

this government takeover of health care and start working across the aisle to create jobs. How many times are the American people going to have to reject this health care monstrosity before the message is finally taken to heart? Americans across the country are tired of Congress's misplaced priorities. Tragic unemployment continues to cripple many communities. Liberals are obsessed with passing a job-killing health care takeover. NFIB documents 1.6 million jobs will be killed by the takeover.

Americans want health care reform, but they want Congress to tackle the unemployment rate first through job creation incentives and then work together for a bipartisan health care reform that increases access and lower costs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WOFFORD COLLEGE

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

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to join a celebration going on in Spartanburg, South Carolina, because the Wofford College Terriers have won the Southern Conference Tournament Championship last week and they have gotten a ticket to the NCAA tournament. Led by Southern Conference Player of the Year Noah Dahlman, Wofford also won the regular season this year and then its first ever SoCon tournament title last week in Charlotte. Winning 13 straight games, Wofford will be making its first ever appearance in the NCAA tournament as the smallest school in the field of 65 this year, with 1,450 students. While the Terriers may be small in size, they played big in upset wins against Georgia and South Carolina.

My congratulations to Wofford head coach Mike Young and all the Terrier players. I'm with them all the way to the final. If they're against Duke at that point—sorry, all bets are off. Until then, I'm for the Terriers.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY IS VIOLATED BY GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the new health care bill is an invasion of people's privacy. It's another reason why we should vote it down. The gov-

ernment shouldn't be sticking its nose into people's medical records. It's none of the government's business. There's a "health care integrity data bank" in the bill that gives the Feds access to everyone's medical records. Once the government has everybody's medical records, none of that information is secure. Health care information should be between the patient and the doctor—and that's all. Not the patient and some yet unnamed, anonymous, unaccountable Federal bureaucrat.

Ask Joe the Plumber about government bureaucrats keeping personal information private. Joe was standing around in his front yard one day when the Presidential candidate walked right up to him for a little chat. It could have literally happened to any of us. Joe asked the candidate a question about "spreading the wealth around." Well, some government bureaucrat didn't like his question. She saw it on the news. She took it upon herself to illegally dig up his tax records and leak all that information to the media.

Giving government bureaucrats access to people's most private health insurance gives them opportunity to misuse that information, private and intimate information. The right of privacy is almost sacred, and this Federal Government grab of health care will eliminate medical privacy. Why do you think there are 111 new Federal agencies in this 2,700-page bill? It's to administer and snoop around in the medical records of Americans.

If the government health care bill passes, privacy is history. Talk to your doctor? The government will know about it. You have some type of illness or disease? The government will know. Feeling a bit depressed after a family death and need some medication for that depression? Well, the government will even know about your mental health issues.

Is this the kind of information that should be in the hands of Federal bureaucrats? When you fill out that background information for your private doctor and they ask you all about the diseases and illnesses and medical problems you have ever had, now that formerly confidential information will be in the hands of Federal Government bureaucrats to use however they want to. That should make us all sleep very well tonight. Once medical records are available to the Feds, every government agency will be fighting for the right to get their hands on that information. That's the way bureaucrats work, especially when every individual's health in America becomes a Federal budget item.

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Every American will be required to be a part of the Big Brother health care database because everybody will be required to have government-approved health insurance plans. It's not just the medical records that are no longer private. Under the government takeover of health care, they will have a

plan for the government to have access to your banking records as well. The law now is that government has no access to your finances without a court order, but under the new plan, the government will have access to your bank accounts to make sure you're paying for that government-mandated health care or paying the fine on that failure to have insurance.

This 2,700-page bill gives the Feds the authority to automatically debit your bank account. Private medical records and bank records are none of the government's business. People won't talk to their doctor about problems anymore. They'll know somewhere in the deep, dark, dank dungeons of Washington, D.C., a Federal bureaucrat will be reading their medical records and their bank statements.

This is all an invasion of privacy and a violation of our Constitution, and those who say we can trust the government to keep this confidential live in an "Alice in Wonderland" existence. This whole scheme is a denial of individual liberty and an attempt to make America another European-style nanny state where the people are mere subjects to an oppressive, inefficient Federal bureaucracy. This health care takeover by the Feds is a violation of the right of privacy for all Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS CRACKDOWN IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, for 8-plus years, we've been told that the military campaign in Afghanistan is about promoting freedom and democratic values, which is why the latest news out of Afghanistan is so disappointing and ironic. The Karzai government, which has proven itself corrupt and ineffective in so many ways, is imposing restrictions on media's freedom to cover suicide attacks. Of course the government insists, quite condescendingly, that this policy is simply about keeping journalists safe. It reminds me of when you were a kid and your parents told you they were enforcing some new rule or discipline because it was "for your own good." Of course, you thought that they were doing it to serve their own interests, not yours. But in all seriousness, Madam Speaker, that's what's going on here.

This is censorship, plain and simple, designed to shield all of us from fully understanding the horrors and abject failures of this war. Sometimes, Madam Speaker, propaganda takes the form of active misinformation, but sometimes, as in this case, the propaganda is in what they don't tell you. Just as the previous Bush administration didn't want the coffins of dead U.S. soldiers photographed, the Afghan Government doesn't want its people or