

other important investments. Our national priorities will no longer be held hostage to our lack of self-restraint when it comes to spending.

We must balance short-term deficit spending in order to pursue effective economic recovery with a commitment to restoring financial discipline in the long term.

This begins with yesterday's commitment to statutory PAYGO.

INACCURATE STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT REGARDING HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, my colleagues, last night the President addressed our Nation about the issue of health care, and there were some statements made by the President last night that aren't quite accurate.

One, he said that we will keep government out of health care decisions. Now, if that's the case, I wonder why there was \$200 million set aside in the stimulus bill earlier this year so that the government could do a comparative analysis to determine which treatment was most effective in terms of a potential cure for a disease. This is clearly going to give the government information that they believe is the best treatment when the doctors and their patients may not agree.

And secondly, I'd point out that if you look at an amendment that was offered in the Energy and Commerce Committee the other night, the amendment said real simple that no government bureaucrat will make any decisions or interfere with any decision between a doctor and their patient. And I would add that that amendment was rejected on a party-line vote.

Secondly, the President said if you like your current plan we will give you the option to keep it. I wish that were true. But as I noted the other day on the floor, under the ERISA provision, I believe that thousands of companies will drop their company health care plan because after 5 years it's going to have to be approved by the Department of Labor and the health care choices czar to ensure that the company plan meets certain Federal standards. I've got to tell you this is going to drive a lot of companies out of offering the insurance that people have today. They will have no option but to go to the government plan.

And thirdly, he said no plan will add to our deficit. Well, the Congressional Budget Office last Friday came out and said the plan that was being considered will add \$239 billion to our deficit over the next 10 years. And if you look further at this plan, you will see that while the cost of the plan is \$1.6 trillion, the tax increases don't go into effect until 2011, but the real cost of the plan doesn't begin to add up for about 5 years. And so when you get into the out years, beyond 10 years, you see

these exploding deficits, because it's going to cost \$200 to \$300 billion a year more, over and above the tax increases already in this bill. At a time when we've got record deficits and record spending here in Washington, we don't need to be adding to the deficit.

And lastly, the President said Republicans want to kill health care reform and have not offered better ideas. I've got to tell you, earlier this year when I handed Speaker PELOSI the gavel, I said that when Republicans had to oppose our new President or our colleagues across the aisle, it was our obligation to say how we would do it better.

We had a better solution on the stimulus bill. We had a better solution on the budget. We believe that we had a better solution on the energy bill that was here last month. We have offered our better solution on health care. We outlined those in a letter to the President back in May when we asked for a meeting and got a nice, polite letter back from the President that said, Well, thank you for your ideas, but we'll see you at the end of the process.

Republicans have a better solution that won't put the government in charge of people's health care, that will make sure that we bring down the cost of health care for all Americans and ensure affordable access for all Americans.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO REQUIREMENTS WORK

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, yesterday this House passed legislation that will restore fiscal discipline by requiring the United States Government to only spend what it can truly afford. The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act will roll back deficits and require all new legislation which reduces revenues or expands spending to be paid for. This is a critical piece of common sense. At long last, Congress will be required to follow the policies that families in my district in south Florida stick by every day: only spend a dollar if you can save a dollar somewhere else.

It is clear that pay-as-you-go requirements work. The last time they were in place in Congress in the 1990s we saw budget surpluses. After they lapsed in 2002, the lack of fiscal discipline allowed deficits to balloon.

Fiscal responsibility is one of my personal core values. It is what my wife and I teach our children and should guide every decision we make in government.

This bill marks a turning point in the fiscal health of our Nation. It won't happen overnight, but starting today we will begin to cut our deficit and return to surpluses.

NOT MY COUNTRY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, earlier this week four Members of the President's Cabinet, including Secretary Sebelius, came to my home State of Louisiana to build grassroots support for ObamaCare in the rural areas, but they found themselves defending the administration's broader effort to take over the Nation's health care system. To say they were greeted by skepticism would be an understatement.

The anger over the direction this country is moving was best expressed by a gentleman who told the group, Please carry a message to Mr. Obama, that it will be a cold day in hell before he socializes my country.

The administration and a small group of very liberal Democrats are intent on pushing through a government takeover of health care, even though more than half this country does not want it.

Democrats in this House are moving forward with a health care plan that will hurt the sacred relationship between Americans and their doctor, deny access to needed treatments, and place power in the hands of Washington bureaucrats. Why are you in such a rush? Are you afraid Americans will learn the truth this time and stop it?

AMERICA CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO WAIT FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday there was a long parade of my friends from the other side coming down here to the Well to talk about the problems with the Democratic health care bill. And you just heard the distinguished minority leader talking about the cost of this bill.

Well, this is a stark reality, America. America can no longer wait for health care reform. Every person in this country pays a hidden tax of \$1,200 a year, every family in this country pays a hidden tax of \$1,800 a year, to take care of people right now who don't have health insurance but still get health care.

That's the reality that we're dealing with, and that's why we are working hard to try to transform our health care delivery system.

And my friend from Louisiana who just spoke is a perfect example of what's wrong. Right now, we know that in our country the States that provide the highest quality of care to Medicare patients get paid the least, while the State of Louisiana spends more per Medicare patient than any other State and ranks 50th on Medicare quality of assessments.

That's why Democrats are leading the charge to change the way we transform our health care system.