

It can help small businesses by providing an exchange that they can access which will provide a bigger pool and shared risk and lower health care costs for them. And many small businesses would qualify for substantial tax credits to help small businesses make worker health care costs more affordable.

This bill will not cost small business jobs. In fact, it will help save jobs, giving them more opportunities to spend their money to help add to their jobs rather than paying extremely high health care costs.

HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know, rather than complaining about the thousand-page, \$1 trillion health care bill that rations care and increases costs, in my district I hosted a forum on health care solutions.

A panel of experts shared some Texas-sized solutions they have used to fix what is broken in our health care system.

These folks didn't rely on government bureaucrats to solve their problems. They didn't wait for a Washington bailout. They forged ahead with innovative programs that improved the quality of life for Texans—ideas that both Democrats and Republicans can agree on.

My constituents have told me loud and clear: one, they don't want government-controlled health care; two, the President and Democrats in Congress need to start over and listen to America. Go for real bipartisan solutions.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins on September 15 and runs through October 15. During this time we will celebrate the culture of people who trace our roots to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, and their contributions to American life.

The achievements of the Hispanic community in America have positively affected so many aspects of our society. For example, there are now over 1.6 million Hispanic-owned businesses in America. Of these businesses, over 29,000 generate over \$1 million worth of revenues every year.

Hispanics in America are also succeeding in a wide variety of challenging fields. There are currently over 79,000 Hispanic executives, almost 51,000 Hispanic physicians and surgeons, almost 49,000 Hispanic post-sec-

ondary teachers, and over 38,000 Hispanic lawyers.

And lastly, let us not forget that there are over 1.1 million Hispanic veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

THERE ARE MANY SOLUTIONS TO HEALTH CARE REFORM

(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, the President continues to try to sell the false myth that the health care debate is only between the Democrat bill or the status quo. This is completely inaccurate.

Republicans have offered different solutions and legislation to fix what is wrong with our health insurance system. Unfortunately, Democrats are unwilling to acknowledge that there may be other proposals, reforms that do not add billions to the national debt, cost millions of jobs or expand the size and powers of the Federal Government. Republicans believe we can make health insurance more affordable by giving Americans more of their own tax dollars to purchase insurance, shop for plans across State lines, and association health plans for small businesses.

The debate should be built on the honest exchange over what proposals are best to expand health insurance coverage, not on the false effort that we enact a big government takeover or do nothing.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. This was an important August for America and for Members of this House. Back in Missouri, I had a number and variety of health care forums, from traditional townhalls to telephone townhalls, to roundtables of health care experts to kitchen table conversations with constituents. What we know is that the current system is broken, unsustainable, and unaffordable.

So the number one contributor to our deficit, to personal bankruptcies and costs of those who have insurance has doubled in 10 years. We also know we consider the source of the opponents peddling this information in this debate, the political gamers who just want to bring the President down, the profiteers who are making massive profits over the broken system.

We need to have important insurance reforms to reduce costs through competition, and this needs to be deficit neutral.

As Congress reconvenes and we prepare to hear the President tonight, we

need to continue this great debate, even a spirited debate that we have to find commonsense solutions for the American people. That's what they expect, and that's what they deserve.

UTOPIAN ILLUSION: GOVERNMENT RUN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my grandmother used to say "If you have your health, you have everything." Health is a personal and private matter with people. Individuals want to control who their doctor is. Now we are embarked upon a new philosophy regarding health care.

The government thinks it knows better how to take care of Americans than individuals do. Kind of like the sarcastic statement, "We're from the government, we're here to help you."

More government intrusion into personal lives alarms and scares people, especially seniors. They are afraid that additional government control of health care will take their personal choices away and give decisions and power to unelected, unaccountable 23-year-old bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. Frankly, many of my neighbors in Texas don't have the confidence that big government can provide better quality of health for this Nation.

People are also worried about the billions of dollars to pay for this utopian illusion: money that will have to be borrowed, then paid back in more taxes. The people I represent think this new plan will make matters worse. Sort of like what my grandmother also said, "If you think the problems government creates are bad, just wait until you see government solutions."

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. I have a quote from Republican Chief Justice Earl Warren, no longer with us. He said, Many people consider the things which government does for them to be social progress, but they consider the things government does for others as socialism. He said it. It is a message to everybody in this House. The fearmongering that's gone on in the last 2 months does not bring us any closer to resolution.

Look, private insurance companies are for-profit businesses. I can't blame them, you can't blame them for being in the business of denying access to needed care, avoiding and dumping the sick, and confusing consumers. They are, after all, driven by profits, not patients.

I aim in my business, what I have to do here in the House is look out for my constituents, for the hard-working families in New Jersey that are being

tossed aside so that insurance companies can maximize their profits. I support America's Affordable Health Choice Act because it creates a rational marketplace where Americans can find transparent information about their insurance options, guaranteeing coverage that won't discriminate based on health, gender, or job, and meaningful coverage that won't leave families laden with debt.

THE PRESIDENT'S RHETORIC SHOULDN'T BE TAKEN LITERALLY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a speech before the American Medical Association, the President made a promise to the American people which he has often repeated: If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. If you like your health care plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan. No one will take it away, no matter what end.

However, when asked about this, White House officials told the Associated Press, The President's rhetoric shouldn't be taken literally.

So when it comes to serious concerns that most Americans have about health care proposals, White House officials admit you can't believe what the President says. That's astounding. If we can't take the President literally on his promises to the American people, why aren't the national media all over this? The American people need the facts about health care reform, not political cover for the President.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, during the August recess, not only did I conduct townhall meetings, but I toured medical facilities throughout my district. One of those visits has been etched vividly in my mind.

In Elizabeth City, North Carolina, I met Derrick Williams at DaVita Dialysis Center. He tearfully explained to me that he had received a kidney transplant from his sister. The kidney worked well, but he was required to take a variety of antirejection medicines. He liked his insurance.

His insurance company started reimbursing for the medicines, and he was very happy. But after just 2 years, the insurance company refused further reimbursement. Unable to afford the medicines, the kidney failed, he's back on dialysis, his sister is without a kidney, and Derrick is awaiting another kidney. What a tragedy.

Health insurers should work with us and their policyholders. Instead, they continue to rake in huge profits by

raising premiums \$1,800 per year and cutting back on coverage.

I urge the insurance industry to embrace health care reform, please.

CONFIRMING CZARS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the so-called "green jobs czar" resigned from his post after it was revealed that he supported 9/11 Truth organization statements insinuating that the government permitted the attacks to happen.

This official was just one of the many czars the administration has appointed this year. There's a car czar, a pay czar, a science czar, a Great Lakes czar, plus 30 other czars.

Typically, high-ranking officials go through a Senate confirmation process to ensure their fitness for the position, but none of President Obama's czars went through this process required by the Constitution.

The Constitution calls for the Senate to give advice and consent for the appointment of its principal officers, a fitting definition for the power wielded by these czars.

It is not too late for the President to properly vet his next green jobs czar and to willingly submit all of these high officials to a transparent process that can only strengthen his administration.

When he was Senator, Obama said, "The biggest problems that we're facing right now have to do with George Bush trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch and not go through Congress at all. And that's what I intend to reverse when I'm President of the United States."

Mr. Obama, it's time to keep your word.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: DISPELLING MYTHS FOR SENIORS

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

Ms. HIRONO. The most damaging aspect of the misinformation circulating about health care insurance reform is the use of scare tactics targeted at our seniors. The cynical irony is that the misinformation targeting seniors is largely perpetuated by the very people who fought the establishment of Medicare and wanted to privatize Social Security.

Here are the facts about some common myths:

Myth No. 1, there will be rationing of health care. Not true. The bill promotes effective treatments through research.

Myth No. 2, Medicare will be eliminated. Not true. In fact, reform will lower prescription drug costs for people in the doughnut hole, allow them to keep the doctors of their choice, im-

prove the quality of care and eliminate billions in waste.

Closing the doughnut hole is especially important for Hawaii's seniors. We have the highest percentage; 36 percent compared to 26 percent nationally of our beneficiaries fall into this doughnut hole.

Our current health care system, the costliest in the world for what we get, with ever increasing costs year after year, can't be sustained. I urge my colleagues to support reform now.

UNACCOUNTABLE POLICY CZARS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the recent controversy and resignation by one of President Obama's policy czars highlights a very real problem: the President's use of unaccountable policy czars to circumvent the Constitution. Now, by one count, the White House has 32 policy czars, including a science czar, a regulatory czar, and even a Great Lakes czar.

These czars are tasked with leading major policy efforts for the administration and have simply been granted a great deal of authority. Yet each czar, unlike a Cabinet secretary, is not subject to congressional oversight.

Members of the Cabinet have to be approved by Congress, and they report to Congress. Policy czars have no such obligation. So what we have now is a situation where major policy decisions are being made by a group of people who are not approved by Congress, not subjected to congressional oversight, and operate without any transparency or accountability. This is not what our Constitution intended.

OUR AILING HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, we have a health care system that is ailing and is almost on life support. It needs a major operation, and it needs it in three ways.

First, we have to stop discriminating against people with prior illnesses. It's wrong and probably unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment.

Second, small businesses and individuals can't get health care insurance because they are too small or they're by themselves and have no pool. We need to make insurance and health care financing available to small businesses and to individuals.

Third, we are on the cusp of some tremendous breakthroughs in medicine and in health care which will help us with heart disease, diabetes and cancer, but in general, wellness across the board, which will save this country a lot of money.

We have the most expensive health care system in the world. We deserve