

Medicare part D, reforming medical malpractice to make sure it is affordable for every practitioner and their patients, and to negotiate finally for deeper discounts from prescription drug companies.

We are also going to eliminate the antitrust exemption that the Wall Street-run health insurance corporations have been benefiting from for several decades. We are also going to begin to look at purchasing health care policies across State lines.

This is what the people want: They want private doctors and private hospitals. They want to be in charge of their health care again.

We are going to put patients first in this House of Representatives.

HEALTH CARE AND SENIORS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, many seniors from my area of south Florida are concerned about the \$1 trillion Pelosi bill. The Pelosi bill is poised to hurt seniors by endangering their Medicare benefits. Seniors, after decades and decades of hard work and sacrifice, deserve nothing less than the best quality health care that we can provide. Any health care reform legislation must not endanger this solemn promise.

According to CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, the Pelosi plan will cut Medicare benefits by \$162 billion. The Pelosi bill will force seniors to pay up to 20 percent more for their Medicare prescription drug coverage. It will also inflict massive cuts on a popular program, Medicare Advantage, that will force many seniors out of their current coverage. So not only do we take away benefits from our seniors, but we will make them pay more for what little they are left with.

This is not what seniors deserve. Seniors deserve to have their Medicare benefits protected. Whatever shape health care reform takes, this Chamber must never forget our pledge to our seniors.

WELCOMING AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES TO WASHINGTON

(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, I rise today to welcome the many American Indians and Alaska Natives who are here in Washington to address the needs of Indian Country. For the first time, leaders from the 564 federally recognized tribes will interact directly with the President and Cabinet members in the first annual White House Tribal Nations Conference.

President Obama, the administration officials, and many Members of Con-

gress are engaging tribal leaders in an unprecedented conversation to hear firsthand about the needs and opportunities facing Indian communities and families.

Tribal leaders are also here to commemorate the historic opening today of the Embassy of Tribal Nations' permanent home in our Nation's Capital for their family of sovereign tribal governments.

Migwetch—thank you—as we would say in Minnesota. Thank you to all the tribes who are here to participate and work on Indian issues together.

DOING HEALTH CARE REFORM THE RIGHT WAY

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, when I am at home in the district, I am not getting questions about health care. I am getting questions about jobs. People are saying, what are you doing to help create jobs?

Unemployment nationally is at a 26-year high. In my district, it is between 11 and 15 percent, and small business people say to me all the time, new taxes on businesses that can't afford health coverage is not going to help. We all know that leads to fewer jobs and lower wages for workers.

Health care reform is important, but the country can't afford it under the proposed bill. Half of the tax dollars collected by the health care bill's new surtax are from small business. It is terrible for innovation and kills ingenuity, which made America great.

It is the American people that keep this country growing, and they want health reform done the right way, that lowers cost and is affordable.

PROTECTING INNOCENT AMERICANS FROM EXECUTION

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced H.R. 3986, the Effective Death Penalty Appeals Act, to protect innocent Americans from execution. Under current law, a death row inmate can be stranded in a procedural no-man's land condemned to die, even if there is compelling new evidence of innocence.

Justice Stevens recently wrote that the law as it stands is arguably unconstitutional. It is also wrong. My bill would empower Federal courts to entertain and grant habeas corpus petitions for death row inmates who present new evidence that demonstrates probable innocence.

This bill will help us discern the innocent from the guilty when the stakes are highest. I look forward to broad support for this bill.

I will also say that health care, this new proposal, H.R. 3986, is fabulous reform to this problem.

PROPOSED HEALTH CARE REFORM WILL HURT WOMEN

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

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, for many women and their families, higher health care costs means the difference between receiving care or going without it. Unfortunately, the Pelosi health care bill raises taxes on health care and empowers the Federal Government and bureaucrats to decide what kind of health care families and women will have versus empowering people to make their own personal decisions. It also undermines a woman's ability to make the best decisions for her family.

According to a report, studies have shown that more than 52 percent of women have foregone necessary care because of the cost. They have foregone care from filling prescription drugs, skipping a medical test, or even failing to see a doctor when they needed medical help.

We know when the Federal Government takes over care, whether it is a bureaucratic system or a socialized system, that it also leads to rationing of care. This bill increases taxes while also causing higher insurance premiums and will hurt women and children and their families. But House Republicans support reasonable health care reform that lowers costs and will ensure access to care for all Americans.

NO LONGER BEING FOOLED BY THE PARTY OF NO

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, one of the scariest themes of Halloween has been the continuation of myths about our health care legislation that is being made by opponents of reform. These TEA-bagger myths have been debunked time and time again, yet some in this Congress continue to perpetuate them. Why? Because they have no alternative plan of their own.

If they had a comprehensive plan that would actually address our Nation's health care crisis, it would have been put forward, or maybe they would have enacted it during the years that they ran Congress and the White House. But when you don't have a plan, you have nothing else to talk about.

We all know we cannot continue the status quo: Americans with health insurance today, never knowing if it will be there when they need it; millions of Americans today without any coverage; all the while, costs keep climbing and insurance companies keep getting richer.

So what do some folks do? They distort our plan and use scare tactics and try to fool the American people. But the American people support our plan, which ensures that we all have access

to quality, affordable health care, and they won't be fooled anymore by the Party of No.

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HIGHLIGHTING THREE CONCERNS ABOUT THE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL: ABORTION, SENIORS, AND THE CONSCIENCE CLAUSE

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk today about some of the concerns I have with the current health care bill, specifically abortion, our seniors, and the conscience clause for medical professionals.

As this bill is drafted, it opens the door to the public funding of abortion. A majority of Americans are opposed to funding abortions. For decades the Federal funding of abortion has been prohibited by the Hyde amendment. Some will argue the Capps amendment does the same thing, but it does not. It allows for plans, specifically the public option, to have abortion coverage paid for with our tax dollars.

This bill also cuts more than \$500 billion from Medicare, putting our Nation's seniors' health at risk. Almost \$170 billion will be cut from the Medicare Advantage program alone. This will adversely affect 17,000 seniors in my district.

And, finally, it appears to erode the conscience clause protections for our medical professionals. No health care provider should ever have to choose between his or her morals, faith, and his or her job.

Health care reform should be about protecting lives, not jeopardizing them.

WE MUST MAKE HEALTH CARE A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we are at a historic moment in our Nation's history.

After a half century of debate, the time has come to make health care a reality for every single American. We must make health care a right and not a privilege. People are dying without health care. This week we must say, No more. No more.

People are losing their homes because they are without health insurance. This week we say, No more.

The American people cannot wait a moment longer. Every day that we wait, 14,000 Americans lose their health insurance.

We have a good bill before us. We have resolved our differences. We have been struck in the paralysis of analysis, and this must end and end now. Now is the time to act. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "Of all the

forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

We must not perpetuate this injustice. The spirit of history is upon us. We have been called to lead. Now is the time for the Congress to act.

THE HEALTH CARE DEBATE: A GOVERNMENT-CENTERED PLAN VERSUS A PATIENT-CENTERED, TAXPAYER-FRIENDLY PLAN

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the American people, especially women, are listening and watching; and they are paying close attention to how we define problems, how we address problems, and how we as a body get around to solving problems that they're concerned about. And I think they're really learning so very much.

They are learning that we have a philosophical difference in how we choose to address these problems. Some of my colleagues want to see this played out in the health care debate where they would choose to have a government-centered plan, and then there are those of us that would like to have a patient-centered, taxpayer-friendly way to address this.

And we do have lots of ideas. We, as Republicans, have brought forward so many ideas and so many bills that would do just that, to address the health care and medical concerns of our constituents.

What they want is more affordable cost, ease of access, making certain that we address access to affordable insurance for those that have preexisting and existing conditions. And we can do that and be friendly to the American taxpayer.

THE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL AND THE INPUT FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the House Democrats have held over 3,000 public events, town halls, forums for people to give us their ideas on health care. I'm sure my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have held countless more events. I personally have held 28 events in my district in Colorado, town halls, telephone town halls, Congress on Your Corners. The input from the American people has made this bill a better bill.

This bill before us, the John Dingell bill, costs over \$100 billion less than the initial House bill. It reduces our deficit by over \$30 billion over 10 years. Yes, we need to do more to reduce our deficit, but this bill is an important start. That's something I heard from my constituents, and we're acting upon it by incorporating that into this bill.

Other suggestions from my constituents included making sure that we have interstate competition. There are provisions for that in the bill. Tort reform, President Obama challenged us to do that. We have put tort reform in this bill. The bill is better for small businesses.

The input from millions of Americans across the ideological spectrum has made this bill better. And I would like to thank the American people for helping to write the Democratic health care reform bill.

THE HEALTH CARE BILL IS A CRUEL HOAX

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come from Macomb County, Michigan. That county is also known as the home of the Reagan Democrats. It is certainly a proud heartland not only of Michigan but the heartland of America, I think. And as a mother and as a grandmother, I am incredibly concerned about the enormous amount of debt that this administration, through a number of bills and now especially this health care bill, is placing on future generations.

One of the most disingenuous claims that have been made over and over again, Mr. Speaker, is if you like your current health care plan, you can keep it.

Well, here's a headline in my local paper just the other day: "Employers Ready to Dump Health Care." "Under the House bill, paying an 8 percent penalty is cheaper than providing coverage." This was a survey that was done by our Macomb County Chamber of Commerce, and what they found is that an overwhelming majority of local companies stated they would drop their existing employee insurance coverage or avoid offering future health care benefits if this bill that the House is considering today passes.

This bill is a very cruel hoax. That is the reality. A business decision that is going to be made will dump these people out on the public plan.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: HOW IT WILL BENEFIT WOMEN

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

Ms. CHU. Women of America, Republicans want you to believe that our health care reform bill is poison, that doing nothing is better for the Nation. But it is the status quo that is poison.

Today, women are forced to settle for less health care at a higher price. We pay as much as 50 percent more than men, a practice of discrimination that is legal in 38 States. But this bill prohibits insurance companies from charging women more for the same coverage.

Today, women are turned away from buying insurance due to so-called preexisting conditions such as domestic