LET THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BE HEARD ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I come here today to ask that you include all of our voices in crafting responsible health care reform legislation. This issue is too large and impacts too many people to write a bill from only one side of the aisle.

In my home State of Virginia, more than 1.1 million individuals are uninsured, and health care premiums grow another 10 percent annually. Back in the First District, I formed and work with a Health Care Advisory Council comprised of local patient advocates, physicians, nurses, students, insurance providers, hospitals, community health centers, and other stakeholders in the health care reform debate. These folks have great ideas that deserve an opportunity to be heard. They are clear-cut ideas on which both sides can agree.

We must let Americans who like their health care coverage keep it and give all Americans the freedom to choose the health plan that best meets their needs. We must also focus on prevention, disease management, and wellness programs, as well as the development of new treatments and cures for life-threatening diseases.

We must also allow the Federal Government to partner with States to improve programs that guarantee access to affordable coverage for those with preexisting conditions.

Finally, we must increase transparency to improve patient access to the best health care information available.

These are things upon which Republicans and Democrats can agree in order to provide relief to the American people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I hosted a town hall meeting in my district in Syracuse, New York. The town hall was extremely well attended, with over 400 constituents from across central New York in attendance, and everyone was interested. I think there may have even been 400 different opinions in the room. The ones who were the most passionate, of course, were the ones on both sides of it and the extreme sides of it. There was the crowd that wanted a government-run, single-payer health care system and wouldn't settle for much else, and then there were about an equal number equally convinced that the government should have absolutely no role in health care whatsoever and that any role at all would be socialism. I think most of the people in my district, though, are somewhere in the middle.

I would like to share just one story from my town hall. At the end of the evening, after some pretty heated rhetoric, a man named Doug West of Skaneateles, New York, came down to the front of the auditorium to show me his monthly insurance bill and how it went from about $350 about 6 years ago to more than $800 today. Doug is a retired engineer from a local company, and unless there are is some dramatic changes, Doug is not going to be able to afford that rising cost forever.

Doug and his family are examples of the constituents that I will be focused on in my advocacy for higher quality and more affordable health care.

DEMOCRAT HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as both the House and Senate Democrats attempt to pass a multitrillion-dollar government-run health care bill, there are some facts that have come out that we can now all see.

These three facts are now evident about the House Democrat legislation:

First, the bill will force 114 million Americans out of their current health care coverage into a new government-controlled health care plan;

Second, the bipartisan Congressional Budget Office states that the bill will cost the American taxpayers $1.5 trillion;

And third, 29 million Americans will still remain uninsured if this disastrous piece of legislation becomes law.

But 83 percent of Americans like the insurance they now have. Yes, we must reform the system to include those without insurance, but we must not throw out what is working.

The American people need real reforms, not government-run medicine.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, as a mother of a young 2-year-old son, like millions of moms in America, health care is very important to me. And I want to know that I have the freedom to go to whatever doctor I choose and have the medical treatment that is best for my son, Cole.

We are facing a serious health care crisis, and we must do everything we can to fix the problem. Last week, I was back home in eastern Washington. Everywhere I went I heard about the lack of doctors and nurses, the high cost of health insurance, and the limited access to quality health care, especially in the rural areas. I also heard fears that the government may take over our health care, parents who are worried their child won't be able to see the pediatrician of their choice, or seniors who worry that the doctor they trusted for decades may drop his or her coverage because the government doesn't pay them enough to keep practicing.

During this debate, let us not forget that doctors are the true experts. We can reform our system and cover the uninsured without the Federal Government setting up shop as a health insurance company and a health care gatekeeper, and without sacrificing that important doctor-patient relationship.

REMEMBERING BOB SHORT

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, Bob Short died yesterday. Most people don't know the name Bob Short, but if you go back several decades and think back to the beginning of the first book series, ''The Gospel According to Peanuts,'' you are reading Bob Short.

I got to know him later in life when he began attending my wife's church at Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, just a few years ago. He developed an illness several months ago, and we lost a great American, a man who had great impact on the thinking of a lot of Americans, particularly those who loved Charlie Schultz and the Peanuts comic strips. Bob Short will be missed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 31, nays 385, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 497]

YEAS—31

Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Blackburn
Broun (GA)
Campbell
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Connolly (VA)
Fleming
Foxx
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Hensarling
Johnson (IL)
King (IA)
Lamborn
Marchant
McHenry
Murtha
Olson
Pascrell
Paul
Price (GA)
Sessions
Shadegg
Souder
Spratt
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Young (AK)

NAYS—385

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner