

fosters competition and delivers us, the customer, the lowest cost and the best service. Arizonans need reform that puts the power back into the hands of patients and doctors.

Mr. Speaker, we can do this, and we must do this. If you like your plan, you should be able to keep it and your costs should go down and not up. There are savings to be had in our current system, and we must focus on squeezing out every drop.

TORT REFORM NEEDED TO PRODUCE HEALTH CARE SAVINGS

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, tort reform would create tens of billions in health care savings. There is no reform of the insane cost and arbitrary rewards of our malpractice system in this bill, because lawyers on the other side won't allow that in the bill.

Instead, according to the Congressional Budget Office, we have the Democrat proposal, with its public option, which will increase costs in excess of \$1 trillion and will cover millions of individuals here illegally, which will drive additional illegal immigration and will drive future costs for health care in this country.

With the subsidized public option and existing businesses shifting out of their current plans into this subsidized public option, as many as 114 million individuals could lose their current insurance, leading to Federal bureaucrats, not patients and doctors, making important decisions about their treatment options.

I urge we revisit this proposal.

PROVIDING ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of the most important reasons to pass Obama's health care plan, and that is the current discrimination that Americans with pre-existing conditions face.

Through no fault of their own, perhaps because of a genetic disability passed through by their parents or a childhood disease or a disease later in life, many Americans are uninsurable or only insurable at a very high rate.

That is fundamentally unfair. America is a fair country. We should only have to be responsible for actions that we undertake. Most Americans who suffer from preexisting conditions suffer those because of no fault of their own. It is not fair to make them or their employers pay more simply because of a preexisting condition. This could be you. This could be your son or daughter. This could be any of us who suffer from preexisting conditions.

What the Obama health care reform plan does is it pools the risk together

and prevents discrimination against those who, through no fault of their own, have a preexisting health care condition and ensures that they, too, have access to adequate health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM WITHOUT GOVERNMENT CONTROL

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, the United States has the best health care in the world, but if you don't have insurance, you have that sinking pit in your stomach that is scary. It is very scary.

But I think I feel like most Americans. I want insurance that I can own. If I lose my job or move to another job or my job leaves me, I want to be able to make sure that I have something that is portable. I am willing to pay my fair share. I want to be able to be covered for catastrophic events.

But I also want to make sure that others pay their fair share. I want to find insurance, even if I have a pre-existing condition, and I want the freedom to choose the insurance that best fits our family's needs.

But, most of all, I don't want a Washington, DC, politician making decisions that should be made between my wife and our doctor. When our sons or daughters need help, I don't want somebody in Washington, DC, to deny it. If my mother or father needs help, I don't want to wait for a government bureaucrat to decide whether or not they are going to be cared for.

In other words, we must stop the government takeover of health care. We need reform, but we don't need more government.

PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, for six decades, we have debated about how to fix health care reform, and now it is time to stop the debates, the denials and the deceit.

We have a uniquely American solution that includes a robust public plan that will lower costs, increase coverage and provide quality care. And for the American people, let's repeat that again: lower costs, increased coverage and provide quality care.

This is really just about what the insurance companies want to fight. Everybody watching the daily news, the evening news, knows that to be true, and the insurance companies will pull no stops to try to defeat health care reform, but we are not going to let them.

Premiums for Americans have doubled in 9 years, three times faster than wages. An American family pays an

extra \$1,100 a year in premiums. It is time for that to stop. Each day, 14,000 people lose health care, and today 60 percent of small business owners, their workers and families have no health care. That is 28 million Americans.

So we can create a plan here that eliminates copays, eliminates the high cost of deductibles for preventive care, caps out-of-pocket expenses and ends the discrimination against preexisting conditions.

WHERE ARE THE PROMISED JOBS?

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, August will be 6 months since the signing of the administration's so-called stimulus plan. Since February, we have been waiting for the jobs that were promised with this bill. We have been waiting so long that my constituents in South Carolina are beginning to wonder if they will ever come.

The President insisted that to save or create up to 4 million jobs, Congress must support this stimulus. Unfortunately, today we continue to lose jobs and pass legislation that will further increase unemployment around the country.

We were told by experts in the administration that unemployment would peak at 8 percent, but, as we all know, national unemployment is now at 9.5 percent. In my home State of South Carolina, it is over 12 percent.

It is a shame that while my constituents are desperately waiting for jobs, the Democratic leadership has made job creation second after bigger government, more borrowing, and ever-increasing spending. They must join Republicans in making our number one priority getting America back to work. My constituents are getting tired of waiting. Where are the jobs?

HEALTH CARE REFORM URGENTLY NEEDED

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our country urgently needs health care reform. Health insurance premiums have more than doubled in 9 years, growing three times faster than our wages. The average American family pays an extra \$1,100 per year in premiums to support a broken system, and we still have 47 million people uninsured. Soaring costs have harmed competitiveness with American businesses in the global economy. I know in my own district, I had one company say they moved part of their production to the Netherlands because health care was cheaper in the Netherlands than it was in the United States.

For six decades America has tried to debate what we can do to fix this broken system. We have had 45 hours of bipartisan debate in three separate