

you're a pest, not a patient. Don't take my word for it, ask your doctor. Ask them how government-run health care will change your life or shorten it.

PROTECT GM WORKERS' HEALTH BENEFITS

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, my father retired from General Motors after over 40 years. When General Motors closed their assembly plant in Moraine, Ohio, thousands of lifelong GM employees lost their jobs. Now, due to the Obama administration's negotiated bankruptcy, the retirees are at risk of losing their health care benefits. Isn't it ironic that as this House tries to rush through a misguided health care bill, the Federal Government has denied IUE-CWA workers in my community their promised health care benefits?

With the Federal Government now owning over 60 percent of General Motors, it's time to honor the promises that were given to these workers, including my father.

I have joined my Ohio colleagues in asking President Obama to not discriminate between UAW and non-UAW retirees in protecting their health care benefits. I have also talked to the President of GM last week, asking for fair treatment of these employees. Now it's reported that GM will apply for more than \$10 billion in additional government funding.

If President Obama is serious about health care, he should start by protecting the GM workers who are losing their benefits in this administration's acquisition of General Motors.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of the proceedings or any other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

WHAT IS BEING REFORMED?

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when I hear the word "reform" in the same sentence as health care, I wonder what is being reformed.

Fact 1: Some 80 percent of Americans are satisfied with their present health care.

Fact 2: Do we know what we're reforming? No. According to the Washington Post, the Democrats jumped at a chance to brief on what is in their 1,700-page Democrat health care bill.

"The bill is so complex," said Ways and Means Chairman RANGEL, "that when staff agreed to hold the session, response was overwhelming."

Fact 3: The Democratic plan will not save money. The nonpartisan CBO projected \$1 trillion in costs and mounting deficits, and they "do not see the sort of fundamental changes that would be necessary to reduce the trajectory of Federal spending by a significant amount."

Fact 4: The bill has harmful cuts to Medicare Advantage that will result in more than 10 million seniors losing the program on which they rely. This plan would have your money spent, your current health care gone, no guarantee of satisfaction, all in the name of "reform."

KILLER OF THE HEALTH CARE BILL IS NOT POLITICS BUT POLICY

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have a 70-vote majority in this House. They have a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate. They have a President with high personal popularity ratings. They don't need Republicans to pass their agenda. They remind us of this often, changing the House rules whenever we manage to score a tactical victory. Yet, Democrat leaders would have Americans believe that Republicans are obstructing passage of their health care legislation for political purposes.

If we had the power to stop the health care legislation, why didn't we? Republicans stop the stimulus bill that has run up debt without creating jobs? Why didn't we stop the cap-and-trade bill that killed hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs and tax every American that owns a light switch? Why not? Because Democrats have the votes to pass whatever they like.

The health care agenda has hit the rocks not because of Republican politics, but because of Democratic policy. Americans know a government takeover of health care won't bring down costs; it will simply raise taxes, kill jobs, and lower quality of care. The killer of this bill is not politics but policy.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE AT A LOWER COST

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

Mr. CASSIDY. To achieve the three goals of patient-centered health care, we have to control costs to provide access to quality care. Now there are three imperatives to achieve this. We have to decrease the amount of money the patient is paying for administrative costs, increase the transparency so the patient knows what she's paying

for, and lastly, address lifestyle issues so that a healthier patient has higher quality health care at lower cost. This is transformational.

The current plan, however, the CBO says, is not transformational and in fact is based upon things which are very old: Medicaid, which is a Federal program currently bankrupting the States; and Medicare, which is bankrupting the Federal Government. This new third entitlement program builds upon those models, which is supposed to rescue the two that are currently bankrupting us. At a minimum, the solution should not cost more than the problem.

Let's address the imperatives of lowering administrative costs, increasing transparency, and addressing lifestyle issues, and develop a patient-centered health care plan, not one built upon two programs going bankrupt. On a bipartisan basis, let's achieve quality, accessible health care at an affordable cost.

REPUBLICANS HAVE A POSITIVE HEALTH CARE ALTERNATIVE

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I had the occasion to speak with a businessman in Minnesota who employs 110 people in his business. And he told me, Michele, right now health care is the most expensive part of my business, and under President Obama's plan, it will cost me an additional \$12,000 a month and I just don't have that money. We know that the President's own figures say that about 5 million jobs will be lost in this country if his bill goes through.

There are so many small businesses, Mr. Speaker, who would love to offer health care, but it is the Congress that has made it so expensive for small businesses to offer health care.

Jobs will be created, but this is where they're going to be created, in government bureaucracy. This is the picture of the bureaucracy that the Democrats will create if we get government takeover of health care. And remember, the American consumer stands on this side of the bureaucracy, the doctor stands on this side. This is like America's newest board game. You have to navigate all of these agencies to get to the goal of your doctor and your health care. We can do better. The Republicans have a positive alternative.

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WE CANNOT WAIT

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, at least 46 million Americans are uninsured. By

the end of the day, 14,000 more Americans will lose their coverage. Over the past decade, health care costs have risen on average four times faster than workers' earnings. We cannot wait. We must act now with reform that guarantees that everyone has access to high quality care, regardless of income, employment or preexisting conditions. We also must bring down the cost of care to make health insurance affordable for everyone.

That's why we must pass a bill with a robust public plan, a plan without a trigger. A robust public plan will increase competition. It will bring down costs. The public plan must be tied to the current Medicare provider network infrastructure and rates so that it will be able to start immediately. This connection will also increase the savings provided by a public plan. We must pass a health bill with a robust public plan, and we must pass it now. The American people cannot go any longer without high quality, affordable coverage.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, this debate on health care reform is probably one of the most important debates this U.S. Congress has had, because this debate on health care could move us towards socializing our health care system and turning over our personal health to the Federal Government to make decisions about our health, and also turning over a large portion of our national economy to the Federal Government.

This debate on health care reform should only be about doing what is right for America. And limiting choices on the kind of health care plan a citizen of this Nation can have is not right for America. Putting a Federal bureaucrat between the patient and the doctor is not right for America. Moving 114 million Americans off private insurance on to a government socialized plan is not right for America. Exploding our deficit with huge, massive new tax increases for a government-run health care plan is not right for America.

We should not be taking away the freedom to control something as important as our own personal health care and our outcomes of our health care, to the Federal Government. We should not be taking that away. Health care reform is about doing the right thing, and it is going to be right for Democrats and Republicans to come together to reform health care.

THE NEED FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Almost 50 million Americans are without health coverage. Many millions more worry about the stability of their coverage, that they will lose coverage or that at a time of accident or illness their insurance will not cover critical needs. In my home State of Pennsylvania, families have seen a 100 percent increase in their health premiums since 2000. Nearly one in five Pennsylvania families pay more than 10 percent of their income on health care, and American businesses are struggling with increasing premiums, forcing them to pass on more of the cost to employees or to drop coverage all together.

The Federal Government is the largest payer of American health care costs and currently paying nearly half of the \$2.5 trillion health bill. And while costs keep rising at a rate faster than inflation, health outcomes for Americans are not improving.

The status quo is simply unacceptable. Inaction is unacceptable. We must move forward in offering a uniquely American solution to strengthening and reforming our health care system. Health care reform means making difficult decisions. Without congressional action, there will be higher costs and greater uncertainty for all of us. It's time to act.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in an interview in The New York Times earlier this year, President Obama discussed the difficult decision that he and his family faced to replace his grandmother's hip after she broke it after she was terminally diagnosed with cancer. In that interview, he said, "Whether, in the aggregate society making those decisions to give my grandmother or everyone else's aging parents a hip replacement when they're terminally ill is a sustainable model, is a very difficult decision. There is going to have to be a conversation that is guided by doctors, scientists, ethicists. And then there is going to have to be a very difficult democratic conversation that takes place."

With all due respect, Mr. President, I think that this is a conversation that would be best left between the doctor and the patient. We don't need a government plan. We don't need government bureaucrats standing in the way of this relationship. We don't need them out their rationing out what care is best in this relationship. And so I, for one, reject the idea that government bureaucrats will make better decisions about health care than the doctors and the patient. So any proposal that seeks to ration care in such a way should be opposed, and I will do so every single time.

WHERE IS THE COMMON SENSE?

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, first Congress passed a multimillion dollar bailout to reward bad behavior on Wall Street. Next Congress passed a trillion-dollar-plus stimulus plan which Members were not allowed to read. It was sold on the promise that unemployment would not exceed 8 percent, but unemployment is now at 9½ percent and rising.

Next the House passed a national energy tax. They called it cap-and-trade so Members wouldn't have to say they voted for a new tax. Members were not allowed to read that either. It will cost every American family and every American business lots of money and drive a lot more jobs overseas.

Now Congress wants to pass a bureaucratic-managed and rationed health care plan, again costing Americans trillions of dollars and, worse yet, their medical freedoms. No doubt Members will not be allowed to read the final version of that either. Where is the logic? Where is the common sense? When will Congress think about the working folks, the seniors, and the savers who made this country great? Congress needs to look past the special interests and start listening to the people back home.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make clear that there is not anyone in the United States Congress who does not want to make our Nation's health care system better. There is bipartisan agreement that Congress must help the American people by working to lower the high cost of health care and provide access and availability to the American people who are uninsured. This is not the time for Congress to rush to the President's desk in a reckless manner legislation which would amount to nothing short of nationalizing one of the best health care systems in the world.

Make no mistake, there are much-needed reforms that Congress can and Congress should address. We must solve this problem in a focused and in a bipartisan way and not allow some extreme proposal to make its way to the President's desk that will be another massive spending program. With Federal spending at the highest level in American history, the economy in a severe recession and unemployment rising every day, another massive government program with more spending, more borrowing and higher taxes will only hurt this struggling economy and the American people.