

what is going to be proposed tonight, how we are going to save money on health care. It is not by investing more in prevention; it is not by moving people out of emergency rooms and putting them into real programs and care. It is taking people who have good insurance and making their good insurance bad insurance. It is going out and taking folks who have had the great benefit of working for an employer that provides a comprehensive package of benefits, and it is becoming less and less likely these days that even good employers out there can afford to give a robust package of benefits.

What the President is going to propose today is that for families that have had the good fortune to find a good insurance plan, they are going to tax that employer. They are going to make it less likely that you are going to get good insurance anymore. So we are going to get a proposal today which is going to actually result in worse health care for a lot of families.

I guess the point here is that, you know, again, if we are going to listen to the words that come from this administration, we heard in last year's State of the Union that we need to confront the rising cost of care, strengthen the doctor/patient relationship and help people afford the insurance coverage we need, if we want to talk about that, then we need to do something about that. And how we do something about that is not by taking the haves and putting them into the column of the have-nots. It is by keeping the haves where they are on health care and taking the have-nots and giving them that same level of health care.

We can absolutely do that without adding cost to the system, because those have-nots, as Mr. RYAN said, end up getting care. They just end up getting the most expensive, the most unfortunate type of care, that being crisis care. We can do a better job on that.

And, Mr. MEEK, as you said, we can make sure that we continue to have that discussion on Iraq, which may be missing tonight.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. One of the issues, you know, the more you talk, the more you see how all this just really ties together. This is health care costs and tying in a way to the minimum wage. The average family health care premium in 2005 was \$10,880; and the salary of a full-time year-round minimum-wage worker was less than that, \$10,700. So you will work as a minimum-wage worker 40 hours a week for an entire year and not even be able to pay for your full health care bill.

Now, in the United States of America, there is something wrong with that. There is something wrong with the wage of the minimum-wage worker, and there is obviously something wrong with the cost of health care in the United States because of this kind of backward system that we now have that just basically treats diseases and is not focusing probably like it should in preventing a lot of these things from happening.

And I think the more we reach out through the SCHIP program to make sure that these families who are qualified for children's health care know that they are qualified, to get them signed up, because at the end of the day it is the right thing to do, it is the compassionate thing to do, but at the end of the day it is going to save everybody a lot more money, too.

If we can get these kids at a young age and make sure they are treated, evaluated, they know the direction that they are going in, they know the medical history of both parents so that they can be treated accordingly.

I appreciate what you are saying and I appreciate you bringing up the issue of health care.

I know we are running down here; the clock is ticking, Mr. MEEK. I would be happy to yield to you in order to get us down the road here of wrapping things up. I appreciate all the comments that have been made here, and I appreciate our young friend being here with us, who is probably older than me.

I yield to our fearless leader from Florida.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think in light of bipartisanship, I know we split the hour, and I see my colleague on the Republican side is already here, in the light of bipartisanship, we will yield back our 10 minutes that we have left on our time to get off on a good note here.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for any Members who want to, also to their constituents, if they want to look at some of these charts we have, [www.speaker.gov/30something](http://www.speaker.gov/30something), get on the Web site, send us an e-mail at [30somethingdems@mail.house.gov](mailto:30somethingdems@mail.house.gov), you will get a chance to look at all these charts.

I appreciate our friend from Connecticut joining us. I look forward to our President's speech tonight and hope it is inspiring and filled with good information and good public policy that we can work on in a bipartisan way.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. RYAN of Ohio (during the Special Order of Mr. MEEK of Florida). Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 85) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 85

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. Wexler (to rank immediately after Mr. Donnelly).

(2) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Ms. Wasserman Schultz (to rank immediately after Mr. Davis of Alabama).

(3) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Mr. Kanjorski (to rank immediately

after Mr. McNerney), Ms. Hooley (to rank immediately after Mr. Kanjorski).

(4) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms. Millender-McDonald, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Michaud, Ms. Bean, Mr. Cuellar, Mr. Lipinski, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Altmire, Mr. Braley of Iowa, Ms. Clarke, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Sestak.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 78, PERMITTING DELEGATES AND THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER TO CAST VOTES IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Ms. SLAUGHTER (during the Special Order of Mr. MEEK of Florida), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-3) on the resolution (H. Res. 86) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 78) amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to permit Delegates and the Resident Commissioner to the Congress to cast votes in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPUBLICAN PERSPECTIVE ON 110TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentlemen for yielding their time back and doing it in the spirit of bipartisanship.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that now that the 100 hours is out of the way and we are to the point of having the State of the Union, that we will see this body return to a format of regular order and regular process and rules that we have had in place and have respected and this body has abided by through the course of this great Nation. That would, indeed, be welcomed.

In the 100-hour agenda we have seen the majority party take action on some of the issues that they had chosen to address. Their 100-hour agenda has included legislation on student loans that really is not going to do anything to make loans more accessible and available to those students that are trying to get into college. It is not going to reduce the cost of college while it is there. And it will take effect