

essential benefits, for setting a precedent that will devolve into a rationing of medicine through politics, this is driven by an appetite for a government-run economy that is blind to the consequences.

One of those consequences is a \$1.3 trillion cost in this bill. Another is the job-killing mandates and the cuts to senior Medicare plans, including a gutting of Medicare Advantage that is in this bill. The cost of the tax increases on business. How high can we stack these taxes? We have one of the highest corporate tax rates in the world. We will see the consequence in higher unemployment.

Should health care be nationalized, medical rationing is inevitable, and we will see the adverse effects on economic growth and opportunity, unfortunately, that will be left.

ENACT STUPAK-PITTS AMENDMENT ON HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, each year, Planned Parenthood kills more than 300,000 children by abortion, yet yesterday another Planned Parenthood director resigned over abortion. Abby Johnson, director of a clinic in College Station, Texas, said she had a change of heart while watching an ultrasound of an actual abortion in real-time.

Self-described as “extremely pro-choice” but now pro-life, she said she knew it was time to quit in September when she watched an unborn child “crumble” as the baby was vacuumed, dismembered, and destroyed.

Many, including and especially self-described extremely pro-choice Americans like Abby Johnson, are beginning to recognize the ultra-ugly truth about abortion—it kills babies and wounds their mothers. Thus, we must protect both victims of abortion by enacting the Stupak-Pitts amendment to the health care bill.

I appeal to the Democrat leadership, make the Stupak amendment in order, and, please, no phony compromises, because there is nothing benign or compassionate about abortion.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUMMINGS). Members should heed the gavel.

□ 1445

QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of

quality, affordable health care for all Americans. And finally we are actually going to get it done for the American people.

For 139 days my friends on the other side of the aisle have promised health care reform, and now we think they have a bill but we haven't really seen it, and it's not real reform. So let's talk about what we're going to do for the American people and not just what is wrong and saying “no.”

We're going to end discrimination for preexisting medical conditions. If you have experienced domestic violence or you've had an underlying condition, you will be able to get health care for yourself and your family. You won't be able to be dropped because you're sick. You won't have copays and deductibles for preventative care. This is what health care reform really means for the American people.

And it's going to be affordable. It will provide credits for folks if your income doesn't quite get up there or you work for a small employer and the employer can't quite afford health care.

We want to make sure that all the American people have the ability to achieve quality, affordable health care.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed this bill, and it is a jobs killer.

Before I came to Congress, I was a small business person. I know what is to start small businesses and to run them, and I know how difficult it is to sustain those jobs.

This Congress, the Democrat majority, rather than trying to find ways to help the people who are struggling with unemployment right now and to help small businesses create jobs, is finding a way to hinder them by penalizing employers who can't afford to provide health insurance for their employees.

If we want to make sure they have access to health insurance, let's find ways to allow association health plans, to allow people to buy health insurance across State lines to get costs down, to pass tort reform, and do other meaningful things that make access more practicable.

But first and foremost, let's don't kill jobs in an economy that's already struggling with 10 percent unemployment. And that's what this bill does.

It's time for this Congress to get out of the way, to stop job-killing and start trying to help small businesses create new jobs.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, someone with a lot of time on his hands, or

more likely somebody with a pretty good search engine, found that the 2,000-page Pelosi health care bill uses the word “shall” more than 3,000 times. Now, that's an average of more than 1.5 times per page.

It seems about the only page where the word “shall” is not used is the page that states that Members of Congress “may” enroll in the government-run insurance option. No “shall” here, just “may.” In other words, what's good for the country isn't necessarily good for Congress.

I'd encourage anyone who is watching or listening out there to call the Speaker and ask her why. If this government-run insurance option is so good, why aren't Members of Congress required to enroll in it as well?

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we're the people's House. The other body is called the House of Lords, but we are here to represent the people who sent us here.

I quote a great speech from Governor John Connally of Texas when he was first elected Governor back in 1963. I served in the Texas Senate. I was in the crowd as he was speaking to a group of school board trustees, telling them to run their own schools, to make their own decisions, not the Nation, not the State, but they should make the decisions. They're there just like you're here.

He told a story about ancient mariners that were adrift, shipwrecked off the coast of South America. Unknown to them, their raft had drifted into the fresh waters of the mouth of the Amazon River. They prayed for help.

Ship ahoy, rang out their cry. There came a voice from the waters far, Drop your buckets where you are.

Don't vote to dim the lives of future generations, of future taxpayers. This bill is a generation killer; the victims are our grandchildren.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, health reform is a moral and national imperative.

As a physician, my experience in treating uninsured patients at public hospitals teaches me that empowering patients is the best way to lower costs and improve patients' health. Patients are the best guardians of health care dollars. Real reform empowers patients to make wise decisions for their wallets and their health.

Unfortunately, this bill introduced last week empowers government, not patients. And this 2,000-page bill, and this is half of it, a trillion dollars, is concentrating power in Washington,

taking it away from States and citizens. For example, it creates 111 boards, bureaucracies, and commissions and has \$730 billion in taxes.

This government-centered plan won't work. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office says that it increases the cost to patients and taxpayers.

The patient-centered alternative offered by Republicans will save patients money, save taxpayers money, and expand access to quality care.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, later this week we will be voting on legislation that dramatically revamps our Nation's health care system. The 1,990-page, \$1.055 trillion Democratic health care proposal is a measure that raises individual and business taxes and reduces funding for Medicare.

The bill, if signed into law, will be harmful to New Jersey's taxpayers, senior citizens, and businesses. And as such, I will be voting against Speaker PELOSI's health care bill.

Instead, I will be supporting a fiscally responsible alternative that includes medical liability reform, small business insurance pooling, and letting families and businesses buy insurance across State lines, ideas that have strong bipartisan support but are absent from the Democratic plan.

The Republican alternative is the only health care reform measure that improves what is working in our health care system and fixes what is broken in a fiscally responsible manner without raising taxes or increasing our ever-growing debt and deficit.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as we're up here discussing this, there are folks in the Democratic caucus trying to better understand the support that exists for this bill.

This bill is not Speaker PELOSI's bill, and it's not the Democrats' bill. Mr. Speaker, this is America's bill. We are the only industrialized Nation in the world that doesn't have a plan to take care of health care for its citizens. America is catching up to the 21st century to where other countries have been in the 20th.

In my community our emergency room at our public hospital is about to close because they're so far in debt because they have so many people that don't have insurance and can't afford to pay. They take them, but they can't afford to pay it with the property taxes that are ever-rising.

This bill will help keep emergency rooms and trauma centers open. It will say to people that have preexisting conditions in America, and that's peo-

ple give or take my age and older, 60 and up, in that area, and even younger people can get insurance, that there won't be a limit on the amount of monies that you had before. And it will say to the insurance companies they don't make the rules, the people make the rules. And we will have insurance that's affordable and available and save our country economically and save individuals as well.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, my friend from Tennessee has just described this as America's bill, not the Pelosi health care plan.

It is, in fact, Americans who are going to have to shoulder the burden if, God forbid, it becomes public law.

The American people, when they think about health care reform, are not thinking about taxpayer funding of abortion on demand. They're not thinking about a \$500 billion cut in Medicare. They're thinking about greater transparency. These are the kinds of concerns that rank-and-file Democrats have joined with Republicans in raising.

The American people want many of the things my friend from Tennessee has just advocated. They want us to deal with preexisting conditions. They want us to ensure that there's an opportunity for children, young people up to the age of 25, to continue to be on their parents' plan. They want people to buy insurance across State lines. They want us to bring about a step-by-step approach. That's exactly what the American people want. That's exactly what our alternative does. That's what this House should do.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, 85 percent of the American public are happy with the insurance they have; 80 percent of them know that it costs too much. But all of them understand that when you try to do what the Democrats are talking about doing and adding a trillion dollars of expense, they understand we can't afford it.

I have 30 grandchildren. I'm concerned about passing this cost on to my children and my grandchildren.

This is a bill that we start paying for now, that the taxes start paying for it now, and it doesn't even start covering people for 4 years.

What's the rush? Why don't we do something that's good? Why don't we have a Republican solution for improving and portability for American health care?

We support tort reform that curbs frivolous lawsuits. We support allowing

negotiating across State lines and group purchasing power, which will lower the cost of insurance. We support choice of coverage without the government forcing people into government-run health care.

I strongly oppose the Democrat big-spending health care bill.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, Washington is attempting to take over our health care system, roughly 16 percent of the economy.

In the shadow of an approximately \$12 trillion national debt, I am deeply concerned about the financial direction our country is taking. Our annual deficit set an all-time record this year of \$1.4 trillion, three times the previous record. Our future obligations are over \$50 trillion, and we have no plan to pay any of it back. This is unsustainable.

While people in my State of Colorado and all over the country are struggling, the Federal Government has the audacity to propose raising taxes by another \$730 billion for health care. Besides higher taxes, the health care plan is largely paid for, if you can call it that, by raiding Medicare, another entitlement program that is nearly insolvent.

If Congress were a publicly traded company, it would be looking at huge civil and criminal penalties for shoddy bookkeeping.

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, over the course of this last year, I've had many meetings with constituents and heard their views about health care reform. Among those with whom I met were Dash and Cathy Sokol of Lorain, Ohio. Dash is 56; his wife, 53. In February of 2007 Dash was diagnosed with prostate cancer. And as he fought that cancer, Cathy was diagnosed with breast cancer.

The Sokols have health insurance coverage through his job at the steel mill; but as both were receiving treatment, the costs nonetheless began to add up. Their out-of-pocket spending became overwhelming, and they're now using their pension funds to pay for the medical bills instead of having funds for retirement.

Cathy told me how guilty she feels about all of that and that their family has to pay out of this because their insurance coverage isn't adequate. And there are a lot of Americans who need better health care insurance.

When the Sokols came to my office, they brought stacks and stacks of invoices, explanations of benefits. They talked about how they're trying to pay their bills, and they are doing it, slowly but sure. But he worries and he lives