

you're a pest, not a patient. Don't take my word for it, ask your doctor. Ask them how government-run health care will change your life or shorten it.

PROTECT GM WORKERS' HEALTH BENEFITS

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, my father retired from General Motors after over 40 years. When General Motors closed their assembly plant in Moraine, Ohio, thousands of lifelong GM employees lost their jobs. Now, due to the Obama administration's negotiated bankruptcy, the retirees are at risk of losing their health care benefits. Isn't it ironic that as this House tries to rush through a misguided health care bill, the Federal Government has denied IUE-CWA workers in my community their promised health care benefits?

With the Federal Government now owning over 60 percent of General Motors, it's time to honor the promises that were given to these workers, including my father.

I have joined my Ohio colleagues in asking President Obama to not discriminate between UAW and non-UAW retirees in protecting their health care benefits. I have also talked to the President of GM last week, asking for fair treatment of these employees. Now it's reported that GM will apply for more than \$10 billion in additional government funding.

If President Obama is serious about health care, he should start by protecting the GM workers who are losing their benefits in this administration's acquisition of General Motors.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 any other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

WHAT IS BEING REFORMED?

(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, when I hear the word "reform" in the same sentence as health care, I wonder what is being reformed.

Fact 1: Some 80 percent of Americans are satisfied with their present health care.

Fact 2: Do we know what we're reforming? No. According to the Washington Post, the Democrats jumped at a chance to brief on what is in their 1,700-page Democrat health care bill.

"The bill is so complex," said Ways and Means Chairman RANGEL, "that when staff agreed to hold the session, response was overwhelming."

Fact 3: The Democratic plan will not save money. The nonpartisan CBO projected \$1 trillion in costs and mounting deficits, and they "do not see the sort of fundamental changes that would be necessary to reduce the trajectory of Federal spending by a significant amount."

Fact 4: The bill has harmful cuts to Medicare Advantage that will result in more than 10 million seniors losing the program on which they rely. This plan would have your money spent, your current health care gone, no guarantee of satisfaction, all in the name of "reform."

KILLER OF THE HEALTH CARE BILL IS NOT POLITICS BUT POLICY

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have a 70-vote majority in this House. They have a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate. They have a President with high personal popularity ratings. They don't need Republicans to pass their agenda. They remind us of this often, changing the House rules whenever we manage to score a tactical victory. Yet, Democrat leaders would have Americans believe that Republicans are obstructing passage of their health care legislation for political purposes.

If we had the power to stop the health care legislation, why didn't we? Republicans stop the stimulus bill that has run up debt without creating jobs? Why didn't we stop the cap-and-trade bill that killed hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs and tax every American that owns a light switch? Why not? Because Democrats have the votes to pass whatever they like.

The health care agenda has hit the rocks not because of Republican politics, but because of Democratic policy. Americans know a government takeover of health care won't bring down costs; it will simply raise taxes, kill jobs, and lower quality of care. The killer of this bill is not politics but policy.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE AT A LOWER COST

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

Mr. CASSIDY. To achieve the three goals of patient-centered health care, we have to control costs to provide access to quality care. Now there are three imperatives to achieve this. We have to decrease the amount of money the patient is paying for administrative costs, increase the transparency so the patient knows what she's paying

for, and lastly, address lifestyle issues so that a healthier patient has higher quality health care at lower cost. This is transformational.

The current plan, however, the CBO says, is not transformational and in fact is based upon things which are very old: Medicaid, which is a Federal program currently bankrupting the States; and Medicare, which is bankrupting the Federal Government. This new third entitlement program builds upon those models, which is supposed to rescue the two that are currently bankrupting us. At a minimum, the solution should not cost more than the problem.

Let's address the imperatives of lowering administrative costs, increasing transparency, and addressing lifestyle issues, and develop a patient-centered health care plan, not one built upon two programs going bankrupt. On a bipartisan basis, let's achieve quality, accessible health care at an affordable cost.

REPUBLICANS HAVE A POSITIVE HEALTH CARE ALTERNATIVE

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I had the occasion to speak with a businessman in Minnesota who employs 110 people in his business. And he told me, Michele, right now health care is the most expensive part of my business, and under President Obama's plan, it will cost me an additional \$12,000 a month and I just don't have that money. We know that the President's own figures say that about 5 million jobs will be lost in this country if his bill goes through.

There are so many small businesses, Mr. Speaker, who would love to offer health care, but it is the Congress that has made it so expensive for small businesses to offer health care.

Jobs will be created, but this is where they're going to be created, in government bureaucracy. This is the picture of the bureaucracy that the Democrats will create if we get government takeover of health care. And remember, the American consumer stands on this side of the bureaucracy, the doctor stands on this side. This is like America's newest board game. You have to navigate all of these agencies to get to the goal of your doctor and your health care. We can do better. The Republicans have a positive alternative.

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WE CANNOT WAIT

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, at least 46 million Americans are uninsured. By