

care, this nomination has only reignited the debate over the Democratic health care plan. By recess appointing a man who has sung the praises of the government-run British health care service, the administration is only inviting Americans to ask more questions about its own plans.

I would have thought that anyone would be able to understand the significance of getting answers from an avowed admirer of rationed care before putting him in charge of implementing this administration's \$500 billion Medicare cut.

But by denying the American people an opportunity to hear Dr. Berwick defend his past statements and his future plans, the administration is now forcing the Democrats who voted for the Democratic health care plan to defend Dr. Berwick and his views themselves. The administration may have shielded this nominee temporarily, but it has only exposed Democrats in Congress who voted for this bill and everything that follows from it—including this truly outrageous appointment.

This appointment is the latest evidence of how little the administration has concerned itself with the views of the public. When a majority of Americans and an overwhelming majority of Kentuckians opposed its health care plan, they cut deals with Democratic Senators to squeeze it through Congress. Now they are not even bothering with Congress. They are unilaterally installing people such as Dr. Berwick to take charge of its plan for $\frac{3}{2}$ trillion in Medicare cuts.

This has been the administration's approach all along: Go around the American people, and now go around Congress. The administration can try to blame Republicans for a debate they do not want to have. But by denying Congress the ability to scrutinize this nominee, it only raises Americans' suspicions about its health care plan and increases the burden on Democrats who supported it.

Back in March, Speaker PELOSI remarked that we would have to pass the health care bill to find out what is in it. This nomination is part of the same arrogant approach. The same administration that forced this bill on an unwilling public has now forced Don Berwick on to anyone with Medicare and Medicaid. Now Democrats who voted for this bill will have to answer for his statements and for his views.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business, with Senator permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Illinois.

HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the speech which the Senate just heard from the minority leader on the Republican side is consistent with the Republican position on health care reform. They opposed it. They voted against it. They want it to fail. They do not want to give this health care reform a chance.

It is interesting that although they oppose health care reform, I have yet to hear the first Republican Senator come to the floor and suggest: Well, the first thing we need to do is to make sure we eliminate—eliminate—the tax credits and deductions for America's small businesses to help pay for health insurance that were part of the health care reform plan.

I have never heard them say that. They opposed the plan. Do they oppose the help we are going to give small businesses across America to afford health insurance for their employees? That is what repeal is all about.

Secondly, I have never heard a Republican Senator come to the floor and say: We want to repeal the \$250 check which will be sent to thousands of Americans currently under Social Security, Medicare prescription Part D, to help pay for the gap in coverage in the so-called doughnut hole. That was part of the health care reform plan. So those who come to the floor asking for repeal of health care reform obviously want to repeal this check for senior citizens. I have not heard that said one time.

I have also been waiting for the Republicans who want to repeal health care reform to stand before the Senate and say, honestly, openly: We want to eliminate health care insurance coverage for 30 million Americans who will have it for the first time in their lives—30 million uninsured Americans who will have health care insurance coverage because of health care reform. To repeal health care reform is to repeal that coverage for 30 million Americans.

I have yet to hear the first Republican come to the floor and say they want to repeal extending health insurance coverage and the peace of mind that comes with it. I am waiting for the first Republican who wants to repeal health care reform to stand before the Senate and say: We want to take away the power given in this health care reform to individuals so they can fight health care insurance companies that turn down coverage for families because of preexisting conditions. It happens every day in Illinois, in Oregon, in Arizona, in Kentucky.

The bill we passed gives American families a fighting chance against those health insurance companies. Those who are calling for repeal want to take away the power of families to fight for health insurance coverage when they need it the most.

I have yet to hear the first Republican who calls for repeal of health care reform go to families with kids in college and tell them: We oppose that provision in health care reform which extends family health insurance coverage for young people until they reach the age of 26. Those of us who have raised college-aged students know that is a blessing to have those kids—I call them kids—those young people under your family health care plan after they graduate from college until they reach the age of 26—a period of time when some of them are off taking a trip of a lifetime after graduation or looking for a job and do not have health insurance coverage.

I can recall calling my daughter Jennifer: "This is Dad. I am so happy you graduated from college. Do you have health insurance?" "Oh, Dad, I feel fine. You know, I'm healthy and strong." "No, Jennifer. You need health insurance."

The law we passed, the health insurance we passed, is going to give a family coverage to protect their kids until the age of 26. Those who want to repeal it want to undo that provision. But I have yet to hear them say that on the floor.

They have a different strategy. Senator DEMINT of South Carolina made it clear when the health care reform debate started that the purpose of the Republican effort was to defeat health care reform. In his words: We want health care reform to be Barack Obama's Waterloo in politics. He was very clear. They wanted the President to fail, they wanted health care reform to fail, and they still do. Their latest strategy was to stop the President from putting in place a person to run the program—someone who would try to make it work, someone who would look at the things we have done in Congress and make sure they work in the real world.

Last week, President Obama made a very sensible move, after waiting patiently for the Republicans to give us a chance to vote on a man to serve and to oversee Medicare and Medicaid as Administrator of CMS. His name is Dr. Donald Berwick.

CMS has been without a permanent Administrator since 2006, and it is time this important position be held and filled for the good of American families. This man, Dr. Berwick, is eminently qualified for this role. He is a Harvard pediatrician and policy expert who was committed to improving health care long before our debate started and who today is one of the foremost experts and leaders in health care quality and patient safety. The President appointed him last week when we were gone because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, the Republicans, had made it clear they intended to elongate this debate on his appointment as long as possible, to rehash argument after argument instead of just giving us an up-or-down vote to let this man serve the Nation