

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.

SCRAP THIS BILL AND LET'S START OVER ON REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Think about this concept of government-managed health care for just a minute. Imagine that the Federal Government told you you can have your house for free. That sounds good, right? Until they tell you that you have to live in government housing. Now what? How many Americans want to leave their homes for government subsidized housing?

Polls show that the more people learn about the government-controlled health plan, the less they support it.

Increasing the number of Americans who have health insurance is a laudable goal we all want to achieve, but paying \$1.5 trillion to get part of the way, with a government-controlled plan that eliminates choice and stifles the doctor-patient relationship, that's not the answer.

Mr. President, scrap this bill and let's start over on real health care reform.

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WE NEED REFORM

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, the keepers of the status quo on health care are simply wrong. It is unacceptable for Americans to have their wage increases swallowed up by health care costs.

Our medical costs are rising three times faster than our wages. It consumes twice as much of our economy as it did just 12 years ago. The status quo is unacceptable.

Now some of my colleagues want to defend the status quo, trying to scare Americans to think that we're going to deliver bad medical care. Let me ask them this: Is the medical care at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, so bad? I don't think so.

Our bill, basically—and we are improving this bill as we speak—is going to provide the kind of care that Americans are getting at the Mayo Clinic. Because when our bill passes, it will in fact allow and inspire doctors to do what they do at the Mayo Clinic for half the price that Americans are paying for their medical care in Miami, Florida. Half the price at the Mayo Clinic for what Americans pay in medical care.

We need reform. We're going to pass it.

MAYO CLINIC OPPOSED HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me say this, that the Mayo Clinic opposes this health care bill because it's nonsense, it costs too much, and it's going to put America more in debt. And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM MEANS STABILITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Those within and without health insurance share something in common: they both lack stability and security when it comes to coverage, cost, and quality of their health care.

Every day, Americans are forced into tough decisions and circumstances that lead them to lose their health care. As the President mentioned last night, on average, 14,000 Americans a day are losing their health care.

Health insurance reform means stable coverage that can't be taken away. If your spouse is laid off or changes jobs, you won't lose your coverage. If you or your family or coworker get sick, you won't pay more or lose your coverage.

With health insurance reform, no one is able to get between you and your doctor. It will keep government out of health care decisions, allowing you to keep the coverage you have today if you want it.

Stability has been missing from our health care system for decades. As we work to get our economy moving again, now is the time to fix it. The proposed health insurance reform bill builds upon what works and fixes what is broken.

My constituents strongly want, need, and deserve a more stable and secure health care system. And that's what we need to fight to do.

WE NEED TO SUPPORT, NOT TAX, SMALL BUSINESSES

(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. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, small businesses face challenging economic threats. Those who can afford to are struggling to provide health care to their employees.

The last thing small businesses need—and we've had 2.6 million jobs lost since the new President came in office—are more mandates and tax hikes that will destroy jobs. Unfortunately, under their health care tax, Democrats are proposing just that.

They believe small businesses should abide by government mandates and provide health care that meets a bureaucratic code or suffer an 8 percent tax and fines up to \$500,000. This is no way to treat the most prolific job-creating engine of our economy.

Republicans have solutions for affordable, accessible, and portable

health care without tax hikes on families and small businesses. We reject the rationing of health care and government intrusion and propose flexibility for small businesses to band together for affordable health care.

Republicans have solutions that will empower individuals, not Big Government. We will promote new jobs.

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

NEED FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the need for health care reform in this country, reform that must ensure patients can choose their doctor, is portable, and gives stability to our citizens as they grow old, change jobs, and face health problems. It must protect those with preexisting conditions and address prevention.

I've received countless calls from constituents about the need to fix what is broken and protect what works in this health care system.

Last night, on this floor, I heard a colleague on the other side of the aisle say that all Americans have health care today, the emergency room. Well, tell that to my constituents like Carla, who called about her sister Edith, who's been without insurance since last September.

Edith is 49 years old and suffers from severe osteoarthritis. Injured at work, she had to change jobs because she was denied workmen's comp. And then, after she got a job that offered some coverage, she was laid off due to economic conditions.

Now unemployed, Edith is without health insurance, insurance she desperately needs to help cover her doctors visits and her prescriptions. Edith is a victim of a failed system.

Madam Speaker, we need health care reform in this country to ensure that Edith and countless others are not left behind.

WE THINK YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH WHEN YOU HAVE THE RIGHT INFORMATION

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I'm very disappointed because the Democrats and the administration don't think the American people are either smart enough or they don't trust them to make their own decisions.

The Democrats and the administration have introduced a reform for financial markets that is going to start telling the American people, Hey, you're not smart enough or we don't trust you to determine what kind of