Do Americans want 3 million new jobs in this country for the cost of a postage stamp a day? You bet.

We are going to pass this bill. Americans want it.

COMPETITION IS NEEDED FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to learn more about the single-payer, government takeover of the health care system proposed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I would like to point out why this isn’t a good idea.

First, we can’t afford it. Cost estimates are now up to $3.5 trillion of money we don’t have. Medicare, even with heavy subsidies from private insurance, is on the course of bankruptcy. How will we afford a Medicare-for-all program?

Let me be clear, the government cannot be both competitor and make up the rules of the game. It would be like Microsoft being put in control of the Internet. How would other companies compete with Microsoft?

A single-payer system option will erode the private insurance market that is propping up the public health plan we have today. It is becoming very clear that the public option group has the ultimate goal of destroying competition—what choice? and substituting it with a government takeover of our health care system.

So what is the end game here? The end game is that once the Federal Government gains full control of our health care system and steps between you and your doctor, we will have exploding budgets which will lead to rationing.

PERMISSION TO EXTEND TIME FOR DEBATE AND MODIFY AMENDMENT DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2647

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 2647, pursuant to House Resolution 572, debate on amendment Nos. 3 and 9 each extended to 20 minutes, and that amendment No. 2 be modified in the following manner:

SEC. 1035. SENSE OF CONGRESS HONORING THE AIRCRAFT USED DURING WORLD WAR II.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

1. In 1943, Representative John M. McHugh was elected to represent New York’s 23rd Congressional district, which is located in northern New York and consists of Clinton, Hamilton, Lewis, Madison, and Saint Lawrence counties and parts of Essex, Franklin, Fulton, and Oneida counties.

2. Representative McHugh also represents Fort Drum, home of the 10th Mountain Division.


4. Representative McHugh began his public service career in 1971 in his hometown of Watertown, New York, where he served for five years as a Confidential Assistant to the City Manager.

5. Subsequently, Representative McHugh served for nine years as Chief of Research and Liaison with local governments for New York State Senator H. Douglas Barclay.

6. Representative McHugh is known by his colleagues as a leader on national defense and security issues and a tireless advocate for America’s military personnel and their families.

7. During his tenure, he has led the effort to increase Army and Marine Corp end-strength levels, increase military personnel pay, reduce the unfair tax on veterans’ disability and military retirement pay (concurrent receipt) and safeguard military retiree benefits for our troops.

8. Since the 103rd Congress, Representative McHugh has served on the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives and subsequently was appointed Chairman of the Mora Committee, Welfare, and Recreation Panel before being asked to Chairman of the Military Personnel Subcommittee.

9. Representative McHugh began serving on the United States Military Academy Board of Visitors in 1995, and he was appointed to the Board of Visitors by the Speaker of the House in 2007.

10. In the 111th Congress, Representative McHugh was appointed Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives by the Republican majority of the House of Representatives.

11. On June 2, 2009, the President announced his intention to nominate Representative McHugh to serve as the Secretary of the Army.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Honorable John M. McHugh, Representative from New York, has served the House of Representatives and the American people selflessly and with distinction and that he deserves the sincere and humble gratitude of Congress and the Nation.

1. Mr. SKELTON (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is no objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is no objection to the initial request of the gentleman from Missouri.

There was no objection.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 572 and rule XVIII, the Chair pro tempore in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2647.