

H.R. 3326

JUST DON'T GET SICK

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

Mr. NYE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our troops and our military families and in support of a provision in the manager's amendment to the Defense appropriations bill which will help our military families.

Mr. Speaker, injured military personnel and veterans, including many who live in my district, often have to travel far from home to receive specialized medical treatment, taking them away from their families during a difficult time. The Fisher House Foundation is a public-private partnership which provides housing to allow military family members to be close to their loved ones during hospitalizations or medical treatment. Each year the Fisher House program serves about 10,000 families at no charge, enabling them to focus on their husbands and wives, parents, sons and daughters.

This amendment includes a provision which I offered to give more support to the Fisher House Foundation to provide housing to more military families. Mr. Speaker, the troops I worked with in Iraq and Afghanistan were willing to put their lives on the line for our country, and we should do everything in our power to ease the burden on our wounded warriors and their families. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this valuable program and in supporting our military families.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, here are a few thoughts on the Democrat health tax bill by Democrats:

"This bill . . . does not strike the balance between preserving what works in our current system and fixing what does not work."

Another: "To try to pay for health care reform on the backs of small businesses, I can't support that."

Finally: "The (House) bill being presented, with a poorly defined public option, is a Trojan horse leading to government-controlled health care, and it is not in the best interests of the public."

These are the words and concerns of some of our Democrat colleagues. The Democrat plan raises taxes and mandates on small businesses, killing jobs. It creates a government takeover of health care that will knock millions of Americans, including senior citizens on Medicare, off their current plans.

There is a better way to help Americans afford health care, and it starts with empowering the people, not Big Government.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, here's the problems Americans are facing today: no money, no insurance, get sick, disaster; preexisting condition, no insurance, get sick, disaster; laid off, no insurance, get sick, disaster; employer drops coverage, no insurance, get sick, disaster.

This is what the Democrats are trying to fix. This is what the public option and the exchange will fix. It allows people who like their insurance to keep it, and it will cover those who do not have insurance. The Republican health plan very simply is: just don't get sick.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, reforming our Nation's health care system is an urgent national priority. Ensuring high-quality, affordable, access to health care for all Americans is our task here in Congress. Yet, opponents of reform are working to kill the bill and to do nothing about exploiting health care costs other than help insurance companies profit.

Democrats are working for real reform that empowers patients and their doctors to make the right choices for you. Democrats want health insurance for all Americans with a focus on saving and in investing and prevention for our children. Democrats want to make prescription drugs affordable and guarantee that preexisting conditions will be treated and not denied by insurance company bean counters. Democrats want a system that ensures all patients will receive evidence-based, quality care that's the standard.

My State of Minnesota has proven that high-quality, low-cost health care is a possibility here in the United States, and it should be the standard for all Americans. The time for action is now. We need to pass real health care reform.

YOU'RE JUST TOO OLD

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when government runs health care, senior citizens sometimes are refused treatment because of their age. In Sweden, an 83-year-old woman was refused medical surgery by the government-run hospital. They said she was just too old for treatment. Marianne Skogh had pain and numbness in her legs for 5 years. She waited more than a year trying to get approval for back surgery to cure the problem. She was rejected by the government. Without the oper-

ation, she would be living in incredible turmoil. She said, "What kind of life is that?"

Despite her long wait, Marianne was told her ailment was treatable but she was just too old for surgery. The government-run hospital said since she had previous heart surgery, they were denying her the back surgery. They told her just to take some pain pills. When the pain pills didn't help, the government still wouldn't let her have the surgery. Marianne ended up paying for the operation herself with some private funds and funds she received from friends. She's now pain-free.

Government-run health care lets bureaucrats decide who receives rationed care and who doesn't, who lives and who just dies. And that's just the way it is.

AMERICA NEEDS QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, America faces a vital decision to improve health care for all, both its quality and affordability. But follow the money. Ask yourself, Who's making the big bucks off the current arrangement? Aren't you tired of all those expensive medicine ads on TV? If you weren't sick before you watch them you're sick afterwards.

Pharmaceutical companies are the third most profitable industry in our country. They don't even manufacture most of those medicines here anymore. They outsourced them long ago. And their CEOs grab millions of dollars a year in salaries and bonuses from our middle class that's struggling more each year just to pay for insurance. And the insurance companies? They're raking in your health insurance dollars too. They don't deliver an ounce of care, but they've become the ninth most profitable industry in our country. Go to any state capital. Who owns the highest buildings in those towns? Insurance companies. That says it all. America needs quality, affordable health care, not insurance and pharmaceutical kingdoms.

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LISTEN TO THE SENIORS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have a lot of friends on the Democrat side of the aisle, and we, as Republicans, really care about your future, so I'd like for you to know that one of the largest voting blocs in the country is that of the senior citizens. When they read this and find out about it—and we are going to make sure they do—they're going to really hold you accountable.