

We pay our Medicare taxes to the Federal Government, and we should get it back. I am an original intent constitutionalist, and I understand that some people would say, well, Dr. BROUN, an HSA is not constitutional under Medicare, but we've got to fix Medicare. And it is a bridge to help Medicare patients start controlling their own costs and controlling their own money and controlling their own health care decisions. That is exactly what my bill, H.R. 3889, would do.

But I wanted to go back to this summit just in the last few minutes that we have. Actually, the mainstream media has written some articles that just came out today, and I wanted to read a couple of things from the mainstream media. The President has talked about he wants to reach out in a bipartisan way. The Wall Street Journal wrote today, Democrats have decided to give the voters what they don't want anyway. A San Francisco Examiner editorial said, Republicans publicly wondered if Obama's proposal represented a refreshing new attempt by the Chief Executive to display genuine bipartisanship and whether they should trust him to come to the summit with a truly open mind. And that is what we had hoped.

Going on with what they said: We now know the answer to both questions is a resounding "no."

The Washington Post said, President Obama's opening bid on health reform is not designed to entice Republicans to join the game.

And as we said earlier, I don't believe the President wants Republicans to join the game, he doesn't want the Governors to join the game. He doesn't want anyone to join the game because he has set the game rules himself, tilted towards just what he wants and what nobody else wants. It is just the leadership meeting in secret behind closed doors, with no input actually from our Democratic colleagues nor our Republican colleagues, nor Governors, nor health care providers, anybody except just the leadership has brought forth ObamaCare II.

And even in his hometown newspaper, The Chicago Tribune—not known to be a conservative newspaper—said this: Obama wants Republicans to approach the summit in a spirit of compromise. Too bad he's not leading by example.

So, Mr. Speaker, we've spent an hour with my colleagues talking about health care. Republicans are the party of k-n-o-w, know. We can lower the cost of health care. We can empower patients and doctors to make the decisions and start health care reform, health care financing reform, that makes sense economically, that will cover those that are uninsured, that will cover those who have preexisting conditions that can't get insurance today. We can do those things if the President and the leadership of this House and the leadership of the Senate would just listen to some of the pro-

posals that we have put forward. Doctors have not been enjoined in this process. The American people have not been in this process. And the American people need to say no to ObamaCare.

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EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR REPRESENTATIVE DALE KILDEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHAUER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today on the floor, we had a rare occasion when we were able to congratulate one of our colleagues, Mr. KILDEE from Michigan, for casting his 20,000th vote.

It was a great opportunity for us to show our appreciation and affection for a Member who is extraordinarily well respected and, I would say, even loved by his colleagues.

It is unfortunate that so much emphasis in the media is placed on the partisanship that occurs here in the House. We do have strong philosophical differences, but on a personal level, we respect each other, and have genuine affection for each other. That extends even to our staff.

A few weeks ago, we had a similar situation when we had the unfortunate passing of Congressman BOEHNER's chief of staff. She was eulogized here on the floor by both Democrats and Republicans, and I am so pleased that we have been able to show, again, that we do care for each other personally in this House, because that is not the image that people have of us.

I want to go back to speaking some more about DALE KILDEE. There is nobody in this House, or very few people in this House, who feel any stronger about my philosophy than I do. I have the greatest respect and admiration for Mr. KILDEE. As Mr. JOHN BOEHNER said today on the floor, that is what he calls him, and that is what I have always called him. I have had the great pleasure to serve with him on the Education Committee as well as on the Page Board.

I want to say that I have learned a great deal from serving with Mr. KILDEE. He is a fabulous role model for us all. As was said today, he is always a gentleman. He is always very calm. He always gives the impression—and I believe it is a true impression—that he cares a great deal about the people he is dealing with and about the people he is serving. He loves the House, and he does his job with great thoughtfulness and diligence.

I want to say that he is, I think, a great role model for all of us. It has been my pleasure to be able to serve with him, again, on the Education Committee, on the Page Board and here in the House.

I think the comments that were made about Mr. KILDEE today were comments that we all agreed with.

There was great applause after each one of the sets of comments that were made, and I think that it was, again, a terrific example of how we may differ philosophically on issues but of how we care for each other on a personal level and of how we respect each other despite our philosophical differences.

I want to pay my tribute to Mr. KILDEE for the wonderful service that he has given to the people of his district and to his steadfastness in coming to this floor day, after day, after day and for voting and for missing only 27 votes in 33 years and for being in a very elite group of people who has served in the House of Representatives and has cast 20,000 votes.

Mr. KILDEE, we love you and respect you, and we hope you are going to be around to cast many more thousands of votes.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. PERRIELLO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PERRIELLO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving us this time tonight to talk about the important issue of health care reform and, specifically, about a simple idea on which we believe folks across the political spectrum should be able to agree, which is that the health insurance companies should have to compete like every business in my district and like every business around the country. So we come together on a two-page bill—front and back, only 24-lines' long—that does something very simple:

It removes the monopoly protections that our health insurance companies have enjoyed for 65 years. Enjoyed because of free market principles? No. Enjoyed because of the amount of money spent lobbying both political parties to protect that insurance monopoly.

One thing we should be able to agree on, which costs the government nothing, is that health insurance companies should not be protected as monopolies. The Consumer Federation of America estimates that this could save consumers \$10 billion. This is a simple American principle of competition, of the ending of health insurance monopolies.

I have been joined by several of my freshman colleagues tonight, who have not been stuck in Washington where the logic of protecting monopolies may make sense. We are coming from Main Street where people still believe in competition and accountability and in the kind of principles that will ensure consumers get a better deal. When they are forced to compete, prices come down, and quality goes up. It is a very simple principle.

My coauthor on this bill, BETSY MARKEY from Colorado, has been a great