

may go to 11 percent; \$56 trillion in unfunded obligations. Countries like China and Saudi Arabia are buying up America and the future of our children; a \$1.84 trillion deficit this year and it may actually go to \$2 trillion; and Standard & Poor's said we may lose our AAA bond rating by 2012.

Now the House Democratic health care reform bill moving through the committee at lightning speed does not include, as CBO said, "the sort of fundamental changes that would be necessary" to reduce the skyrocketing cost of health care spending under Medicare.

This is not going to create jobs; this is going to kill jobs.

THE CURRENT DEMOCRAT HEALTH CARE BILL IS NOT THE RIGHT SOLUTION TO REFORMING HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, health care costs are increasing at two and three times the rate of inflation. If this continues, it will obviously ultimately consume us; so we have got to do something to reform health care.

But the bill making its way through the committee process can't be the right solution. According to economic modeling by the President's own chief economic adviser, the business tax hikes alone would destroy up to 4.7 million jobs. An independent analysis by the nonpartisan Lewin Group found that 114 million Americans would lose their current health insurance. And the CBO recently noted this health care plan would "probably generate substantial increases in Federal budget deficits."

Mr. Speaker, this can't be the right solution. We can do better. We need to keep working. And please include Republican ideas in this work product.

IN THIS RECESSION AMERICANS ARE CUTTING BACK TO MAKE ENDS MEET; CONGRESS SHOULD BE DOING THE SAME

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, this recession has forced Kansas families to change their ways. Folks are cutting back just to make ends meet. Now that's what Congress should be doing here in Washington.

But we aren't cutting back. In fact, the majority says we need a health care plan that will cost us jobs, when actually what we need is to take responsibility for our actions.

We need to rein in spending. We need to reduce the deficit. We need to stop legislation that will add hundreds of billions of dollars to the Nation's debt. We need to empower families to purchase health care that is the best fit

for them, without waiting lines and without mountains and mountains of debt.

I will continue to fight for common-sense solutions. Americans deserve no less.

HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC OPTION

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, as a Nation, we spend almost twice as much per person on health care as any other country, or about 16 percent of our gross domestic product. And for all the money that we are spending, our health care system does not produce the best outcomes.

Millions of Americans have no health care insurance and receive their care at the emergency room. Millions more must make the difficult choice of whether to pay their medical bills or pay their mortgage because they can't afford to do both.

I support reforms in the health care package that will bring down health care costs by tying payments to outcomes rather than the quantity of tests being run, by ending the government's overpayment for prescription drugs, by empowering an independent commission to put health care cost reductions before the Congress for up-or-down votes, and by investing in prevention and primary care.

One of the choices that should be made available in the health insurance exchange is a public health insurance option. I strongly believe that the advent of a public plan alongside private insurance coverage would achieve a number of beneficial goals, providing a greater choice to families and much-needed competition with private insurers. The new plan would also use its inherent advantages to control costs over the long term through lower administrative overhead and the ability to bargain for volume discounts.

In order to make sure the public plan has the legs to compete with private insurers, I believe it needs to be available now, not as a fallback, and that we need to allow it access to an established provider network, like Medicare, that will ensure the plan competes on a level playing field.

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DEMOCRATS' HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER—BAD FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this is the Democrat health plan, and this over 1,000 pages of legalese is the Democrat health plan.

This thing is really bad for America, but it's even worse for seniors. It's going to result in cuts in Medicare benefits. It's going to destroy Medicare Advantage. It's going to end up rationing health care. And if you don't believe that, listen to what the President said:

"The chronically ill and those toward the end of their lives are accounting for potentially 80 percent of the total health care bill out there. There is going to have to be some very difficult democratic conversation to take place on this."

He's talking about rationing health care and talking about how we're going to deal with these people who are getting a little bit older who need care. But you know what they're going to do to make sure that the seniors are going to be happy? They are going to give them end-of-life counseling. Take away benefits but tell you how you're going to die.

INSURANCE COMPANY PROFITS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, right now just about 60 percent of Americans receive their health insurance from their employer. But from 2000 to 2007, the annual health insurance premium for employers and employees rose from \$6,628 to \$12,153. The average worker's share of premiums grew by 116 percent, and the average employer's share rose by 75 percent, while wages only went up 4 percent.

Americans can no longer afford health insurance through the insurance company. In fact, a recent study found that 73 percent of all Americans who seek an individual insurance policy do not end up purchasing one, either because they were turned down due to preexisting conditions or their premiums were unaffordable.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans should be entitled to health insurance. But according to the SEC, Security and Exchange Commission, filings from 2000 to 2007, profits at the top ten publicly traded health insurance companies rose an astonishing 428 percent, from \$2.4 to \$12.9 billion.

Get the excessive profit out of health care. Provide health care for all Americans.