

the insurance premiums should be put into a special medical spending account for those on all government and private insurance programs who would, in turn, be able to use tax-free funds for discretionary health care purchases. This would be the first step in turning patients into savvy health care consumers. As they save money for themselves, they will save it for the health care system at large, thus bending the cost curve downward.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, yesterday I held a town hall in Statesville, North Carolina, to hear from my constituents about health care reform. One thing was abundantly clear: they do not want this bill, and they're sick and tired of the backroom deals and provisions that have characterized this process. They wanted health care reform, but they were vehemently opposed to the Senate bill.

My constituents are asking me, if this is such a wonderful bill, why is the majority resorting to tricks and sleight of hand to get it passed? If this bill is so great, why not have a regular vote? The answer is simple: this is not a bill the American people want. Some Members acknowledge that.

Madam Speaker, we should listen to the American people. We should take an incremental approach to health care reform that the American people can support.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, as we are here today on the House floor, at this very moment the Democratic leadership of the House of Representatives is smiling and dialing. They are calling Members of Congress on the other side of the aisle, cajoling them and coaxing them and urging them to do the equivalent of really political bungee jumping, but they don't know how long the cord is. They are saying, You be the first one to jump off. We're going to vote for this Senate bill, and you are going to trust in the Senate to take it up and fix it. Or alternatively, even worse, we're not going to have a final vote on this bill.

Can you imagine a process that is this manipulated that is at this high stakes, literally the Federal Government taking over one-sixth of the economy really in the twinkling of an eye? And it is as if the Democratic leaders are telling the American public, Oh, look, we have got a wonderful plan for your life. You are just going to love it. We are going to vote on it, and then we'll let you read it.

Madam Speaker, we can do better. The American public demands that we do better, to vote "no" and start over.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to not only the Democrats' health care proposal but to the outrageous process by which the majority intends to ram this bill through the House while denying Members of Congress an up-or-down vote on the bill. This morning's Cincinnati Enquirer declared what Americans all over this country are saying: "This disgusting process, which Democrats brazenly wish to bring to conclusion this week, is being done with little regard for the opinions of a clear majority of Americans who, while they may believe health care reform is necessary, think this particular approach will take our Nation down the wrong economic path."

American families want health care reform that will expand access and choices and decrease costs. The Democrats' health care bill includes tax increases, Medicare cuts, job-killing mandates, and higher premiums. This bill is nothing more than the same government-run insurance mandates and taxes the American people have overwhelmingly rejected. This bill must be killed. We must start over.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, when I was driving into work last Friday, I heard the Governor of Arizona on the news saying that her State already faces its biggest deficit ever, over \$3 billion. She said they had calculated that the health care bill would cost an additional \$4 billion that they simply do not have.

Because Tennessee already covers more than most States, our Democratic Governor, nonetheless, said it would cost out State from \$750 million up to \$3 billion more. Most States are in far worse shape than Tennessee or Arizona, yet much of this bill is paid for by forcing millions more onto State and Medicaid rolls. In yesterday's Washington Post, columnist Robert Samuelson said the bill "evades health care's major problems and would worsen the budget outlook." He wrote that "It's a big new spending program when government hasn't paid for the spending programs it already has."

Madam Speaker, even if this program were the greatest thing since sliced bread, the fact is that we simply cannot afford it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HARPER. Madam Speaker, late last night, the House Budget Committee approved the reconciliation shell bill with two Democratic Members joining all Republicans in opposing this enormous entitlement expansion, and we still do not know what changes the Speaker will bring forward.

The President has asked Congress to hold an up-or-down vote on the Senate's so-called health care reform proposal. Let's have that vote. The President has argued the Democrats need courage to pass this one-size-fits-all government takeover of health care. But where's the courage in hiding behind procedural chaos like the Slaughter solution? No matter what anyone says, a "yes" vote on the reconciliation bill is a vote for the Senate's flawed trillion-dollar bill containing kickbacks, like the Cornhusker kickback and the Louisiana purchase, and allows for Federal funding for abortion.

The bottom line is this health care bill is so bad that the Democrats have to resort to trickery. I will not support a bill that will increase families' insurance premiums and force hundreds of millions of dollars in unfunded mandates to my home State of Mississippi. I will not support this abusive use of the reconciliation process, and I will not support the bogus procedures that are being used to hide from the American people. I urge you to oppose this legislation.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, this year I replaced town hall meetings in my district with listening sessions. I go to hear what my constituents have to teach me and to teach this body. They want us to know that the process matters to them. Some of my colleagues like to say that it doesn't make any difference, but my constituents know that when legislation is negotiated in the backroom, that America loses. They know that in the back rooms, stimulus bills turn into pork bills, bailout bills turn into just more debt, and energy bills turn into taxes.

Today, hundreds of Americans are walking the halls of this building, asking us to stop this outrageous government takeover of health care and take health reform step by step and structure a system that lets them out of this broken system, not locks them into it permanently. I hear them, Madam Speaker, and I certainly hope that this Chamber hears them.