

to keep Americans from going bankrupt due to medical bills, the for-profit insurance industry has painted any effort at reform as un-American. I want to talk today about health and wealth.

Unlike then, there is now broad consensus that our system is unsustainable. Premiums are rising at three times the rate of inflation, 4,000 Americans are losing their coverage every day, and more and more are unable to get insurance simply because they have preexisting conditions. Still, those who profit most by the status quo, the for-profit insurers, continue to lie to the American people while they take home between \$70,000 a day and \$300,000 a day.

Let me be clear: no one in Congress is trying to nationalize medical care. On the contrary, providing Americans a basic low-cost public option simply expands access so that consumers can visit the doctors of their choice.

It's time we start caring less about making private insurance companies and their CEOs wealthy and get back to making Americans healthy.

WAKE UP AMERICA: THIS IS THE TIME FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, there are those in America who claim that we can't fix our broken health care system during an economic crisis. The truth is that we can't afford not to fix it.

Health care premiums have risen every year for more than a decade, at least three times as fast as family incomes have risen. If we do nothing, those rising health insurance premiums will eat up an ever larger slice of family incomes. Businesses that provide health insurance as a benefit for workers and their families will be ever more competitively disadvantaged. That is a loss of jobs that America cannot afford to lose.

Others in America claim that reform will mean a government takeover of health care decisions. The opposite is true. Every American will be able to choose their insurance plan and their doctor, but dropping a person's coverage because of a preexisting condition will be prohibited from all insurance plans.

Reform will ensure that the doctor and the family make the critical decisions on needed care. Now the insurance company executives make those decisions, and they only care about their profits.

Wake up, America; this is the time for health care reform.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM DAILY MYTH BUSTER: IMPACT ON SENIORS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, we have nothing but myths and scare tactics to our seniors about health care.

What is one of the myths? Under the health care reform, a government panel, a bureau, will tell you when you can die. Nothing can be further from the truth. It will be up to your doctor and your family. It simply provides reimbursement for Medicare for doing this.

Another myth: health care reform will lead to rationed care. No such thing. We have it now. As a matter of fact, nothing will stand between you and your doctor to make the best decision. Reform actually takes insurance company bureaucrats out of this decision and let's you make it.

What about the myth about health care reform is a government takeover? Just another lie. Under the bill, there is no government takeover of health care. Every American will still be able to choose their doctor and their health insurance plan and make decisions that they want.

The fourth out of these five myths: health care will reform and end Medicare. Untrue. As a matter of fact, it will strengthen Medicare and it will lower prescription drug benefits—take that doughnut out of Medicare.

And, finally: We can't afford to fix health care during an economic downturn. We can't afford not to fix it.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JEAN SCHMIDT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JEAN SCHMIDT, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, August 11, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the Ohio Elections Commission.

After consultation with counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

JEAN SCHMIDT,
Member of Congress.

ELECTING A MINORITY MEMBER TO A STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 723

Resolved, That the following member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee:

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM—Mr. Luetkemeyer.

Mr. PENCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 255

In the Senate of the United States, September 8, 2009.

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy was elected to the Senate in 1962 and served the people of Massachusetts in the United States Senate with devotion and distinction for nearly 47 years, the third longest term of service in Senate history;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy became the youngest Majority Whip in Senate history at the age of 36;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy served as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1979–1981 and as Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee for nearly 13 years between 1987–2009;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy made the needs of working families and the less fortunate among us the work of his life, particularly those of the poor, the disenfranchised, the disabled, the young, the old, the working class, the service member and the immigrant;

Whereas his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Massachusetts and all Americans earned him the esteem and high regard of his colleagues;

Whereas more than 300 laws bear his name and he co-sponsored more than 2,000 others covering civil rights, health care, the minimum wage, education, human rights and many other issues; and

Whereas with his death his State and the Nation have lost an outstanding lawmaker and public servant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has received with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the passing of the honorable Edward Moore Kennedy, the great Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the Kennedy family.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 179. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas