this legislation, we're going to say we're going to require medical school education to have education teaching all doctors to recognize this.

That is what is important in this legislation, and I am pleased to ask my colleagues that they ought to support this legislation so that we can finally have justice for all in health care in this country.

□ 1100

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, this week, it is still uncertain as to whether we are going to have an opportunity to vote on a health care proposal before we go home for the August recess. And I would just suggest, Madam Speaker, that what we do is ensure that we have absolute transparency, the capability of every Member to look at whatever bill comes to this floor—we have been told that the bill may be in excess of 1,000 pages—that we have an opportunity to have a full debate and full amendments to be debated on the floor.

And why do I say this? Because many people would say that would be what is to be expected. Unfortunately, over the last several months, we have had an experience in this House in which we have had major pieces of legislation brought to this floor, in some cases the bill itself with very little notice, in other cases huge 300-page amendments being dropped on us at the last minute.

We have had some suggest that it is unnecessary for Members of Congress to read the bill or have their staffs read the bill or understand the parts of the bill; rather, we are told, ''just trust us.'' Well, I remember Ronald Reagan's very important admonition, which was ''trust, but verify.''

If we are being asked to alter approximately 18 percent of the entire United States economy, if we are being asked to change in fundamental ways the delivery of health care to the men, women and children of this country, if we are being told that what we are going to do is going to inalterably change Medicare and Medicaid, if we are being told that what we are embarking on this week is to fundamentally change the manner in which men, women and children of this country receive their health care, if we are to be told that we must make a decision this week as to what the relationship between the doctor and the patient ought to be, if we are being told that we will have to make choices as to whether or not the government shall insert itself between the doctor and the patient, if we are being told that the President believes that there are doctors—the generalization was most doctors would require a tonsillectomy for a young person rather than continue treatment of a cheaper kind to take care of sore throats, if we are being told that we have to review the entire health care system of the United States, compare it to Canada, compare it to England, compare it to France, compare it to Sweden, compare it to the ideal, if we are being told that this week we have to make the decision as to whether or not the program we put forward will have government decide whether a 100-year-old woman who is in extraordinarily good health but needs a pacemaker ought to instead be told by the government that merely she should take a pain pill—as the President suggested on television not too long ago—then maybe we owe it to the American people to give ourselves sufficient time. Rather than have some sort of artificial deadline, maybe we ought to take the time to go back to our districts and present the arguments to our constituents and at least give them an opportunity to tell us in our town hall meetings, tell us in our tele-town halls, tell us in our meetings with various groups as to what they think ought to be done.

Why would we have a rush to judgment here, other than the fact that we have an August recess, other than the fact that the President said that we must pass it by a date certain? Shouldn't we take the time to do the work that the American people expect us of, particularly when it deals with something so precious, so personal, so important as their health?

And so I hope that, rather than meet some artificial deadline, we will take the time to allow the American people to see the bill in all of its glory, to see its good points and its bad points, to see whether we ought to change it, alter it in any way, and then come back and make a decision here for the American people. There are very few issues that are as fundamentally important as this issue. Let's make sure we do it right.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to take the floor after PATRICK KENNEDY from Rhode Island, who, along with his father, Senator EDWARD KENNEDY, have devoted so much of their careers, their emotions, their passion to resolving the health care problems in this country.

And as we talk about health care and reforming our system, we talk a lot about billions and billions of dollars, we talk about government agencies, we talk about the politics of it, but at its core this issue isn't about any of those things. This is about human beings. This is about men, women and their families and trying to help them deal with health care crises, wellness issues, things that every American has to deal with.

Yesterday, in southern Indiana, right across from my district, a subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee held a field hearing in which we were able to see the face of this issue, three people who came before us to tell their stories about how the health care system in America has failed them.

One of them was a constituent from my district, Patricia Reilling. Patricia is a small businessperson. For 20 years she was insured under a small business policy by the same company. She paid her bills every month religiously. The only claim she ever made was for some pain killers for a back injury. And then, last year she was found to have breast cancer. She had a double mastectomy. She contracted a staph infection while she was in the hospital. And while all that is going on, she received notice from her insurance company that they were not going to renew her policy as of June 30 of this year. She is still fighting that staph infection. She is unable to work. And she is still fighting without insurance because the only insurance available to her now is far beyond her means to pay. She is the real person, and someone whose situation could be replicated in any household across this country if we don't do something about reforming our insurance system.

Another woman who was at the hearing yesterday was Ms. Beaton from Dallas, Texas. Ms. Beaton is 59. She had an individual policy. She also contracted breast cancer, had a double mastectomy, except before she could have that operation the insurance company rescinded her policy, basically said we know we insured you, but because there was a notation in something in a medical chart years ago that referred to a skin issue—namely, pimples—and somebody misinterpreted it as saying it was precancerous, which the doctor denied, we are not covering your cancer treatment. Fortunately, Congressman BARTON from Texas intervened on her behalf and was able to eventually get her policy reinstated. But by the time it was, her tumors had grown by more than 300 percent in size, and the treatment that she got was vastly more complicated and more expensive than it ever needed to be. These are the faces of the insurance crisis, the health crisis that we face, and we have to change our system.

Fourteen thousand Americans lose their health insurance every day. It could be any one of us. And you know what? In that situation that we heard about yesterday, that has recurred. Three insurance companies testified before Congress a month ago; three insurance companies rescinded 20,000 policies over the last 5 years, did what they did to Ms. Beaton. They saved $300 million by doing that, but that was only the cost of the care they denied, the claims they refused to pay, not the prospective cost of covering and treating all of those illnesses, which would have been in the billions of dollars.

So as we debate health care over the next week, over the next few months, let's remember that it is more than about money, it is more than about government agencies, it is more than about process, this is about American human beings and their only simple desire to have quality, affordable care. That is what we are about, and that is what we intend to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

How deep are the mysteries and the wisdom of Your presence, O Lord God. How inscrutable are Your judgments and how unsearchable Your ways.

For who knows the mind of the Lord? Or who has ever been Your counselor? Who has ever offered You anything that was not already a gift given by Your creation?

For all is from You, all is because of You, and all is destined for You. To You be all glory, honor and power both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy once said, ''Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.''

Immigrants take this question to heart. Not only do they ask what they can do for their country, but they also ask what they can do for their communities and for their families as well. Simply put, immigrants are one of the hardest working groups in America, regardless of legal status. Their willingness to work and to gain assimilation into American society and culture greatly benefits our country.

This month in Iraq, 237 foreign-born U.S. servicemembers became citizens of this country. This is a key example of the level of dedication—I state ''dedication''—and service that immigrants give to America.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work with President Obama and with CHC to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats in Congress don't want the American people to see this chart. This is the chart that outlines the Democrat proposal, which is moving through the House of Representatives, that contains as many as 53 new Federal programs, agencies and commissions. That's right. They're trying to restrict Members of Congress from showing this to their constituents. They say it's misleading. Well, there's nothing misleading about it. They just don't want anyone to see it.

Well, here it is. I'm using it. Are they going to turn out the lights? Are they going to turn off the cameras? Why don't they want the American people to see this?

Well, I think the American people deserve the truth about the Democrats' $1.6 trillion takeover of our health care system—more bureaucracy and more taxes, more mandates and more government involvement in your life. Guess what? It also means less jobs for Americans.

According to a model developed by the President's own Council of Economic Advisers' chairperson, this proposal will cost Americans some 5.5 million jobs over the next 10 years. The National Federation of Independent Business says that at least 1 million small business jobs will be lost. Over the weekend, even the Congressional Budget Office made it clear that this will cost low-wage workers an opportunity to get a job.

Listen, after the stimulus hasn't worked, most of my constituents are continuing to ask the question: Where are the jobs? We have a stimulus bill that's not working. We have a national energy tax bill that came through here last month that will cost millions of Americans their jobs. While this will ruin the health care system that we enjoy in America, let's not forget that it will cost us millions of American jobs when most Americans continue to want to know: Where are the jobs?

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BAN THE BURNING OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 47. This is the House joint resolution for the constitutional amendment to ban the burning of the American flag.

For 232 years, the Stars and Stripes have been a unique symbol of freedom and democracy across the world. It is the embodiment of all we are and of all we stand for as a Nation. Millions of our young men and women, including my father and uncles, bravely and selflessly defended their country under that flag. Every day, our servicemembers risk their lives in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe to protect the ideals it represents.

To burn or to desecrate our flag, even in political protest, is an affront to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and to the many others who have served.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution. I urge all of my colleagues, regardless of party, to join me.

JOBS FIRST

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

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, in these desperate economic times, Congress must undertake all of its actions with a watchful eye toward the effects on job creation; yet this, unmistakably, has not been the case.

From the stimulus bill that just did not get it right, to the cap-and-trade legislation, to now the ongoing effort to pass a health care bill on the backs of small business, the majority has put jobs on the back burner to muscle through an agenda, frankly, that is anathema to the American people. Slapping an additional 8 percent payroll tax on struggling small businesses that can't afford to pay for insurance doesn't create jobs; it kills them. Imposing a 5 percent surtax on small businesses, on America's producers, doesn't hasten our recovery; it prolongs it.

The American people deserve an agenda that puts jobs first. That is why we ask the majority to work with us. Republicans do have a plan that can expand affordable coverage in health care. It will allow you to keep what you have and not do it by squeezing small business.

I urge the majority to begin this with us. Let's start over. Let's get it right for the American people.

CRAFTING BIPARTISAN HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATION

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