

don't want a government takeover of health care.

If you listen to the American people, what they're saying very loudly and clearly is scrap this bill. Let's go back to the table and start over again.

Now, Speaker PELOSI and her liberal lieutenants might run Congress, but the American people run this country, and their voices will be heard.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, every time I hear a Republican talking about health care reform, they say the American people don't want it. They say it so much that I think they're beginning to try to convince themselves that it's true. But there's a national poll that shows what the real story is.

They asked, of all the people who are opposed to health care or say they are, how many are opposed to it because they don't think it goes far enough. Forty percent. Almost 40 percent said that was the reason. They will not be unhappy when we pass health care reform. They will be ecstatic, like the shopkeeper I talked to over Christmas who said she was against what we're doing because she has diabetes and she can't wait 4 years for the help she needs.

No, the American people will applaud us when we pass comprehensive health care reform, and I will consider it the proudest moment of my service.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, as I walk across back and forth from the Cannon Building to come to this Chamber, there is a wall in the steam tunnel of all of these different pictures that are painted by our high school students, and one continues to arrest my progress.

A beautiful little redheaded girl about 17 years old who looks like my daughter, and has beautiful lighting on her face. And as you look into her face, she has a profound sadness there. And the thought has crossed my mind that that's how my daughters will look if this bill passes with government rationing of health care, with the budget busted, with the destruction of our economy, and unemployment out of control.

We need to fix health care, but we don't need to destroy American health care or the American economy. That would be sad indeed.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Members, we, as Members of Congress, this week have a choice. We have a choice between voting with the people who need health care or voting with the insurance corporations who have fouled this system up for decades.

The bill that we're going to deal with, the consumers select their insurance plan and their company. Consumers select their doctors. Consumers make treatment decisions with their doctors. Consumers will keep coverage they have if they change their jobs.

The insurance companies will have less control. Insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage or revoke coverage for preexisting conditions. Insurance companies will no longer be allowed to cap medical costs that people run into all the time for treatment. Insurance companies will no longer be allowed to drop coverage when you get sick. Insurance companies will have to compete for business.

That's why we have a choice. Whose side is your Member of Congress on, with the people who need health care or the ones who want to sell it?

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mrs. LUMMIS. The gentleman from Missouri earlier gave a lovely image, and I would like to use image as well. I would like to use the image of President Obama saying over and over and over to the American people, "If you like your health insurance, you can keep it." And this bill does not fulfill the President's promise.

Yesterday in the House Budget Committee we worked for 8 hours to instruct the Rules Committee on how to make this a better bill. And we asked them to make the President's promise come true, to pass an amendment that says if you like your health insurance you can keep it. And that was killed on a party-line vote, with all of the Republicans voting to help the President fulfill his promise to the American people and the Democrats voting against it. This bill does not fulfill the President's promise that if you like your insurance you can keep it.

I urge that we kill this misguided health care bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. POLIS. In listening to this debate back and forth, I can't help but be struck by the fact that many of the arguments from the other side of the aisle are simply not arguments against this health care bill. I have heard people rail against a government takeover

of health care. Well, this bill actually helps reduce the number of people that depend on government programs for their health care. This bill will help end reliance on government for health care.

I have heard people say that this is somehow a rush to get to a bill. Well, we have been working on this for well over a year. When we first started over a year ago, I had calls to my office saying, "Why are you going so quickly? Why don't you slow down and get it right?" Now I am getting a lot of calls to my office saying, "Pass health care already. It's all you've been talking about."

It is time to pass this bill because what is in it is popular with the American people: letting kids and young people stay on their parents' policy until they are 26, ending pricing discrimination based upon preexisting conditions, helping make insurance more affordable for people who are self-employed and in small businesses. That is what is in this bill, and that is what the American people support.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, since the founding of this great country, representatives of the people have come to this floor, this Chamber, to debate legislation and either vote for it or against it. If you support legislation, stand up and support it. If you are opposed to it, stand up and oppose it.

But today's Washington Post says that House Speaker NANCY PELOSI suggested Monday that she might attempt to pass the health care bill without having Members vote on it. Instead, she would rely on a procedural sleight of hand: The House would vote on a more popular piece of legislation, but under the House rule for that vote, passage would signify that lawmakers "deem" the health care bill to be passed. Speaker PELOSI added that she prefers this tactic because it would politically protect lawmakers who are reluctant to publicly support the health care bill. She says, "It's more insider and process-oriented than most people want to know, but I like it because people don't have to vote on the health care bill."

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. My voice is not quite clear, but I hope, Madam Speaker, that you can hear me.

We are hearing so much talk, and you know why? Because we are at a point where we are going to choose consumers over insurance companies. And it is time for that to happen. Insurance companies have held this public hostage for many years, controlling

them. When we talk about rationing, that is who is rationing. They tell the physicians what to do, they tell the hospitals what to do. It is time to take the insurance companies out of control and let the people have their right to pick their health care.

We have always said if you have a health care plan you like, keep it. We are trying to make sure that the people that the insurance companies will not insure or will drop get a chance to have health insurance. This is misplaced anger because these insurance companies are spending a million dollars a day to kill this bill. And their cheering squad is right over here to my left.

We have got to do this for the people. It is time for the people to have a choice in their health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, what part of "no" don't the Democrats get? They were going to pass this health care bill last September and the American people said "no." They were going to pass it in October and the American people said "no." They said we're going to get it done by Thanksgiving and the American people said "no." Oh, we're going to get it done by Christmas and the American people said "no." We're going to get it done by the State of the Union and the American people said "no." And now they say, oh, we're going to get it done before Easter, and the American people continue to say "no." What part of "no" don't they get?

The American people don't want this big government takeover. They want real reform that will help them, their small businesses, and their families. That is what we should be doing, not taking this over by the government.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Ladies and gentlemen, the question that we have got to ask ourselves this day is whose side are you on? Are you on the insurance companies' side or are you on the American people's side?

Now, ladies and gentlemen, the American people are in pain. There are 13,000 American people who are losing their insurance every day. There are American people who are being denied coverage because of a preexisting condition by insurance companies. Whose side are you on? There are senior citizens who, because of the doughnut hole, cannot have the level of treatment for their prescription drugs that they should have because of the insurance companies. The American people are sick and tired, quite honestly, of being sick and tired of our waiting.

Now, we have had arguments to say why don't we start over. Ladies and gentlemen, the insurance companies aren't starting over. They have already raised the rates in California by 30 percent just 2 weeks ago. The side to be on is the American people's side.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, we talk about reform—we're for reform and you're for reform. But 2,700 pages of what? 2,700 pages. The Bible only has 1,341 pages in it.

Let me give you an example on page 752 of this bill. Let me read it to you:

"Eligibility for non-traditional individuals with income below 133 percent of the Federal poverty level. (1) In general. Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)(10)(A)(i) is amended by striking "or" at the end of subclause (VI); by adding "or" at the end of subclause (VII); and by adding at the end the following new subclause: (VIII) who are under 65 years of age, who are not described in previous subclauses of this clause, and who are in families whose income (determined using methodologies and procedures specified by the Secretary in consultation with the Health Choices Commissioner) does not exceed 133 1/3 percent of the income official poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981).

Now, did anybody understand that?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, I couldn't be more pleased to have spent the last year and a few months working on this issue and to be here this month where we may get the opportunity to vote on this bill.

Because I want to tell you, Madam Speaker, what I hear from my constituents is get this bill done. When are you going to move forward on this? It is not a perfect bill. In fact, 50 percent of the doctors in my State wish we were passing a single-payer health care bill. But this is going to go a long way.

We have heard a lot of talk about process. When are we going to talk about the process of insurance companies? The process that denies my constituents coverage because of a preexisting condition. The times I hear from people who say their health care was cut off. And in my State, where Anthem Blue Cross wants to continually raise rates. You know, last year they asked for a 23 percent increase. When our insurance commissioner said no, you know what they did? They sued the State of Maine.

Well, I am ready to make sure that we are standing for our constituents, passing this health care bill, and doing away with the bad process of the insurance companies.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, this week March Madness comes to college basketball teams as teams across America meet in the NCAA Tournament. And this week March Madness also comes to this House in the culmination of this health care debate.

The American people have watched as this bill has lumbered forward for the past year, and they have been outraged by both the substance and the process. The American people want jobs, Madam Speaker, but this bill is funded with job-killing tax increases.

Seniors need the protection of Medicare, but this bill cuts \$500 billion from that vital program. We all want freedom, of course, but this bill includes an unconstitutional mandate requiring individuals to purchase government-approved health care or face taxes, fines, or even jail.

The American people have been outraged at the vote buying epitomized by the Louisiana Purchase, the Cornhusker Kickback, and Gator Aid. And now the Democratic leadership is preparing to pass this bill without actually voting on it and deeming the bill passed through trickery.

It is time to end Washington's version of March Madness and do what the American people are asking us to do, and that is to start over with a clean sheet of paper and look for real health care reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am from Ohio's Sixth District, my district is in Appalachian Ohio, and we have a large population of seniors and retirees, so I'm truly interested in how this reform bill strengthens Medicare. If we don't do anything, the Medicare trust fund is projected to be insolvent by 2016. Medicare takes care of our seniors, but it is high time that we take care of Medicare.

The health care reform bill keeps Medicare solvent for 9 more years. We extend that timeline by finally getting tough on the waste in Medicare. So as we make services better for seniors, we also fight fraud and waste.

The inspector general of the Health and Human Services Department has found a number of problems in Medicare with false claims for wheelchairs and orthotics, and overcharging for devices and prescription drugs. We need