

HEALTH INSURANCE REPEAL

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, yesterday's action of repealing the health care reform, cynically called the Job-Killing Health Care Act by my friends on the other side of the aisle, is definitely an ironic misnomer—job killing—when the health reform is poised to create 4 million new jobs. The number of jobs created by repeal? Zero.

So we're not about protecting jobs on the other side of the aisle. We are about protecting insurance companies' bottom line.

REMEMBERING ASHLEY TURTON

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Ashley Turton. Ashley had an incredible career both in the public and private sectors and was respected by so very many people of every political persuasion. She was a wonderful mother of three children, and her death is especially difficult for those of us on Capitol Hill because we got to know Ashley through her work as ROSA DELAURO's chief of staff. She was part of our family. She was a woman of great skill and a woman of great personality.

We also know her husband, Dan Turton, who also worked on the Hill for many years and served as the chief of staff to the House Rules Committee. He currently works for the White House.

I attended, along with hundreds and hundreds of others, Ashley's memorial service last Friday here in Washington, DC. Those who eulogized Ashley captured her spirit, her determination, and her great compassion.

She was a remarkable woman and will never be forgotten. And our prayers are with Dan and Ashley's family.

INSTRUCTING CERTAIN COMMITTEES TO REPORT LEGISLATION REPLACING THE JOB-KILLING HEALTH CARE LAW

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 26, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 9) instructing certain committees to report legislation replacing the job-killing health care law, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 9

Resolved, That the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Ways and Means, shall each report to the House

legislation proposing changes to existing law within each committee's jurisdiction with provisions that—

(1) foster economic growth and private sector job creation by eliminating job-killing policies and regulations;

(2) lower health care premiums through increased competition and choice;

(3) preserve a patient's ability to keep his or her health plan if he or she likes it;

(4) provide people with pre-existing conditions access to affordable health coverage;

(5) reform the medical liability system to reduce unnecessary and wasteful health care spending;

(6) increase the number of insured Americans;

(7) protect the doctor-patient relationship;

(8) provide the States greater flexibility to administer Medicaid programs;

(9) expand incentives to encourage personal responsibility for health care coverage and costs;

(10) prohibit taxpayer funding of abortions and provide conscience protections for health care providers;

(11) eliminate duplicative government programs and wasteful spending; or,

(12) do not accelerate the insolvency of entitlement programs or increase the tax burden on Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 26, the resolution is debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules or their designees. The amendment printed in part B of House Report 112-2, if offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) or his designee, shall be considered read, and shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today we begin the process of implementing health care reform. I underscore that. Implementing health care reform is what we begin today.

This resolution, H. Res. 9, initiates the second step of a two-part process, which, as we all know with the 245-189 vote last night, saw repeal of the health care bill.

Having taken that action to wipe the slate clean, we're now moving on to the far more challenging task of crafting real solutions for the American people to ensure that we can drive down the costs of health insurance and health care.

This resolution instructs the four committees of jurisdiction to draft legislation that brings about meaningful health care reforms. Furthermore, this resolution lays out 12 clear guidelines that define what real reform is. Some of these guidelines are simply common-sense principles, such as the need for reform that doesn't hurt job creation or the need to eliminate duplicative wasteful spending.

But if there is one overarching principle for true reform, it's that we cannot pick winners and losers. Real reform must be accessible to every American.

If a family is forced to give up a health plan that is working for them, can we call that reform? If a small business must lay off employees to comply with new mandates, can we call that reform? If a doctor is forced to close her family practice because the cost of malpractice insurance is prohibitive, can we call that reform? If government bureaucrats make decisions that should be left to doctors and patients, can we call that reform, Madam Speaker? Obviously not.

Our goal is to increase access to quality health care for every single American, including those with preexisting conditions. H. Res. 9, that we're going to be considering here today, puts us on the path to do just that.

As I said at the outset, this is a tremendous challenge. Achieving the goal of meaningful health care reform, which we all share, will demand an open and collaborative process. The four committees of jurisdiction have a great deal of work ahead of them. This is a process in which we all must contribute—Democrats and Republicans alike.

We have good ideas that are coming from both sides of the aisle, and I believe that they will be considered through this deliberative process. These ideas must be shared, analyzed, and debated. If we all participate in this open and transparent process, I believe that we can address the health care challenges that we face in an effective and meaningful way.

Ultimately, we all hope to arrive at the same place. We all share the same goal, that is, access to quality care for all. That's what House Republicans want to achieve, and that's what my Democratic colleagues want to achieve as well. And that's what President Obama wants to achieve. We all have our own views on how we get there.

□ 0920

In this body alone we have 435 views on the best way to reform our health care system. We owe the American people nothing short of a rigorous and thorough debate. But if we conduct that debate in good faith, Madam Speaker, grounded in the recognition that we all hope to achieve the same outcome, I believe that we, in a bipartisan way, Democrats and Republicans together, can come up with real solutions.

Now, we saw the day before yesterday that the President said that he is willing and eager to work with Republicans on the issue of health care. That's a sentiment that I, and I know my colleagues on this side of the aisle, share wholeheartedly. This resolution, H. Res. 9, puts us on a path towards doing just that. It will begin this critically important process.

So I hope very much that we will have strong, bipartisan support for this resolution. I will say that we have an amendment that will be coming forward, a Democratic amendment that the Rules Committee has made in