

Why should we trust them with revising the one-sixth of our economy based on health care, when their own advisers say it will mean millions of more jobs lost?

EMPOWERING PATIENTS

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I actually applaud the goal of our Democratic colleagues in terms of the health bill they are putting out. Access, quality, and controlling costs are things that we should all aspire for. Absolutely.

And I agree with parts of the legislation. Guaranteed access, for example, is just wonderful. But, of course our concern is that CBO comment that it's not going to control cost, not achieve one of these goals, but rather, reset it to increase it. And we know as the cost of health care increases, that will be one more thing that inhibits growth and jobs.

So what can we do? One, we do need fundamental reform, which, as the CBO has pointed out, this bill does provide. We need to put the patient in charge of health care decisions and dollars. We need to empower patients to make value-conscious decisions, empower them with the information they need for reasonable decisions by increasing transparency on the pricing of health care.

Let's empower them by incentivizing wellness programs at lower costs and improved lives. Let's empower them with things such as HSAs, which have been shown to decrease costs by 30 percent and, indeed, give insurance to those previously uninsured. Empowering patients is the only way to lower cost and increase access.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. BACHUS. I just came from a hearing with Chairman Bernanke. There were some questions he could answer, but others he couldn't answer. We asked him, Where are the jobs? He couldn't answer that question. He said unemployment would remain high through 2011. He said he's not sure that the stimulus created any jobs. It might, but he couldn't answer that.

He did answer one important question, though; and he was very certain. He said, if we continue spending like we're spending today, we're on a rendezvous with financial disaster. He said, and he left no doubt, that we had to reduce our spending, that the deficit was going to threaten the prosperity of our Nation, not only our children and our grandchildren, but today, tomorrow. He said, we have to reduce spending. He said, spending is out of control. He said, the baby boomers in the next

year or two would overwhelm the Federal budget. He said, bring down the spending.

LET'S DO IT RIGHT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, while our Nation is facing record unemployment, we may well worsen the job situation if the proposed health care bill passes in its current version; 4.7 million more jobs are estimated to be lost and a trillion dollars in more taxes. That's bad medicine.

We still have not addressed the hundreds of billions in health care waste, but are proposing spending hundreds of billions more. We should not be substituting the barriers, burdens and, bureaucracy of insurance companies with the barriers, burdens, and bureaucracy of Uncle Sam's health insurance company.

I want to get people back to work. I want to make sure they're covered by health care. I want our Committee on Energy and Commerce to reconvene to get to work on this bill. It is going to take time. We need to take the time to fix this. Let's do it right. But let's not work towards artificial deadlines, and let's get America back to work with good health care.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I believe in health care reform. I have been fighting for it since I got here in 1995. I came to the floor this morning to talk about this amendment. It's an amendment that was rejected by the Democrats last night. It says that no Federal employee should be able to dictate how a medical provider practices medicine. And it was rejected by the Democrats. Apparently Democrats in their health care bill want Federal employees, bureaucrats to dictate how your medical provider practices medicine. I think that's shocking. I don't want a Federal bureaucrat between me and my doctor or between you and your doctor.

But I got here and discovered that we are not supposed to ask, Where are the jobs? I don't get it. What's embarrassing about that question? It's a fair question. Where are the jobs?

When the Obama administration was sworn in, unemployment was 7.6 percent. When the stimulus passed, it was 8.1 percent. And today, it's 9.5 percent. And we're not supposed to ask where are the jobs? I think it's a legitimate question. I guess it's an embarrassing question. I'd like to know where the jobs are.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO PUT PEOPLE BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I was sitting in my office, and I heard a lot of folks asking where the jobs were.

I downloaded an article from the Evansville Courier Press, which happens to be in Indiana. It says: "Stimulus has Hoosiers working."

I'll make a few quotes out of this article: "More than 2,400 people are now at work on Federal stimulus-funded roadway projects in Indiana, according to a state report being released today."

"'Things were slowing down, and the stimulus filled in the gap,' said Tim Mahoney, an economics professor at the University of Southern Indiana. 'It's kept the people employed that would be laid off,'" says that same article.

"What's clear is that the stimulus projects have boosted an industry otherwise floundering in Indiana."

"'In general, it definitely puts our people to work,' said Pete Bjorkman, the chief estimator for Evansville-based J.H. Rudolph" construction company.

"Our crews are going to be working more hours and more days because of this . . .," he said. "It is creating more crews, more hours for our people that wouldn't have been there before."

Mr. Speaker, I listened in the office to the stuff being said back and forth. To the folks in the audience and the people that are walking out there, Mr. Speaker, they're tired of this crap that's going on back and forth. We need to work together to put people back to work.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, the present unemployment rate in the United States is 9.5 percent and climbing, and the American people are hurting. Our economic downturn is a challenge that will require prompt bipartisan action.

As Congress moves forward with the national debate on the economy, it is imperative that we detract from illogical partisan bickering and avoid the empty political posturing that got us into this mess in the first place.

The American people have real problems, and they want real solutions that require less talk and more action.

I represent a district that is over 60 percent African American, and I have seen firsthand how this economic slump has disproportionately hurt minorities more than any other group in the United States. Among African Americans, the rate of unemployment and uninsured workers is highest.

While there are a number of options for getting our economy back on track, it is important to remember that our

Nation's proudest achievements have developed with a bipartisan, solutions-oriented consensus.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, my friends are asking, Where are the jobs? It's a good question because we were told in February, when the stimulus package was passed, that four or five million jobs would be created. Since then we've lost 1,963,000 jobs.

It's not bad enough that we're not doing anything to create jobs from the administration's side. But we're actually doing things to kill more jobs.

I just left a markup for the Education Committee where the majority is killing a program that has been very successful since 1965, has helped millions of students go to college and provided an education for them, and now they're eliminating that program, along with it, 40,000 jobs.

I have constituents at home that are really suffering. They're asking, Where are the jobs? It's about time you started doing something to produce them.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, people are asking, Where are the jobs? And I think it's an appropriate question to ask.

I myself get a little leery when any administration, any administration, says that they're going to create jobs. They do so for a while, but government jobs don't last very long, or they shouldn't last very long.

What the administration should do, and this Congress, is create an environment in which private sector jobs can be created. And that's what we're not doing with this health care bill. This health care bill will kill jobs, not create them. It doesn't create an environment where jobs can be created.

Now, the administration and this Congress say we've got to get to work. But last week, last Friday we spent an entire day on a welfare-for-wild-horses bill. There's an old Garth Brooks song that says, wild horses keep dragging me away. And, apparently, wild horses keep dragging this Congress away from actually creating an environment where jobs can be created. And this health care bill goes the wrong direction.

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GOVERNMENT IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FARR. I hear from the other side that government takes over health care. I'm just wondering which one of you Members is going to give up your Navy doctors downstairs to take care of you. Which one of you is going to give up your Federal health care plan which insures all the members of your family? Which one of you is going to give up Medicare for all of your constituents? Which one of you is going to give up the veterans' care in the veterans' clinics that are in your districts? Which one of you who loves the military that is doing such a great job of defending our country in Iraq and in Afghanistan is going to take away the military TRICARE program?

Yes, government is involved in health care. It sure is. That's what our country is surviving and living on. Let's make this work and stop attacking each other.

A LOT OF TALK ON THE SECOND STIMULUS

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, there has been some talk recently about the potential of a second stimulus package. Why would we need such a second stimulus? Because the first one didn't work. It's not rocket science, and the American people know it.

What the American people don't want to hear is that prior Congresses or that prior administrations used to do this, or that prior Congressmen were engaged in this, that or the other. What Americans want now is leadership and solutions moving forward, not how things used to be.

I'm new here. I came here because the American people were sick and tired of the way things used to work. Unemployment will soon reach double digits, and it already has in my district, the 16th District of Florida.

The first stimulus didn't work because the Federal Government is not capable of taking taxpayer money and properly redistributing it. So let's have a second stimulus package. Let's give tax breaks to small businesses and to small business owners. Let them hire and keep the people that they want to work for them. That's the American way. America works when people make it work, not when the government takes over.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members—and this is not directed at the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY), who just spoke—that Members should address their remarks to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, California unemployment is at 11.6 percent, and State Democrats in California destroyed the job market and the manufacturing base there through bureaucratic overregulation, unrealistic mandates and punitive fees and taxes. Congressional Democrats here in Washington are following California's lead with the national energy tax that's going to cost every American family \$3,000 a year and with the job-killing health care plan projected to cost over 4 million jobs.

I've simply come to the easy conclusion that Democrats don't like small business. I've come to the conclusion that Democrats don't like jobs. Those of us in California have seen this movie before, and it ends like "Thelma and Louise"—with the economy driving off a cliff in the Grand Canyon. And it's being driven by congressional Democrats.

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT KNOW BEST WITH REGARD TO HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, only in Washington, D.C., does government know best. My friends on the other side of the aisle think they know how to create jobs: stimulus I and possibly II, cap-and-trade, health care reform, higher taxes, more regulation, more government intervention. The Democrats think this is going to create wealth and jobs in our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be about the business of overhauling taxes, of bringing commonsense regulation reform to the people, of giving people real choice to make decisions for their health care between them and their doctors. It is about empowering people, not government. What I'm talking about, Mr. Speaker, is not socialism. It's freedom. With all that our colleagues on the other side have done, and with all that they propose to spend, I ask a simple question, Mr. Speaker: Where are the jobs?

THE DEMOCRAT SPAGHETTI DINNER OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this chart is not a spaghetti dinner. It may look like it, but it's the Democrats' health care plan. If you were a person out in the hinterlands, looking at this, you would think, How in the world am I going to get health care coverage for me and for my family if I have to go through all of that? It's going to cost trillions of dollars—trillions.