HEALTH CARE REFORM IS DISASTER

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, health care reform is a disaster. The cost of the Democrat health care bill is $1.5 trillion, and we still don't know how they intend to pay for it. That is on top of the fact that the Democrats have spent nearly $1 trillion on the stimulus to create jobs that we have yet to see, plus $400 billion on a so-called emergency spending bill.

They doled out billions to the auto industry, billions to Wall Street, and a whopping $182 billion to AIG. And that is on top of the $700 billion housing rescue. And now they want a $1.5 trillion health care plan.

The problem with our health care system isn't that we don't spend enough; it is that we spend it inefficiently. We can and we must do better for our children and our grandchildren.

America, let's stop the red ink now.

HELP WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, over 45 million people in America have no health insurance, and over 8 million of them are children. Millions more don't have enough health insurance; that is dramatic, but abstract.

Let me make it more real and tell you about two of these people I met in Hawaii last week. One woman told me that she is self-employed and pays all of her taxes. She works hard, but for her entire life she has taken care of herself because she can't afford health care. For years she self-treated a busted knee. It finally got to the point she had to see a doctor, but she couldn't afford it. She did something nobody should ever have to do: she used a friend's insurance card to get the care she needed.

Another man bravely told me he was homeless. He doesn't fit the stereotype. He has a college degree and works two jobs. One of his job provides him with health insurance, but he cannot afford the 20 percent copay. He needs that money to buy food for his wife and children, and to buy gasoline to drive his car to work. So he goes without regular doctor visits and hopes for the best.

These people aren't asking for a handout. They are asking for a little bit of help. It is time we provided it.

THE GREEN RELIGION SUPPRESSES FREE SPEECH

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the most toxic atmosphere today is the political climate. At the EPA, scientists are not allowed to disagree with the rabid dogma about climate change.

Recently, Alan Carlin, a 35-year veteran scientist at the EPA, issued a report that challenged the theory of global warming. Carlin pointed out serious problems with the science used to draw false EPA conclusions. He revealed new research that contradicts dire predictions that mankind is destroying the world. He pointed to evidence that the Earth is actually cooling. The EPA suppressed the report.

Carlin's boss warned him that he had better not talk about the report or disagree with the EPA's green agenda.

The suppression of speech and information undermines the very foundation of self-governance. Yet there is a systematic suppression of information that contradicts what has become a green religion at the EPA.

Thousands of scientists have challenged the claims of global warming. Science is supposed to be about the uncorrupted search for the truth and the facts. The EPA's actions are reminiscent of those who said the Earth was flat and persecuted the ''heretics'' who said it was round.

And that's just the way it is.

WELCOMING AMBASSADOR VASSILIS KASKARELIS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the new Ambassador from Greece to Washington. Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis has a long and distinguished diplomatic career having represented Greece at the U.N., NATO, and the E.U., among other posts. No doubt he will be an excellent partner as we move to strengthen Greek-American relations on issues like Cyprus and the ecumenical patriarch, for example, as well as on Greece's pivotal position in the geopolitics of the region and in the new global economy.

I also congratulate Greece on the recent opening of the spectacular Acropolis Museum. I was honored to represent President Obama and the United States at its inauguration. Built in stone from the region and bathed in natural light reflected from the nearby Aegean, it houses some of the world's greatest antiquities. Accordingly, it cries out for the return of the Parthenon Marbles from the British Museum.

USE WHAT YOU VOTE FOR

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, gradually the details of the Democrat health plan are leaking out to the American people. Call it whatever you like, this proposal is nothing more than a government-run health care plan if it has a government-run option. Interestingly, it exempts Members of Congress from having to join a government-run health care system.

As a physician for many years, I am amazed at the number of Congressmen who have enjoined high-quality, personalized health care in this country but are now willing to force post office-style medicine on our people.

In response to this, I have offered a resolution that will give Members of Congress an opportunity to finally be accountable for the decisions we make and how they affect the lives of ordinary Americans. Most Americans feel that Congressmen who vote for legislation creating a government-run health care plan should lead by example and enroll themselves in the same public plan. I agree with them. As a result, I have introduced House Resolution 615 with a number of cosponsors that simply says that if you vote for a government-run health care option, you agree to choose government-run health care for yourself and your family.

I ask Members of both parties to vote for my resolution.

CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CREATES JOBS

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about how clean energy technology is creating jobs in my district and why we need the Senate to follow our lead and pass the American Clean Energy Security bill to create even more jobs in the Hudson Valley and throughout the country.

Mercury Solar in my district started 3 years ago with five employees and now employs 60 people, expecting to have 80 by year's end.

Spectra Watt, a solar cell manufacturer, will be employing 150 people in their new Dutchess County facility by next year.

Business is growing by leaps and bounds because of the market created by New York's renewable energy requirements, because of the Federal tax incentives that we passed here in Congress and because of the economic stimulus package. But more needs to be done, and that's why we need the Waxman-Markey bill, the Energy and Jobs bill, to be passed by the Senate.

It is time to invest in our future for America to reclaim first place in the field of energy technology and to create the middle class jobs of the 21st century.

I urge the Senate to quickly pass the Waxman-Markey Energy and Jobs bill.

AMERICANS DESERVE REAL PLAN, REAL RECOVERY

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, at the close of last year, it was obvious: America was sliding into a serious recession. And to this very day, the American people are struggling in this difficult economy.

Well, in February, this Democrat Congress passed a $1 trillion stimulus bill, and the results are starting to come in: 1.6 million jobs lost since the stimulus bill was signed. Unemployment was 12.4 million; it is 14.7 million today. The unemployment rate was 7.5 percent; it is 9.5 percent today, the highest in 26 years. And, remarkably, the President last week said that the recovery bill had ''done its job.'' Done its job?

Look, the American people are starting to get wise to the Democrat plan here. They understand the Democrat agenda is nothing more than more government, more debt, more spending, a national energy tax, and a government takeover of health care.

The Republican plan: fiscal discipline for Washington, D.C. and tax relief for working families, small businesses and family farms.

The American people are hurting. They deserve a real plan for a real recovery, not more spending, more taxes, more debt, and more unemployment.

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LET'S FIX OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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

Mr. POLIS. Yesterday, the Senate voted to extend the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico and to expand E-Verify, making this flawed employment verification system both mandatory and permanent for Federal contractors.

The American people don't want to see political posturing; they want to see real, meaningful immigration reform. These provisions attempt to enforce immigration laws without getting to the heart of the issue. Building a bigger wall at the U.S.-Mexico border is going to spend millions of taxpayer dollars and will not stop illegal immigration; reforming our immigration system will.

Forcing Federal contractors to implement a costly employment verification program isn't going to stop illegal immigration. Instead, a mandatory E-Verify clause would force cash-strapped small businesses to make the painful decisions between losing government contracts and spending millions of dollars on a flawed and expensive employment verification system.

It's not that we shouldn't talk about border security or employment verification. We must. These are conversations we need to have as part of a larger debate on comprehensive immigration reform, not as amendments to an appropriations bill. Instead of trying to act tough, Members of Congress should be tough and fix our broken immigration system.

PRESCRIPTION OF THE DAY: PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, here's the problem: Every 6, 12, or 18 months for the last several years, doctors who participate in Medicare, a public option, have faced steep payment cuts, threatening their ability to keep their doors open.

This Congress, and many Congresses before it, instead of biting the bullet and working to find a long-term and permanent solution to the problem, passes short-term fixes, leaving America's doctors uncertain about their ability to continue serving our Nation's seniors and practicing medicine. Doctors need a stable and reasonable predictor of their Medicare reimbursement rates, and the current formula, the Sustainable Growth Rate formula, is flawed and outdated.

For the past several years I have introduced legislation that will correct this formula, and it is incumbent upon this Congress to address this issue. We need a permanent fix. Our doctors are forced to live under the ax of yearly cuts just for the privilege of seeing our Nation's seniors.

Reforms to the system are important. I urge constituents to go to the Web site healthcaucus.org, weigh in on this issue, and stay abreast on all of the health care debates that are going on in this Congress.

THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the role of American energy sources as articulated in the recently passed Clean Energy and Security Act.

The leadership of the minority party claims that this legislation discriminates against energy sources such as coal, nuclear, and hydroelectric power. Nothing could be further from the truth. This act will make historic investments in coal technology. That's the reason that coal-dependent companies like Duke Energy and American Electric Power, as well as the United Mineworkers, have endorsed the bill.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act will strengthen market incentives for nuclear energy by deducting new nuclear from the baseline of renewable electricity standards. That's why Exelon and Entergy, America's first and second largest nuclear energy producers, have endorsed the bill.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act will create strong incentives for new hydroelectric generation when new turbines are placed on existing dams. That's why Pacific Gas and Electric and Seattle City Light, two utilities with substantial investments in hydroelectric, have endorsed the bill.

Mr. Speaker, don't take my word for it. These companies that rely on coal, nuclear, and hydro would not support the bill if it didn't help their industry.

HEALTH CARE'S PUBLIC OPTION

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to see a so-called ''public option'' as a part of any health care reform plan. The key question for any public health option is, would this plan be subsidized with taxpayer money? If not, then the public option would simply be a nonprofit insurance business which anyone could create now. But if taxpayer money will subsidize this option, and I believe it will, the public option will only serve to crowd out other choices.

A public option will not save any money; it will compete and undermine private plans. And I'm afraid many companies will end up dumping employees under the public plan. A public option is nothing more than a back door to government-owned health care which will ultimately result in rationed care and bureaucrats in charge of your health care choices.

COMBATING OBESITY IN AMERICA

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, as I travel throughout my district, the primary concern I hear over and over again from Republicans, Independents, and Democrats, is that we need to reform our Nation's health care system. However, any meaningful reform must begin by taking control over the skyrocketing costs of health care. As a clinical dietitian for 25 years, I know that this can only be achieved with serious commitment to healthy living and combating obesity in America.

A recent study by the National Center for Education Statistics found that one out of every five American 4-year-olds is obese. I would like to repeat that. One out of every five 4-year-olds in America is obese. Why is this a problem? The CDC estimated recently that the total cost of obesity in the United States is $117 billion.

Mr. Speaker, as a Nation, if we are serious about reforming our health care system, we need to get serious about combating obesity. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring healthy living, wellness, and prevention are major components of the final health care bill. The success of our reform depends on it.