high-quality, low-cost regions will be rewarded for doing what is right for patients.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks, my office has been flooded with letters, faxes, phone calls, and e-mails from all types of citizens throughout northwest Florida. The messages all say the same thing: stop the government takeover of our health care system.

Now, the majority party's proposed legislation costs over \$1 trillion. It would increase the deficit by \$240 billion. It would actually raise the cost of health care for an American family.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the way to reform the American health care system. Americans want more choices for health care, not fewer choices. They want to choose the doctors they see and when they want to see them, and they don't want their medical decisions made by a faceless bureaucrat here in Washington, D.C. Floridians are not willing to have their health care rationed, and they do not want the government takeover of health care that the majority in Congress is proposing.

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HEALTH CARE PURCHASING EXCHANGE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, when a Member of Congress is sworn into office, you get a pin, you get a voting card, and you get access to a health care purchasing exchange that's operated by the Federal employees health plan. Every Member of Congress has the ability to buy into or to choose a plan through the Federal employee

health plan which, when you boil down the health care reform bill that has passed the Ways and Means Committee and the Education Committee, is exactly what is going to be before this House.

For example, the minority leader from Ohio has, as a Member of Congress, the opportunity to choose 13 different plans under the Federal employee health plan. That's what the Obama health care proposal plans to do for all Americans. So when the time comes for the vote, ask your Member of Congress whether they're prepared to give to the people of America exactly what the people of America give to Congress, and that vote should be "yes."

TIME FOR WASHINGTON TO GET OUT OF THE WAY

(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, the issue this week is health care and jobs, jobs, jobs. You know, a friend of mine who employs many people in my district, and he also provides very good health benefits, said to me recently that the policy proposals coming out of Washington are impeding job creation and scaring people. He's right. And there are five issues that are driving his concern:

First, a stimulus bill that spends too much, borrows too much and delivers too few jobs; two, a budget that doubles the national debt in 5 years and triples it in 10 years; three, a card check bill that is undemocratic and imposes binding arbitration which will increase health care and other costs; four, a national energy tax cap-and-trade that will cost 66,000 jobs in Pennsylvania and jacked-up electric bills, natural gas bills, and prices at the gasoline pump for consumers; and, five, now a House health care bill with enormous tax increases and mandates on all businesses and businesses of all sizes.

Enough is enough. Time to let Washington get out of the way and let job creators do what they do best: create jobs.

TIME TO MOVE NOW

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

Ms. RICHARDSON. The American people know something for sure, and that is premiums have doubled over the last 9 years growing three times faster than what we've seen in wages. The American families know that they're spending more than \$1,000 a month than what they have had to do in the past.

So let's talk about what really the American solution is. It's having lower costs for consumers to no longer have

copays or deductibles for preventative care, to have an annual cap to end that cap on out-of-pocket expenses, to end the rate of increases for preexisting conditions and, of course, looking at group rates.

We're ready for action. We've had six decades of discussions; we've had 45 hours of bipartisan debate, and 79 House hearings. It's time and it's time to move now.

STOP THE RACE TO GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, last night I made thousands of phone calls across my district in a tele-town hall meeting, and I listened to my constituents, and two phrases emerged. The first one was "fear." They're afraid of the recklessness that would allow us to begin a massive new program the experts agree will not reduce health care costs and will devastate the economy before we fix Medicare, which they know will be bankrupt in just 8 years.

They're afraid of the arrogance that leads some to conclude that a government committee or bureaucrat will make a better decision about an individual's health care than that individual can make with their doctor.

And they're also afraid of the shortsightedness of creating a plan that will result in rationing health care to seniors and creating longer lines and waits for the procedures they need.

But they're also grateful. They're grateful for those of us who will listen to them to bring some common sense and balance to the health care debate by stopping this race to a government takeover of their health care system and that will work instead for a system that finally puts our patients first.

THE "HEALTH" IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, we must put the health back into health care. Building a culture of wellness, including good nutrition and incentivizing prevention, moving from system-centered care to patient-centered care, and creating new insurance models can help meet this goal. These are the right solutions for strengthening America's health care, and they should be the basic components of an honest national debate.

The current debate is framed incorrectly, focusing on a loosely defined public option. This vast new government arrangement of our health care system may transfer millions of Americans against their will, Mr. Speaker, from their current insurance to a government plan and will add to our unsustainable fiscal conditions. It will