

Parenthood of America. The largest abortion provider in America should not also be the largest recipient of Federal funding under title X.

Today, I filed an amendment to block any funds under title X in the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill from going to Planned Parenthood again. It's the same amendment that was supported by 189 bipartisan Members in the year 2007, and I'm confident it would enjoy broad support again.

The Pence amendment would simply prevent funds under title X from going to Planned Parenthood. It would not reduce the total amount of funds available for ethical family planning services.

The truth, is title X clinics do important work in the underserved communities around this country. A number of federally funded clinics across the Nation offer beneficial services, including patient counseling, breast cancer screening, and ethical family planning.

By contrast, Planned Parenthood's annual report reports that it received \$350 million in revenue from government grants and contracts. In the same annual report, they boast 305,000 abortions provided.

Title X money should go to meet the underserved community, not to provide offsetting resources for the largest abortion provider in America.

□ 1030

THE AMERICAN GRADUATION INITIATIVE

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Today I want to tell you about Ray Roddy from Hillsdale, Michigan. Ray was laid off from his job making engine components and realized he would need further education to find another job. He enrolled at Jackson Community College and is working hard to become a nurse. Ray isn't alone. In the last 2 years, 6.5 million Americans have lost their jobs and many remain unemployed.

In today's economy with rising unemployment, it is critical to invest in our future by increasing the number of college graduates. That's why I support President Obama's American Graduation Initiative. This initiative will help prepare Americans for the jobs of the 21st century. It will help people like Ray gain the education and skills they need to compete in the global economy. It will also establish new grants to help community colleges improve access to education and build ties to businesses to increase graduates' chances of gaining employment. With the American Graduation Initiative, the number of unemployed Americans will be dramatically reduced in the next 10 years by helping 5 million people earn more college degrees. Ray Roddy needs a job, and he is going to get one. Thanks to this exciting initiative, so will 5 million other Americans.

URGING MEMBERS TO PASS HEALTH CARE REFORM BEFORE THE AUGUST RECESS

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with tremendous hope and full confidence that we are finally moving forward with legislation that will put our health care system on the right track and bring quality, affordable health care to all Americans. I strongly support H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act. I believe that this is the right step for families, for small businesses, and for people in Maine and all across the country. But I also have a warning, a warning that comes from my experience in the Maine Legislature, a warning that comes from taking on the pharmaceutical companies, the insurance companies and the entrenched special interests that have done everything they can to block health care reform for a generation.

Mr. Speaker, if we go home for recess without passing this bill, we will give the special interests and their lobbyists 5 weeks to dump millions of dollars into ad campaigns that spread misinformation, fear and confusion. We will give them 5 weeks to do everything they can to kill the best chance we have had in a lifetime to move forward on significant health care reform. We must pass this bill now. We absolutely cannot afford to wait. I look forward to going back to my district in August and telling the good people of Maine that we didn't let them down.

HEALTH CARE REFORM WILL MAKE INSURANCE COMPANIES COMPETE FOR CUSTOMERS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we already know that the Republicans have committed themselves to doing everything possible to prevent this body from passing the health care reform that the American people desperately need and want. Yesterday and today, we've heard a Greek chorus of Republican talking points designed to misrepresent what we are trying to do to help the American people maintain and gain access to affordable quality care. Among the most glaring misrepresentations is that we're somehow going to force the American people to be insured in a public plan. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The essence of our proposal is to provide choice and competition so that insurance companies will have to compete for the American people's business rather than the American people having to beg for coverage, only to find that their coverage isn't adequate when they really need it. This is the type of reform that we need for this country, for the American people; and

no Republican misrepresentations will prevent this body from acting.

AMERICANS DO NOT WANT BUREAUCRATS LIMITING HEALTH CARE OPTIONS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on a daily basis we make our own choices. From decisions as simple as paper or plastic, diet or regular, decaffeinated or high-test to ones as profound as Republican or Democrat and temple or church as the place we choose to worship. We come from a Nation of freedom that has allowed us to make choices in our lives. But if Democrats have their way, government bureaucrats will soon choose our health care. There is a television advertisement about a woman whose doctor told her to go get her affairs in order because she had cancer and less than 6 months to live. She then chose to go to a different provider, and several years later, she is still alive and healthy.

Under the Democratic proposal, an unelected official in Washington will be making health decisions for individuals and families across this Nation. Patient choice will be a thing of the past unless you are wealthy enough to go outside the system. When competition dies, so does quality.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons this Nation has the best health care in the world is competition and compassion. Let's choose not to lose that quality and to continue to be able to go to the physician who can best serve our needs.

AMERICANS WITH PREEXISTING CONDITIONS NEED HEALTH INSURANCE TOO

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

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Speaker, as we have worked these last several months on the issue of health care, I have engaged my community in a variety of townhall meetings, forums and opportunities for them to let me know what they need out of the health care bill, to tell me their stories. I would like to share one of those with you. My constituent writes, This is not my story, but it is the story of a close friend who died last November at the age of 50. During his life, he was afflicted with diabetes and heart disease. He was self-employed and could not get health insurance because of his preexisting conditions. A few months prior to his death, he asked me to review a brochure advertising a plan to get discounts on various things, including medical services and drugs, but clearly stated it was not insurance. I told him the company was not promising anything, only a hope that discounts could be obtained. He was going to pay the \$178 per month premium anyway because he couldn't get insurance or any