

The Democrats' goal should not be to get this done fast, but to get it right for the American people. That's what I'm fighting for, and that's what this debate should be all about.

HEALTH REFORM INITIATIVE

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to just take a moment and speak about two very important elements in the health reform initiative that we are considering in the House. Both of these are things that will help to strengthen the relationship between the physician and the patient.

The first is something called medical-loss ratio. That's a technical term, but it basically means how much does that insurance company use of the premium you give them to actually spend on medical care. If they don't spend at least 85 cents on the dollar, it means they're not giving the kind of care to the patient that they deserve.

The second important thing is the investment in preventive care that we're going to make in this bill so that a physician can spend more time with the patient. There are elderly patients all across the country who wish that their physician could spend a little bit more time with them to really understand their situation. We don't reimburse for that right now. But going forward, we can do that, and that will promote the relationship between the physician and their patient and lead to overall better care for that patient and a better relationship with that patient's family.

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HEALTH CARE

(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, House Republicans have a plan to make health care more affordable and promote choice and competition among health plans. Unfortunately, the House Democrats' health care bill is light on cost control and heavy on government control.

A recent New York Times editorial expressed support for the House bill, but described the prospects for lower health care premiums as "unclear" and "distant."

Mr. Speaker, if that's the best the bill's supporters can say about it, it's time to start over. We need a bill that gets health care costs under control without bankrupting our country or setting the stage for a complete government takeover of our health care system.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration and congressional Democrats promised us that the trillion dollar stimulus that they passed and put into law would create jobs immediately. Well, last month alone we lost almost a half-million jobs, unemployment stands at 9.5 percent and going higher. It's clear that the stimulus package didn't work.

And their response has been, first, they passed an energy tax that's going to make America less competitive and drive American jobs offshore.

They're now in the process of increasing spending in the appropriations process by 12 percent.

And now this week they're trying to ram down a health care plan that's going to raise taxes on American business, cost jobs, and force people into a government-run, rationed health care plan.

All one has to do is look at this chart to understand the complexities and the inefficiencies they're going to put into this system. I might add this is a chart that they won't allow Republicans to mail out to our constituents to try to explain the complexities that they're going to put into health care.

The height of hypocrisy, though, was when in committee Republicans offered an amendment that would force all Members of Congress to participate in their health care plan, and what did they do? They voted it down. They won't allow the Congress to be in the health care plan that they're trying to pass.

JUST WHO ARE THE "UNINSURED"?

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, as the House majority presses hard to force-feed to Congress a government takeover of health care in the next few days, it would be very instructive to answer the question: Just who are the "uninsured"?

The most recent Census Bureau report of 2007 said that there were roughly 46 million people in this country labeled as "uninsured": 9.5 million were noncitizens; 18 million were between the ages of 18 and 30; 12 million people had household incomes less than \$25,000, which means they already qualify for existing public health care programs; 7.3 million had annual incomes higher than \$84,000, putting health coverage within their own financial reach; and 9.1 million were uninsured for less than 1 year—and half of these people regained their health coverage within 4 months.

This leaves 7.8 million lower income Americans who can be characterized as the long-term uninsured. Yet the majority is promising trillion dollar legislation that "significantly expands the Federal responsibility for health care costs."

And how do they pay for it? Taxes, more taxes, more taxes.

THE DEMOCRAT PLAN: A GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF PRIVATE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, if the need to reform our health care system wasn't so serious, the Democrat government takeover of health care might actually be humorous. It's laughable that their idea of "cost-cutting reform" is a bill that will increase the Federal deficit by \$239 billion over 10 years and includes a \$1.3 trillion spending increase. Only in Washington, D.C., does cutting costs mean spending more money.

America's small businesses, including our Nation's farmers, are going to be hit the hardest by this huge expansion of government through billions of dollars in new taxes and mandates, and yet the bill doesn't even address the seasonal workforce that farmers rely on to harvest their crops. Once again, small business and rural America are swept under the rug and forgotten, but not before they get a huge tax bill.

The bottom line is that the Democrats' public option is a sneaky plan to take over private health care.

Mr. Speaker, get me a doctor. The idea of government taking over health care is enough to make you sick.

THE HOUSE HEALTH CARE BILL SETS THE TONE FOR A GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the health care system that we have in America is the best that the world has to offer. Do we need to improve it? Absolutely. But the question is how far do we go?

Do we tax the employer, who is now struggling to make ends meet, increase payroll taxes by 8 percent? No. We give that employer an advantage, an incentive to provide health care. Give him a tax break. Give the employee a tax break so they can go out and buy their own insurance. So give them an incentive.

But if we go and pass this bill, the government-run-all health care plan, we are going to break the backs of small businesses across this Nation that are the backbone of this Nation. Then we will hear a cry, Where are the jobs?

THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the national debt has topped \$11 trillion, unemployment has reached a 26-year high of 9.5 percent in June, and some believe it