

burdensome tax. This will surely result in more job losses in my State, where unemployment right now, Mr. Speaker, is 11.6 percent.

Please, colleagues, stand with me and fight this government takeover of our health care.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken. Poll after poll now shows by overwhelming majorities that this health care proposal is being rejected by them.

What are their concerns? Seniors are concerned about their Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and their care in general, as this bill makes a \$500 billion cut in the Medicare program, which will lead to rationed care.

Small business owners are concerned about their businesses, as this bill will enact billions of new taxes, surcharges, and places new mandates on them that may cause them to lose their businesses.

Young people are concerned about their futures. Will the \$1 trillion price tag of this bill indebt them and their children for the rest of their lives?

This bill does not lower the cost of health care. According to the Congressional Budget Office, it raises the cost of health care.

The American people don't see this bill as a solution to the health care problem. They see it as adding to the problem. They have spoken. We need to listen.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, this week, Democrats released 42 additional pages of the health care bill in their manager's amendment, meaning the total package now stands at 2,032 pages.

As I see it, the manager's amendment makes it more likely that we will see everyone in the exchange on a government-run plan within a few years of its creation. The amendment calls for insurers to report annual premium increases to the government and gives the administrator the power to kick insurers out of the exchange for increases that he or she deem to be excessive, a term that is left entirely up to the discretion of the administrator.

What we have been saying all year is that a plan that doesn't pay the cost of care will shift higher costs to private insurers, as hospitals and providers have to make up their losses on payments from the government. As costs are shifted, private insurers are left with no choice but to increase premiums.

Independent studies have shown that millions of people will be dropped from

their current coverage and put on the public plan. Now, with the manager's amendment, Democrats are simply quickening this transition by kicking insurers off their plan. It is a bad amendment, a bad bill, and it should be rejected.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage the House of Representatives to stay in session until this health care bill brought forward this weekend is passed. I do that because about 4 years ago I lived down the street in Children's Hospital with my daughter, struck with a brain tumor. Given just a few months to live, we began our chemotherapy after the brain operation.

There was a young boy, 2½ years old, diagnosed with acute leukemia next to her, where we heard social workers argue for six hours whether that youth, whose parents didn't have health insurance, could stay.

I have always thought in my 31 years in the military how well we invested here in Congress in our military's health care plan because of the dividends it gave to me, for example, when I went to an 11½ month war, and yet my family and my daughter were taken care of and I was focused on the mission.

We lose \$200 billion a year in lost productivity because of the under and uninsured. Our small businesses pay an 18 percent tax in higher health care costs because we have not taken action over the last 10 years.

I urge my colleagues to stay in session, because doing nothing is not who we are.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am a physician. I practiced medicine in Georgia for almost four decades. In health care, us providers try to do no harm. But, Mr. Speaker, this Pelosi health care takeover is going to destroy the quality of health care.

It is going to actually destroy poor people, and particularly Medicare recipients, from even having a doctor, because the cuts in Medicare are going to mean that doctors just can't afford to continue to see them, even though they want to.

It is going to destroy State budgets because of the increase in the Medicaid recipients that are going to be forced on to the State budgets, which means that it is going to hurt teachers and all the goods and services within the State.

It is going to destroy every family's budget because of the increased cost for everybody in this country, because

all goods and services are going to go up because of the increased taxes on all the business.

It is going to destroy jobs. It has been estimated that 5.5 million jobs are going to be lost. But, most of all, it is going to destroy our economy.

We need to destroy this bill.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you about a friend of mine, Kelly Conklin, who owns a small business in New Jersey, since that is what we have been hearing from many of my friends on the other side. It is a small woodworking business.

Each year, Kelly has to determine the best set of benefits at the best price based on his employees and their needs. Unfortunately, the options dictated to him by an insurer leave him with very few choices. He has zero negotiating power. That is why the exchange is a great idea for small businesses to deal with the problems, because offering coverage is the right thing for him to do and the best way for him to attract the most skilled employees.

Kelly is literally at the whim of his insurer. For 2010, he faces a 35 percent increase in premiums. How in God's name can we justify this by a bill that the other side has presented that is cheap because it doesn't do anything?

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WAMP. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Republicans are united against the Pelosi-Obama health care takeover, but it is not a partisan issue. This week, seven Democrat governors came out in strong opposition to the plan, including my Governor, Phil Bredesen, who called the plan "the mother of all unfunded mandates." Why? Because it adds millions of people to the State's Medicaid rolls, makes them cover them, without the money down the road to pay for it.

States have to balance their budget. They can't borrow \$1 trillion and just print the money and add it to the next generation. They have to balance their budget. The 10th Amendment gives rights to the States. The Federal Government is handing mandates to the States, and they have nowhere to turn except to raise taxes or dramatically cut their budgets. This is not fair to the States. It is the wrong thing to do.

Reject the Pelosi-Obama health care takeover.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today in America we spend \$2.5 trillion or 17 percent of our economy as measured by the gross domestic product on health care. Yet we are 37th in terms of quality out of 192 countries. We are 41st in infant mortality out of 192 countries. We are dead last among industrialized countries in preventable deaths.

Health care premiums have doubled in the past 10 years. They will double again in the next 10 years. Fourteen thousand people lose their coverage every day. They are not older people, because they qualify for Medicare. They are not poor people, because they qualify for Medicaid. It is individuals who get up every day and go to work, but, because of the skyrocketing cost of health care, their employers are forced to cut coverage and, in some cases, close altogether.

This is a uniquely American problem with a uniquely American solution. We should support health care reform now.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with almost 16 million people unemployed and looking for work, with an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, something we haven't seen in 26 years, with countless Americans asking, Where are the jobs, why is the Democratic leadership ramming through a health care bill that will not add one net job to the American economy?

In fact, the majority's bill will do the exact opposite. It will impose \$729 billion in new taxes, crushing small business. For those small businesses that manage to survive the new taxes, their employees will be required to have insurance or face yet another tax. Mr. Speaker, this has got to stop. Americans do not want higher taxes. Americans do not want higher premiums, and Americans do not want this massive government health care takeover bill.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

(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, the taxpayers of this country want to know if the people who work for them, who were hired last November to serve here the people's House are really listening to what they've been saying.

Appropriately enough, this started back on tax day, April 15. Tens of thousands, perhaps millions, began to speak with one voice about the spending, the borrowing, the rising unemployment as well as the ever-expanding role of the Federal Government into our daily lives.

In August, even yesterday they turned out en masse, speaking as loud

as they could from the very steps of this grand old historic building, begging, pleading, please honor the freedoms and liberties that generations of Americans have fought and even died for. Republicans have heard that message, and we agree with you. We know you are right.

Mr. Speaker, your party is in control of this Congress, but the American people will have the final say. Are you listening?

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you comments from my constituents in the First Congressional District of Virginia about H.R. 3962:

Elizabeth from Williamsburg says, My business ends up with an 8 percent margin so an 8 percent of payroll contribution rate would be significant.

Esther from Williamsburg says, Keep our government small. Bigger isn't better.

Sandra from Seaford says, I want to choose my own health insurance.

Beverly from Woodford says, I am happy with my health care right now and do not want to see it changed. I do not want the government involved in my health care.

Diana from Yorktown says, Don't vote for a bill that would unfairly burden many generations to come.

Bruce from Warrenton says, The health care legislation now pending will surely break the bank of this country in addition to destroying the finest health care system in the world.

Connie from Dumfries says, I am concerned that some legislation in Congress will create a new government-run health plan that will cause me to lose my current employer coverage. I want to be sure that I can keep my current coverage, and I urge you to oppose any new government-run health insurance plan.

Chester from Williamsburg says, I object to the government taking control of my private health care decision.

PELOSI BILL WILL FUND ABORTIONS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, health care reform should not be used as an opportunity to use Federal funds to pay for elective abortions. Health reform should be an opportunity to protect human life, not end it. House Speaker NANCY PELOSI is proposing a 2,032-page government takeover of health care that directs the new government-run plan to cover elective abortions. There is no getting around it. Under Speaker's PELOSI's government takeover of health care, Federal funds will be used to pay for abortions

under the government-run plan and to subsidize individual plans that include abortion.

As an alternative to Speaker PELOSI's bill, House Republicans are offering a commonsense, responsible solution that would reduce health care costs and expand access while protecting the dignity of all human life. The Republican plan would codify the Hyde amendment and prohibit all authorized and appropriated Federal funds from being used to pay for abortions.

Under the Republican plan, any health plan that includes abortion coverage may not receive Federal funds. As a doctor with more than 30 years' experience, I will be voting "no" on the Pelosi health care bill that will destroy life instead of protect it.

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 rise today in support of the Republican health care bill. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates the Republican alternative will decrease health insurance premiums up to 10 percent. Compare that to Speaker PELOSI's government-controlled health insurance plan, which CBO estimates will have higher premiums than those currently available in the private health insurance market. Higher premiums than currently available.

The medical liability reform Republicans are offering will reduce health care costs for Americans by \$54 billion over 10 years by reducing junk lawsuits. This, again, according to the CBO. What's more, the Republican alternative will reduce the deficit by \$68 billion without increasing taxes by one red cent. We have a clear choice—\$700 billion in new taxes, 118 new bureaucracies and higher health care costs or the Republican bill which will take meaningful steps toward the true health care reform that we know we need.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, this week marks a defining moment for this Congress and our Nation. With an \$11.9 trillion debt that continues to grow as government encroaches into every aspect of our lives, we're being asked to vote on a 1,990-page health care reform bill that has a nearly \$1 trillion price tag, adding to the government's long-term deficit problem which will be passed on to our children and grandchildren.

It includes a government option in which bureaucrats in Washington will decide what health care Americans may receive. It would increase the