

possibly provide, helping them help their families and their employees provide stability in their health care situation.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, as I travel across my district, whether I'm talking to our good farmers, small business owners or manufacturers, what they're asking me is, What are you doing to bring back jobs to Ohio? What are you doing to save jobs? What are you doing to turn this economy around?

Mr. Speaker, the stimulus bill certainly has not yet improved our economy. This chart next to me shows what the administration projected would happen with unemployment numbers as a result of the stimulus. And what's really happening, as you can see, the dark line is what would happen with the stimulus package; the light line without the stimulus package; and most importantly, this dotted line, which is what's really happening and that is skyrocketing unemployment.

In Ohio our unemployment rate has reached 11.1 percent in June, the highest it's been in decades; and this is unacceptable. Now if we don't do this health care reform package correctly, it could hurt small businesses and may cost jobs. We're going in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, Where are the jobs?

WE MUST PASS HEALTH CARE REFORM NOW

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we cannot wait another moment to pass health reform. We need health care, and we need it now. The American people cannot wait. Health care delayed is health care denied. It is our moral obligation to lead the way. Every day that we wait, 14,000 Americans lose their health insurance. People losing their health, their homes or their very lives because our health system does not work for them. This is not right. It is not just. It is not fair.

And we can do better. We can do much better. At the March on Washington 46 years ago, I said, "They tell us to wait. They tell us to be patient." We cannot wait. We cannot be patient. I say, today, we want health care reform, and we want it now. We must answer the call of history and pass health care reform, and pass it now.

100,000 SUPPORT HOUSE RESOLUTION 615

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago I launched House Resolution 615 that simply says that if you vote for a government-run system, you should be willing to sign up for it. So far I've had a number of Republicans sign up, but not one Democrat. Since launching H. Res. 615 that calls for Members of Congress to sign up for government health care if they vote for it, it has received tremendous grassroots response. We now have over 100,000 Americans who have signed up in support, and the signatures represent all 50 States with supporters of the bill adamant about its demand for accountability of congressional lawmakers to the people.

This message has resonated across America for one simple reason, and the people of this country are sick and tired of being the victims of bad laws while their elected Representatives are exempt from the same laws. It is obvious that nobody in Washington wants for themselves a bureaucrat standing between them and their doctor, nor an expensive, inefficient health care delivery system, and certainly not to be abandoned when thought to be too sick, too old or too expensive to care for.

So why should Americans? I ask that Americans continue to hold us accountable by signing up to support House Resolution 615 by going to my Web site at fleming.house.gov.

YOU CAN'T BEAT SOMETHING WITH NOTHING

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, our current health care system—and it really is not a system—is not up to the standards of America. I want to address the issue of cost. Our wages have been going down a black hole of health care costs. Health care costs are rising two to three times faster than our wages. If we want to know why we're having trouble making ends meet, it's because our money is going into health care much faster than our wages are improving.

Now what does the other party have to solve this problem? Nothing. We are offering some suggestions on ways to have higher quality health care costs, reduce the cost, and reduce the rate of medical inflation. There is one principle that we ought to have on a bipartisan basis: you can't beat something with nothing. I am encouraging our Members across the aisle to join us to bring change to this system so we can restrain the rate on medical inflation and pass health care reform.

NO LOAN GUARANTEES TO CONSTRUCT THE AMERICAN CENTRIFUGE PROJECT IN PIKETON, OHIO

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask a simple question: Where are the jobs? My constituents along with folks from all over Ohio and the Nation want to know where are the jobs. In my home State of Ohio, unemployment has risen to more than 11 percent. We have the seventh highest in the Nation. Every single county in my district has unemployment equal to or higher than the national average, and Pike and Adams Counties have above 15 percent.

Last night I was given even more devastating news: the Department of Energy has determined that it will not provide loan guarantees to construct the American Centrifuge Project in Piketon, Ohio. While campaigning last fall, then-candidate Obama pledged to support those loan guarantees. He wrote, "Under my administration, energy programs that promote safe and environmentally sound technologies and are domestically produced, such as the enrichment facility in Ohio, will have my full support. I will work with the Department of Energy to help make loan guarantees available for this." I guess that promise is equivalent to the promise to save or create 3 million jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking you, Where are the jobs?

LET'S COME TOGETHER TO REFORM HEALTH CARE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you very clearly: Medicare in 1965 saved lives. Can you believe it has been six decades, 60 years, since we have been able to come together around the common goal of getting a public option with health care reform? Now six decades later, America has debated this broken system, but we're closer than we've ever been before, and the American people understand 83 percent, high numbers. They want a public health insurance option. They get it.

Premiums have doubled over 9 years. You ask yourself the question, Can I afford to pay \$1,800 a year more every year for a family of four? Health care reform will keep Americans from financial ruin. Go to the bankruptcy courts. Catastrophic illnesses have shoved Americans into these courts. They've lost all that they have. We have to stop it now. We want to leave doctors in charge of their patients and not the insurance companies, whose main opportunity is to say, N-O, no.

The American people get it. The public health insurance option, that is what we're doing; and we're doing it now.

DON'T DESTROY THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WHILE TRYING TO IMPROVE IT

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, last week one Republican after another asked a very simple yet relevant question to the House Democratic leadership: Where are the jobs that you and the President promised almost 6 months ago when you passed that gigantic \$787 billion stimulus bill?

You see, the answer to that question is important if the American people are to have any confidence in the Democrats, who not only run the House but are now in control of this entire city, when they boldly promise a new government Federal health plan costing \$1.6 trillion, financed by \$818 billion in new taxes on individuals and small businesses; and at the end of the day, all that new spending and all those new taxes are only going to just create more debt and more concern.

Mr. Speaker, the American people know better; and they have genuine concern about what they're seeing come out of their Federal Government. Republicans know our health care system needs repair. We just don't want to see it destroyed all in the name of making it better.

TRANSPORTATION SPENDING WILL CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, we certainly can appreciate the passion on both sides of the aisle with respect to health care. This House has not debated a bill of this importance in many years. But one thing that we can't forget is that we need to continue to focus on transportation. We have before us right now a surface transportation authorization bill that must be reauthorized by the House of Representatives. We have bridges that are collapsing throughout the country. We have roads that are deteriorating. I hear my colleague from the other side of the aisle say, Where are the jobs? The jobs are out there now from the stimulus bill where money was given to the States, and they're repairing the roads, and they're fixing the bridges. We need to continue that.

There is no better way to create jobs and no better way to keep our infrastructure the best in the world than to spend money through transportation. I strongly urge my colleagues to continue to work on reauthorization of the surface transportation bill.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH SHOULD APPLY TO ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

(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. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of freedom of speech. Democrats are telling Republicans that we are no longer allowed to use the words "government-run health care" in communication with our constituents. Yes, that's correct. Republicans will be forced to use only Democrat-approved language when describing their attempted government takeover of health care to our constituents, or else.

Democrats told Republicans that if we do not use the words Democrats give us to describe their health care reform bill, then Members will have to pay the postage personally. Apparently, the Democrats feel they can control what the public thinks about their bill by dictating how we talk about it. I know America is smarter than that.

Call the Speaker at 202-224-3121 if you think this censorship should stop. The last time I checked, this was still America where freedom of speech is our hallmark.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE WILL COMPETE WITH PRIVATE PLANS

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, anybody who says that we don't need to reform our health care system is ignoring the fact that we have the most expensive health care system in the world, but we have some of the worst results among industrialized nations.

We have one of the worst results in maternal and child safety. We have one of the worst results in infant mortality. Yet at the same time, our costs continue to go up. Health care premiums doubled in 9 years, growing faster than wages. Health care costs are the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States right now; and in the next 10 years, \$1 out of every \$5 will be spent on health care.

The bill that we are looking at in Energy and Commerce is a good bill. It allows people who like their health plans to keep them; but it also puts forward a public option that will compete with those plans, not government-run health care but it takes the insurance companies' profit margin out of it and makes them compete on behalf of the American people. We need to pass health care now.

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REPUBLICANS PROPOSE A BETTER HEALTH PLAN

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, in order to support the Democrats' health care plan we are asked to accept three arguments that are fundamentally absurd. First, that the same government that pioneered \$400 hammers and \$600 toilet seats is somehow going to control our health care costs. Second, that the same government that runs FEMA is going to make our health care system more efficient and responsive. And third, that the same government that runs the IRS is going to make our health care more compassionate and understanding. Frankly, I doubt it.

Instead of putting government in charge of our health care decisions, let's put patients back in charge. We can do that by using tax credits to bring within the reach of every family a basic health plan that they can choose, that they can own, and that they can change if it fails to meet their needs. That is what the Republicans are proposing, and it is a much better way.

WILL WE ACT OR WILL WE NOT?

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, a fine Republican President, Teddy Roosevelt, said, "The worst thing you can do in a moment of decision is nothing." And we are charged with measures of action or inaction. That is why the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was about investing in our people, in our country, in our roads, our bridges, our schools, and they are already starting to show the difference.

I see signs all over my district saying "This job was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act." And I must say that we have sent billions of dollars overseas to build brand new Iraqi roads, Iraqi schools and Iraqi buildings, but it is time to invest in our people.

Will we put America back to work? Will we delay or make a difference? Will we lead or will we block? Will we invest in our country, in our people, our way of life, or we will send that money overseas? We have the decision. Will we act or will we not?

OPPOSING GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I heard from a small agribusiness owner in my district. His business is growing, and he actually wants to hire new employees. However, he is concerned the new mandates and taxes imposed on him as an employer by the government's takeover of health care would mean he wouldn't be able to create new positions. He is not the only small business owner concerned about