

time for action. It's time to stop saying "no" and get on with solving a major fundamental problem here in America.

A REPUBLIC OR A MONARCHY?

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

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, 233 years ago this May, a group of American patriots met in Philadelphia to create a Constitution which has been the guiding light to freedom-loving people around the world. Now, as we gather here, the majority is planning a procedural gimmick to get around having to vote for a health care bill that Americans don't want or can't afford. Let's not circumvent the Constitution. Outside Independence Hall when the Constitutional Convention concluded in September of 1787, a Mrs. Powell of Philadelphia is reported to have asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" With no hesitation whatsoever, Franklin responded, "A Republic, if you can keep it." Let's keep this Constitution.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. HIRONO. Your health or your home? Americans should not have to make this choice, but all too often they have to because of the high cost of health care. Lesley Czechowicz of Kihei, Maui, called my office yesterday to tell me about her 20-year-old niece. Last year, her niece collapsed and fell into a seizure. Medics rushed her to the hospital; and, ultimately, she was diagnosed with epilepsy.

Her niece had a part-time retail job that did not offer health insurance to their employees. Because of the emergency care and subsequent follow-up visits to the doctor, her niece was recently forced to sell her house so that she could pay her medical bills. Lesley called me because she wanted to make sure I would support health care reform. She told me that while it's too late for her niece, it's not too late for our country. I couldn't agree more.

Private health insurance companies run a business. Their goal is to make money for their shareholders. They pay their CEOs millions of dollars a year while raising health care costs for the rest of us. Whose side are you on?

SLAUGHTER HOUSE RULE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we're having the vote of the century on the Senate health care bill, but there's a sneaky snake oil gimmick afoot to pass the bill without voting on it.

First, we're passing bills without reading them, and now they want us to pass bills without actually voting on the bill. The trick is to deem the Senate bill passed without ever having a straight up-or-down vote. And it's a trick.

When we vote on the rules for debate, they want to make that count as the vote on the health care bill instead of actually voting on the health care bill. Let's have an up-or-down vote on this bill and not hide behind some procedural mumbo jumbo. The Constitution says: "But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays." It doesn't say anything about "deeming" in the Constitution.

To obtain votes for government-run health care, backroom secret deals are being made in the caverns of this building, and it's shameful. This is passing the government health care bill by any sneaking means necessary, including slaughtering the House rules.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1300

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) was indeed correct. It's going to be a historic vote of 100 years that started with Teddy Roosevelt, who talked about the need for health care in this country. And that debate was continued by Richard Nixon, and it was also advocated by Howard Baker. It's been bipartisan for 100 years that we need health care reform in this country. And it's never been more critical than now, when it's eating up our Federal budget, our individuals' budgets, and hurting us economically.

But beyond that, we need a compassionate and responsible government, and we have a President who is compassionate, responsible, and trying, like Nelson Mandela, to reach out to his former enemies and have bipartisanship. And he's had none of it, but he continues to try. And we need to support this President, support our country, preserve our economy, and provide health care like every other industrialized nation in this world does, and make America among the leaders and not the followers.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, the Democrat claims that the Obama health care bill will reduce the debt and help balance the budget, but reviewing those calculations shows that they're going to collect higher taxes for 10 years and provide health care for only 6 years. Imagine that.

Isn't that a little misleading? Four years of health care taxes with no health care.

Imagine if you wanted to buy a house and you had to make 4 years of payments before you could move in, and then finally when you moved in, you found out you had rationed use of the property. You couldn't choose where to park your car, like in the garage. You had to drive blocks away down to a public parking lot and then wait in line for a stall.

Ten years of taxes, 6 years of benefits, followed by rationed care. You wouldn't buy a house under those terms, and Congress shouldn't pass a health care bill under those terms either.

We can do better. We can have health care reform that lowers costs by addressing preexisting conditions, by lowering defensive medicine costs, by having commonsense tort reform.

The Republican alternative lowers the price of health care by 10 percent, according to the Congressional Budget Office. That's what this Congress ought to pass.

I deem back the balance of my time.

WE MUST HAVE REFORM

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

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I want to read to you an email I just received from one of my staffers back in Overland Park, Kansas, my Congressional office there. It came at 11:55 a.m.:

"When I leave this job and have to seek new insurance, I will be largely uninsurable due to my preexisting condition, breast cancer, whether I show any remaining signs of the disease at that time or not.

"I was so fortunate last year to have this job and Federal employee insurance. The cancer treatment I received cost over \$50,000. My husband and I would have lost every penny we had and then some if we had not had this quality coverage.

"Without a bill like this one, I will likely not have access to that kind of coverage ever again due to my cancer diagnosis at the age of 24. Without quality coverage, and if, God forbid, I should ever have to go through this again, it would undoubtedly break us that time around.

"We must have reform.

"Thank you, Dennis."

This, folks, is what it's all about, people like this around the country. We've got to do something and reform our health insurance system, our health care system.

LET'S HAVE AN UP-OR-DOWN VOTE

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

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I think that there's unanimous will on both

sides of this Chamber to take care of the uninsurable people because of pre-existing conditions right now, but this side is willing to address that on stand-alone legislation, or it would have already have been passed, unfortunately. I am surprised they keep pounding on that over and over and over again.

Yesterday, in Ohio, the President said the Democrats needed courage to pass his national health care plan. Sadly, as we speak, leaders across the aisle are meeting behind closed doors to invent a creative way to approve the President's health care plan without requiring Members of the House to take an up-or-down vote on the actual bill. The legitimacy of something as controversial as the health care bill would be further clouded by such clever parliamentary maneuvers.

That's not courage. That's malfeasance. It's an absolute betrayal of the public trust, and it would represent an unprecedented abuse of power that would take this Nation down a dangerous path.

We're a Nation of laws. When these laws are not convenient, you shouldn't simply ignore them. We should follow them, regardless of the outcome; otherwise, everything about our democratic Republic is at risk.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, we all know that health care costs are unsustainable. They're still crushing families, small businesses and large companies alike. When people lose their jobs, they lose their health insurance. Even people who do have jobs and want coverage but have preexisting conditions still couldn't get coverage.

We are closer than ever to reforming our Nation's broken health insurance system with a plan that puts America back in control of their health care choices, holds insurance companies accountable, and makes coverage more affordable.

As we move forward through this legislative process, I am confident that our bill will make health insurance affordable for the middle class and small businesses by reducing premiums and out-of-pocket costs, give millions of Americans access to affordable insurance choices through a new, competitive health insurance market, and hold insurance companies accountable to keep premiums down and prevent denials of coverage, including for pre-existing conditions. And it will close the disastrous doughnut hole that seniors are having to chose between life-saving medication and food to eat.

For over 12 years, the once Republican-led Congress has failed to do this. We're going to do it now.

HEALTH CARE AND THE SLAUGHTER RULE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, Article I, section 7 of the Constitution says that in order for a bill to become law, it shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate; yet yesterday, Speaker PELOSI endorsed the so-called Slaughter rule, which would merely deem that the House has passed the Senate health care bill and then send it to President Obama to sign without a direct recorded vote. This scheme is misguided, arrogant, and fundamentally wrong.

The Speaker reportedly added, nobody wants to vote for the Senate bill. Given the facts that, among other things, the \$1 trillion bill is marred with special deals, mandates, tax hikes, and Medicare cuts, it is no wonder they don't want to vote for it.

Considering the wide-ranging effects this trillion-dollar effort to change health care will have, the American people deserve a clear, up-or-down vote on this bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, between the year 2000 and 2006, the Republicans had the House, the Senate, and the White House, and they did nothing of good to help the American people. And now you listen to them and it sounds like they actually are for health care for the American people. But if they were for the American people, they would have done something in those 6 years about people being affected by rescission, by preexisting condition, by carrying young people on the health care policy of their parents until they're 26, about doing something about this doughnut hole. They'd have done something about it. But they didn't do anything other than make the problem worse.

And if you listen to them today, you would think they cared, but the evidence is before the American people, they did nothing at all. And now we are going to do something about it within a little more than 1 year of coming into office.

Who's on your side, America? You'll find out this week.

THE HOUSE HEALTH CARE VOTE AND THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday's Wall Street Journal highlights the process by which Democrats are trying to pass

this government health care takeover. The process is just as bad as the provisions of the bill.

Professor Michael McConnell, Director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School, wrote the article entitled, "House Health Care Vote and the Constitution." Mr. MCCONNELL presents the process called the Slaughter solution, which is nothing more than a procedural trick that deems the Senate bill passed without ever having a straight up-or-down vote.

The article explains, "The Slaughter solution cannot be squared with Article I, section 7 of the Constitution. Senate rules protect against majoritarian overreach by allowing a determined minority to filibuster most types of legislation."

Madam Speaker, Americans need jobs, not a law which NFIB claims will kill 1.6 million jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, opponents often cite polls saying the American people don't want Congress to pass health care reform, but I've talked to my constituents and I've listened closely to what they expect from the system. They don't think preexisting conditions should stop you from getting coverage. Insurance companies shouldn't just drop you. And nobody, nobody should face one-time 40 percent increases in premiums like what just happened in California.

Madam Speaker, it has been a difficult and a long debate, but we're closer than any time in history to putting into law the health security Americans want. Let's finish the job and put patients first.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, the American people continue to say in every opportunity that they can that they don't want a government takeover of health care. And all they get from the tone-deaf liberals that are running Congress is this latest attempt to ram the bill through. And now this latest proposal is the Slaughter solution where they're even going to try to run it through without an actual vote.

Now, maybe some of them have been around so long that they forget what Article I, section 7 of the Constitution says, but it actually takes a vote here in this House for any bill to pass. And I hope their bill doesn't pass, because we need health care reform. We need to lower the cost of health care, which their bill doesn't do. We need to address preexisting conditions. But we