

calamity was about to happen, and yet we have to stand by powerless to help; like the pilot of the Titanic, he sees the glacier emerging through the midst, he spins the wheel too late. And that is the case this morning, not with a steamship but with SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Plan.

It doesn't take any towering intellect to see the problems. We're going to vote to tax Americans with private health insurance, and we're going to take the benefits away from older Americans, with their Medicare, and we're going to give that money to give free health insurance to children with families making more than \$80,000, children of illegal immigrants.

All of history suggests that socialized medicine is not the way to go, and yet the Democrats are about to vote for something which will make the Titanic wreck look small.

SCHIP

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, in 2002, when I was campaigning for Congress, I met Dolores Sweeney, who had three children. She worked full time at an insurance company, was too rich for Medicaid and too poor to get her own private insurance because her company didn't provide it.

Today, her three children are enrolled in SCHIP. Those kids, today, have health care because we did right, where, between private sector not providing health care and Medicaid, a woman who worked full time did right by her children, got healthcare for her kids, and her 19-year-old today is going to college and doing the right choices.

The question we have before us, as my colleague from South Carolina just asked, are we going to provide our constituents with the healthcare that our own children and Members of Congress get, that taxpayers pay for? That is the question that is going to be before us today: Are we going to do right by the Dolores Sweeneys of the world in the same way that our constituents do right by us, as Members of Congress, and for our own children? These are people who have worked full time, at no fault of their own, whose children don't have health care. And we will provide those children, 11 million children, the health care that their parents cannot provide.

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THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which shares jurisdiction over the SCHIP bill, H.R. 3162, I would

like to express my frustration with the way this bill has been rammed through the legislative process.

Since January, we had only one hearing on the SCHIP program. We did not have a legislative hearing on H.R. 3162, which is supposed to be the Democrats' signature piece of health care legislation this Congress, no markup in subcommittee, and it was written in secret with no input from our side of the aisle. In fact, the text of the bill was not even provided to members of the committee until 11:33 the night before the full committee markup was supposed to take place.

Madam Speaker, bringing a bill with over \$200 billion in authorized spending to the floor without allowing the bill to go through the proper legislative process is simply poor governance.

THE CHAMP ACT AND DEMOCRATIC EFFORTS TO ENSURE MORE CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. The question before the House today is really very simple: Will the United States of America, the wealthiest country in the world, pass legislation that guarantees access to health care for all the children of the citizens of this country?

Many of our States, including Vermont, have taken the lead. They answered that question in the affirmative: The children of working parents, children whose parents are doing the right thing, should have the health care they need when they need it.

That has been done on a bipartisan basis. Republican and Democratic Governors in my State of Vermont have supported access to health care for our kids; 98 percent are covered in Vermont.

Why is it that this Congress has been unable to take that step until today? We will change that. It is the right thing to do. It is good for our kids. It is good for our country. It is well within the reach of this Congress to do.

Madam Speaker, I hope that our friends on the Republican side will join us in what will be a historic day for our kids.

TOWARDS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE SCHIP LEGISLATION

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I support renewing SCHIP to aid children in low-income families. But the bill that the Democratic leadership plans to bring to the floor this week is an absolute train wreck that will lead to a nanny-state, government-run health care system.

This bill would cause 3.2 million seniors in 22 States, including over 14,000

in my district, to lose their Medicare Advantage benefits. The Congressional Budget Office says this bill would shift 2.1 million children who are currently in private health care plans to less effective, government-run health care.

Additionally, this bill guts several fiscal responsibility measures designed to keep Medicare spending in check, encourage illegal immigrants to apply for SCHIP and Medicaid benefits by eliminating the requirement that persons applying for such services show proof of citizenship or nationality, and makes it possible for people 25 years old to receive SCHIP benefits.

In summation, this bill takes a program designed to aid children of low-income families and instead expands our welfare state and sides with bureaucracy rather than the needy children and seniors.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to oppose this form of legislation.

AN OPEN AND HONEST CONGRESS FOR EVERYDAY AMERICANS

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

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, on the first day of the 110th Congress, the Democratic majority in this House enacted the toughest ethics reform in a generation by passing a landmark rules package that broke the link between lobbyists and legislators. This important step toward cleaning up Congress ended gifts, private jets and meals paid for by lobbyists.

Yesterday, we continued our commitment to restore accountability to Washington and passed the final House-Senate agreement on the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. This tough legislation, which ends the tight-knit relationship between lobbyists and lawmakers takes another major step toward making this Congress the most open and honest in American history.

I am proud to have supported this critical bill, which has been hailed by reform groups as a "sea of change for citizens" and "landmark reform." I am proud of our Democratic majority that works so quickly to enact real change for Americans, which they demanded during last year's election.

Madam Speaker, this Democratic House is dedicated to making sure that Congress works for everyday Americans and not just special interests.

EGYPT NEEDS TO PROTECT PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to talk about Shaymaa el-Sayed, an Egyptian woman. Security forces in Egypt tortured this young woman for converting

to Christianity. Fanatic relatives of Shaymaa el-Sayed, 26 years old, attacked her in Alexandria, beating her, attempting to shove her into a car and vowing to kill her for her "apostasy."

Police intervened. They arrested the victim herself. When they found her Christian identity papers, local police transferred her to a state security investigation office where the officials forcibly disrobed and photographed her naked in front of all the policemen at the station.

She was repeatedly subjected to interrogation and severe torture, including electrocution. She was released by the Egyptian police into the custody of her family despite their threats to kill her. "This is not legal treatment, but it is happening all the time," said Rasha Noor, an Egyptian human rights activist. "The Christians from Muslim backgrounds can't change their identities, so they are forced by the authorities to return back to Islam, or else." God bless this young woman.

STRENGTHENING THE SUCCESSFUL SCHIP PROGRAM

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, as the House prepares to vote on the Child Health and Medicare Protection Act, known as the CHAMP Act, later today, I think it is important to refute some of the misleading talking points that Republicans are seizing on as they oppose this health insurance for millions of American children.

First, Republicans claim that by strengthening the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, we are advancing "government doctors," advancing "government health plans."

This could be no further from the truth. Government does not deliver SCHIP services. Instead, it is private doctors and private health plans through private insurance. This program is operated successfully in my State of New Jersey and around the Nation.

Second, Republicans say that we are trying to expand the program to reach middle-income families. Again, that is false. We are not expanding the program. Today, 5 million children are eligible for SCHIP but are not enrolled. We are strengthening the program so that we can reach almost all of these children, the vast majority of whom come from low-income families.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

SUPPORT THE WELLNESS AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the

rising cost of health care in this country. While the nature of health care makes reaching consensus difficult, Congress must take action to make health care more affordable.

For this reason, I have introduced H.R. 853, the Wellness and Prevention Act of 2007. This legislation encourages the implementation of wellness and prevention plans in the workplace. The bill allows companies and employees to collect tax credits for wellness programs.

Statistics have proven that every dollar a business spends on a wellness program results in a \$3 return. Furthermore, Americans will take charge of their own health, thereby increasing productivity and reducing absenteeism.

I invite my colleagues to sponsor H.R. 853, because as the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Congress must now act to reduce the risk of disease, encourage a healthier America and help curb the rising cost of health care.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO ENSURE MILLIONS OF NEW CHILDREN RECEIVE THE HEALTH CARE THEY DESERVE

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

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, over the last 10 years, the Children's Health Insurance Program has been a success story, significantly reducing the number of children living without health insurance at a time when employer-sponsored insurance continues to erode.

When CHIP was created in 1997, the number of uninsured children under the age of 19 was 23 percent. Over the last decade, that has fallen to 15 percent. That is a great improvement, but still unacceptable.

That is why Democrats will bring the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act to the House floor today for a vote. The CHAMP Act invests in our children by ensuring that nearly every child eligible for the CHIP program is signed up and is receiving the essential preventative health care they need to live longer and healthier lives. If we do not take care of our children's health now, we will pay a lot more later on.

Madam Speaker, with the passage of the CHAMP Act later today, this House will move us significantly closer to ensuring that every child in America has access to health insurance.

TRAMPLING ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN AMERICA

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. America, your freedom of speech was trampled on yesterday. This new Democratic leadership quashed any semblance of free speech here on this House floor. This is not just a proce-

dural matter, mind you. This is a matter for all Americans.

You see, each Member of Congress represents 600,000 constituents. That is 600,000 American voices that were quashed yesterday. As I say, this is not just a Republican issue, for their voices were quashed, but so were Democrat and Independent voices as well.

But in fact, this is nothing new for the new Democrat leadership. Just a week ago we had to come to this floor to make sure we could fight to keep the radio waves and the media opening dealing with the Fairness Doctrine. Prior to this, we had to fight to make sure that the centuries-old tradition of bipartisanship would not be broken. Prior to that, we had to fight to make sure that there would be transparency in earmarks, and all the Republicans fought on the side of openness and freedom of speech.

The Democrats say they tolerate all diversity, but apparently diversity not of thought and speech.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO STRENGTHEN THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, at a time when there are serious problems in our health care system, the Children's Health Insurance Program, otherwise known as CHIP, has a proven track record. Over the last decade, as the number of uninsured Americans has increased, the number of children living without health insurance has actually decreased, and thanks to the CHIP program, we have experienced a 60-percent drop in the number of uninsured children.

This week, the House plans to reauthorize the CHIP program. Congress must act on this legislation now. In the past, CHIP has received strong bipartisan support. However, in an about-face, the President and some Republicans have abandoned their support of CHIP on supposed philosophical grounds.

If Congress refuses to act this week, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that nearly 1 million children will lose their health coverage. Democrats are simply not to get that to happen. We are going to pass the CHIP reauthorization today so that 11 million children have access to the health insurance they need to live healthy lives.

MISSION LEAP TOWARDS SOCIALIZED MEDICINE

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, today the United States Congress will take up the full march towards socialized medicine here in the United States. This isn't mission creep, Madam Speaker; this is mission leap.