

health care in this country. I have heard from countless Iowans about the need to change the current system. I have also heard from Iowans that we need true reform.

Just today, the University of Iowa, the Iowa Health Care Collaborative, and the Concord Coalition sent me a letter. They stated, "We believe that the primary focus for all policymakers should be improving the value in health care." I agree.

Last week, the Iowa Democratic delegation, along with many others, reached a compromise with leadership that improves the value in health care. I want to thank leadership and their staff for their work. The compromise will provide a significant cost savings, and it will fix a broken Medicare payment system so that we are rewarding quality of care and not quantity. Iowa has been a leader in quality care, and I am glad that Iowa and other high-quality, low-cost regions will be rewarded for doing what is right for patients.

#### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks, my office has been flooded with letters, faxes, phone calls, and e-mails from all types of citizens throughout northwest Florida. The messages all say the same thing: stop the government takeover of our health care system.

Now, the majority party's proposed legislation costs over \$1 trillion. It would increase the deficit by \$240 billion. It would actually raise the cost of health care for an American family.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the way to reform the American health care system. Americans want more choices for health care, not fewer choices. They want to choose the doctors they see and when they want to see them, and they don't want their medical decisions made by a faceless bureaucrat here in Washington, D.C. Floridians are not willing to have their health care rationed, and they do not want the government takeover of health care that the majority in Congress is proposing.

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#### HEALTH CARE PURCHASING EXCHANGE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, when a Member of Congress is sworn into office, you get a pin, you get a voting card, and you get access to a health care purchasing exchange that's operated by the Federal employees health plan. Every Member of Congress has the ability to buy into or to choose a plan through the Federal employee

health plan which, when you boil down the health care reform bill that has passed the Ways and Means Committee and the Education Committee, is exactly what is going to be before this House.

For example, the minority leader from Ohio has, as a Member of Congress, the opportunity to choose 13 different plans under the Federal employee health plan. That's what the Obama health care proposal plans to do for all Americans. So when the time comes for the vote, ask your Member of Congress whether they're prepared to give to the people of America exactly what the people of America give to Congress, and that vote should be "yes."

#### TIME FOR WASHINGTON TO GET OUT OF THE WAY

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, the issue this week is health care and jobs, jobs, jobs. You know, a friend of mine who employs many people in my district, and he also provides very good health benefits, said to me recently that the policy proposals coming out of Washington are impeding job creation and scaring people. He's right. And there are five issues that are driving his concern:

First, a stimulus bill that spends too much, borrows too much and delivers too few jobs; two, a budget that doubles the national debt in 5 years and triples it in 10 years; three, a card check bill that is undemocratic and imposes binding arbitration which will increase health care and other costs; four, a national energy tax cap-and-trade that will cost 66,000 jobs in Pennsylvania and jacked-up electric bills, natural gas bills, and prices at the gasoline pump for consumers; and, five, now a House health care bill with enormous tax increases and mandates on all businesses and businesses of all sizes.

Enough is enough. Time to let Washington get out of the way and let job creators do what they do best: create jobs.

#### TIME TO MOVE NOW

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

Ms. RICHARDSON. The American people know something for sure, and that is premiums have doubled over the last 9 years growing three times faster than what we've seen in wages. The American families know that they're spending more than \$1,000 a month than what they have had to do in the past.

So let's talk about what really the American solution is. It's having lower costs for consumers to no longer have

copays or deductibles for preventative care, to have an annual cap to end that cap on out-of-pocket expenses, to end the rate of increases for preexisting conditions and, of course, looking at group rates.

We're ready for action. We've had six decades of discussions; we've had 45 hours of bipartisan debate, and 79 House hearings. It's time and it's time to move now.

#### STOP THE RACE TO GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, last night I made thousands of phone calls across my district in a tele-town hall meeting, and I listened to my constituents, and two phrases emerged. The first one was "fear." They're afraid of the recklessness that would allow us to begin a massive new program the experts agree will not reduce health care costs and will devastate the economy before we fix Medicare, which they know will be bankrupt in just 8 years.

They're afraid of the arrogance that leads some to conclude that a government committee or bureaucrat will make a better decision about an individual's health care than that individual can make with their doctor.

And they're also afraid of the short-sightedness of creating a plan that will result in rationing health care to seniors and creating longer lines and waits for the procedures they need.

But they're also grateful. They're grateful for those of us who will listen to them to bring some common sense and balance to the health care debate by stopping this race to a government takeover of their health care system and that will work instead for a system that finally puts our patients first.

#### THE "HEALTH" IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, we must put the health back into health care. Building a culture of wellness, including good nutrition and incentivizing prevention, moving from system-centered care to patient-centered care, and creating new insurance models can help meet this goal. These are the right solutions for strengthening America's health care, and they should be the basic components of an honest national debate.

The current debate is framed incorrectly, focusing on a loosely defined public option. This vast new government arrangement of our health care system may transfer millions of Americans against their will, Mr. Speaker, from their current insurance to a government plan and will add to our unsustainable fiscal conditions. It will