

not resolve the underlying problems driving costs for small businesses and families.

We have the opportunity in the next few weeks to do something right and good for the American people, to strengthen our Nation's health care by improving health outcomes while reducing costs and protecting vulnerable persons.

READ THE BILL

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

Mr. SCALISE. On the heels of the failed stimulus bill that added another roughly \$1 trillion of debt to our Nation's debt, also leading to about another two million people losing their jobs in this country and then that cap-and-trade energy tax proposal that literally would run millions of jobs out of our country, most Americans across our Nation are saying, Where are the jobs?

And, instead, the latest proposal by President Obama and Speaker PELOSI is this attempt to mandate a government takeover of our health care system.

And, you know, the President goes out and he gives these speeches. And he says under his plan if you like the plan that you have, you can keep it. Well, unfortunately, I don't think the President has read his bill because if you look right here in section 102 of the bill, it says that the government health care czar is going to be able to take away your health care plan even if you like it. It's right here in the bill.

Another part, Mr. Speaker, of what the President says is anybody who makes under \$250,000 a year won't pay anymore in new taxes. Once again, maybe the President hasn't read his own bill, but in his health care bill right here in section 401, tax on individuals without acceptable health care, \$29 billion in new taxes.

Read the bill.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Democrat majority's government-run health care plan. That is a phrase that the Speaker of the House does not want us to use. She's told us we can't use it in our mail. We're supposed to use the "public option."

Well, to use the word that the President apparently likes, the American people aren't stupid. They know it's government-run health insurance, and they don't want it. They know the Democrat majority proposes to cut costs by rationing care by deciding whether or not you get to go to the doctor, which doctor you get to go to;

if you need a specialist, which specialist you need to go to, when you need to go; if you need surgery, when you get to go, if you get to go.

And most importantly, end-of-life care for our seniors. The government wants to decide whether or not certain seniors will get procedures they need to enhance their quality of life and whether or not the computer model determines that that's not the highest and best use of their health care dollars.

American people don't want that. They want real reform just like the Republicans do. We want to have cost control, we want quality, we want access with real reform like tort reform.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of the proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

HEALTH CARE AND TAXES

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that real health care reform is a necessity; but in the haste to get this done, the wrong approach to achieve this worthy goal would be to increase taxes, especially on our small businesses. These vital small business owners are already straining not to cut jobs and wages. Most small business owners want to offer health insurance to their employees, but they simply cannot because the already-inflated costs just continue to increase.

What we need is true health care reform that brings down the cost of care in our country. We find creative ways to hide the actual costs of taxes and mandates. That makes no sense for Americans, no sense for our small businesses, and certainly no sense for our future generations who will be saddled with a lot of debt.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHERE ARE THE JOBS

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the American people have every right to ask where the jobs are. They know we are losing a half million jobs each month, and yet they saw this Democratic majority pass an energy bill that will raise utility rates for every American. Now they see the Obama White House and the Democrats pushing to drastically cut

Medicare and massively raise taxes on small businesses to pay for their government takeover of health care. The people know that will mean millions more jobs lost.

We need tax credits, Mr. Speaker, to help make health care more affordable and accessible, not massive tax hikes. We need job creation. We need more jobs, not massive layoffs caused by massive tax increases.

PROTECTING LIVES, KEEP IT OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDS

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I agree that the cost of health care has become expensive for my constituents, too expensive for my constituents and all Americans. What we need is to reform the current system and not turn it over to the government.

Letting patients choose the coverage that reaches their health care needs should be the focus. This is not a one-size-fits-all conclusion. Just ask my constituents Brad and Christy Norwood. They became the proud parents of Brycen in May of 2008. At birth, he appeared to be a healthy baby boy, but during a routine exam, a nurse discovered a heart murmur that was keeping blood from reaching his lower extremities. One week later, he underwent surgery to correct the problem; and thankfully today, Brycen is a happy, healthy 1-year-old.

His parents hate to think that if the proposed health care plan had been in place, the decision about Brycen would have to go through a government bureaucracy and could have possibly taken too long to save his life.

Let's not put Brycen's life or anyone else's in the hands of a government bureaucrat.

HEALTH CARE MONTH

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

Mr. MCHENRY. The Democrats' health care bill is bad legislation. But don't take my word for it. All you have to do is look at the chaos on the other side of the aisle as their leadership freely admits August would be like kryptonite to their proposal. If they truly believe this legislation was a cure-all for health care reform, they would relish the opportunity to send their Members home to build public support for it. But, no, the Democrat leadership is in desperation mode because they know their bill will not hold up under public scrutiny.

So let's tap the brakes, let's engage our constituents and the American people in this discussion about our goals for health care reform. August can become health care month in America if only the Democrat leadership will listen to reason and we can engage our constituents in the debate.