

Iran. While no one gains by an escalation of tensions, we must make it clear that we value and support our relationship with the State and the people of Israel.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, right now, behind closed doors, negotiations are taking place on the \$1 trillion bill to provide for the government takeover of health care. I find it baffling that instead of talking about jobs, my friends on the other side of the aisle continue a path toward radically changing 20 percent of our economy. Small businesses continue to struggle, but rather than creating an environment that eases financial burdens on business, the administration and this Congress are creating uncertainty through health care takeovers, cap-and-tax, deficit spending, looming tax increases. A recent analysis of the current health care bill shows that it could cost America 1 million jobs by the end of this decade. That is unacceptable.

I recently polled my constituents. Two-thirds are absolutely opposed to the health care bill. They want Congress to start over and focus on items we agree on. Let's return to the question of how we can make health care more accessible, more efficient, and less expensive. Let's kill this bill and save American freedom and our economy.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Families across our Nation understand deeply and personally that the status quo in health care is not working. They're calling upon us through millions of supportive calls, emails, and messages to Congress to pass a uniquely American solution to ensure that all Americans have access to meaningful, affordable health coverage. And that is what this Congress is committed to do.

Health care reform means commonsense consumer protections like prohibiting insurers from denying coverage based on preexisting conditions, a provision that was supported by bipartisan, unanimous vote last night in the Budget Committee. It means affordable, private health care options. Choices for individuals and small businesses. It means strengthening Medicare for seniors, which means closing that doughnut hole—the gap in prescription coverage for too many seniors; improving quality and efficiency in health care services; and containing the rising cost of health care, a challenge that faces all of us as taxpayers and as purchasers of health care and health coverage.

Our plan builds on America's public-private system. It is not only paid for, but it reduces the Federal deficit by \$100 billion. Passing health care reform benefits all of us. The status quo is unacceptable. Now is the time to act.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Yesterday, Bloomberg reported what Moody's has been saying all year. Moody's once again reminded the United States that we are moving "substantially" closer to losing our AAA credit rating due to the rising cost of our debt service. The U.S. will spend 7 percent of our revenue this year just on servicing our debt. By 2013, Moody's estimates, we will spend 11 percent of our revenue just to pay the interest on our national debt. This would be a higher percentage than every other top-rated country.

Fortunately, we can protect our credit rating by reining in runaway spending and reducing our debt. But what does this President and this Democrat-controlled Congress do? They want to ram down a new huge entitlement program called the health care bill, riddled with awful policy and budget gimmicks that mask its true impact, through the House, maybe even without an official vote. The truth is, this health care bill is going to choke our economy and saddle our children with \$500 billion in new taxes and deficits far worse than they are now.

PASS THE HIRE ACT

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Few regions in the Nation are suffering more from the recession than the San Joaquin Valley of California. The three biggest cities in my district—Merced, Stockton, and Modesto—have some of the highest foreclosure and unemployment rates in the country. As I've said before, my district has been economically ravaged at the level equal to the devastation that we have seen oftentimes in the aftermath of hurricanes.

Twelve days ago, the Democratic Congress passed the HIRE Act to help create jobs, strengthen our economy, and to bring help to the communities like mine that need it. It provides tax incentives and credits for businesses to hire unemployed workers and to help small businesses invest and expand. This commonsense legislation will help countless unemployed Americans back onto company payrolls. It's high time for the Senate to finally pass this bill and send it to President Obama. Nowhere is this bill more necessary than in the San Joaquin Valley. We needed help last week, and we needed it a year ago. Economic relief for my constituents remain long overdue. It's time to

stop playing political games and start providing it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Speaker, my Democratic colleagues continue to tout claims that this health care bill is "completely paid for" and "will bring down the deficit." But those claims are patently false. The accounting assumptions Democrats have given the Congressional Budget Office to score this bill are nothing short of an Enron-style gimmick. Just look at the most glaring example. The bill counts 10 years of tax increases, amounting to nearly half a trillion dollars, and 10 years of Medicare cuts, also a half a trillion dollars, but it only counts for 6 years of spending.

So what is the real cost of this bill? What does it cost when you compare 10 years of spending with 10 years of taxes and Medicare cuts? \$2.3 trillion. That's nowhere near budget neutral and will drive the deficit up much higher than it already is. Let us defeat this bill.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, it's time for us to stop talking in generalities and gibberish. It's time to start talking about real people and their real experiences. One thing all of us can agree on is that we trust our doctors. I just received a letter from a doctor in my district, Michael Bresler, who is an ER doc. Four years ago, his insurance premium to Anthem Blue Cross for his family of four was \$539 a month. This year that same policy will cost him \$2,008 a month, a 373 percent increase since 2006. What makes this especially hard to take is that in 2005, Dr. Bresler and his practice were forced by Blue Cross to accept a contract with a 60 percent reduction in payments. Dr. Bresler calls Anthem Blue Cross "robber barons." I assume he uses harsher language when he is not corresponding with Congress.

Madam Speaker, this is not a fight among Democrats and Republicans. This is a fight between robber barons, the insurance industry, and American doctors, families and working people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SHUSTER. The next few days will tell the American people whether Congress represents their interests and