

sides of this Chamber to take care of the uninsurable people because of pre-existing conditions right now, but this side is willing to address that on stand-alone legislation, or it would have already have been passed, unfortunately. I am surprised they keep pounding on that over and over and over again.

Yesterday, in Ohio, the President said the Democrats needed courage to pass his national health care plan. Sadly, as we speak, leaders across the aisle are meeting behind closed doors to invent a creative way to approve the President's health care plan without requiring Members of the House to take an up-or-down vote on the actual bill. The legitimacy of something as controversial as the health care bill would be further clouded by such clever parliamentary maneuvers.

That's not courage. That's malfeasance. It's an absolute betrayal of the public trust, and it would represent an unprecedented abuse of power that would take this Nation down a dangerous path.

We're a Nation of laws. When these laws are not convenient, you shouldn't simply ignore them. We should follow them, regardless of the outcome; otherwise, everything about our democratic Republic is at risk.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, we all know that health care costs are unsustainable. They're still crushing families, small businesses and large companies alike. When people lose their jobs, they lose their health insurance. Even people who do have jobs and want coverage but have preexisting conditions still couldn't get coverage.

We are closer than ever to reforming our Nation's broken health insurance system with a plan that puts America back in control of their health care choices, holds insurance companies accountable, and makes coverage more affordable.

As we move forward through this legislative process, I am confident that our bill will make health insurance affordable for the middle class and small businesses by reducing premiums and out-of-pocket costs, give millions of Americans access to affordable insurance choices through a new, competitive health insurance market, and hold insurance companies accountable to keep premiums down and prevent denials of coverage, including for pre-existing conditions. And it will close the disastrous doughnut hole that seniors are having to chose between life-saving medication and food to eat.

For over 12 years, the once Republican-led Congress has failed to do this. We're going to do it now.

HEALTH CARE AND THE SLAUGHTER RULE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, Article I, section 7 of the Constitution says that in order for a bill to become law, it shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate; yet yesterday, Speaker PELOSI endorsed the so-called Slaughter rule, which would merely deem that the House has passed the Senate health care bill and then send it to President Obama to sign without a direct recorded vote. This scheme is misguided, arrogant, and fundamentally wrong.

The Speaker reportedly added, nobody wants to vote for the Senate bill. Given the facts that, among other things, the \$1 trillion bill is marred with special deals, mandates, tax hikes, and Medicare cuts, it is no wonder they don't want to vote for it.

Considering the wide-ranging effects this trillion-dollar effort to change health care will have, the American people deserve a clear, up-or-down vote on this bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, between the year 2000 and 2006, the Republicans had the House, the Senate, and the White House, and they did nothing of good to help the American people. And now you listen to them and it sounds like they actually are for health care for the American people. But if they were for the American people, they would have done something in those 6 years about people being affected by rescission, by preexisting condition, by carrying young people on the health care policy of their parents until they're 26, about doing something about this doughnut hole. They'd have done something about it. But they didn't do anything other than make the problem worse.

And if you listen to them today, you would think they cared, but the evidence is before the American people, they did nothing at all. And now we are going to do something about it within a little more than 1 year of coming into office.

Who's on your side, America? You'll find out this week.

THE HOUSE HEALTH CARE VOTE AND THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday's Wall Street Journal highlights the process by which Democrats are trying to pass

this government health care takeover. The process is just as bad as the provisions of the bill.

Professor Michael McConnell, Director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School, wrote the article entitled, "House Health Care Vote and the Constitution." Mr. MCCONNELL presents the process called the Slaughter solution, which is nothing more than a procedural trick that deems the Senate bill passed without ever having a straight up-or-down vote.

The article explains, "The Slaughter solution cannot be squared with Article I, section 7 of the Constitution. Senate rules protect against majoritarian overreach by allowing a determined minority to filibuster most types of legislation."

Madam Speaker, Americans need jobs, not a law which NFIB claims will kill 1.6 million jobs.

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, opponents often cite polls saying the American people don't want Congress to pass health care reform, but I've talked to my constituents and I've listened closely to what they expect from the system. They don't think preexisting conditions should stop you from getting coverage. Insurance companies shouldn't just drop you. And nobody, nobody should face one-time 40 percent increases in premiums like what just happened in California.

Madam Speaker, it has been a difficult and a long debate, but we're closer than any time in history to putting into law the health security Americans want. Let's finish the job and put patients first.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, the American people continue to say in every opportunity that they can that they don't want a government takeover of health care. And all they get from the tone-deaf liberals that are running Congress is this latest attempt to ram the bill through. And now this latest proposal is the Slaughter solution where they're even going to try to run it through without an actual vote.

Now, maybe some of them have been around so long that they forget what Article I, section 7 of the Constitution says, but it actually takes a vote here in this House for any bill to pass. And I hope their bill doesn't pass, because we need health care reform. We need to lower the cost of health care, which their bill doesn't do. We need to address preexisting conditions. But we