

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.

□ 1015

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