

Do they really think the American people are going to buy this unconstitutional fraud?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, look, I'm surprised when I go home. My constituents will tell me unequivocally that they're in favor of health care reform, but they're not in favor of this plan. And yet I come to Washington, and they say, if you're in favor of health care reform, you have to buy into this sham of a health care bill. Well, my constituents know what a sham is and, unfortunately, it's this Senate bill that the House is going to be voting on.

Then I read headlines that the Speaker of the House doesn't actually want a vote on the Senate bill, and I recall the basics of parliamentary procedure that require the House to vote on the exact same bill the Senate does before it can be signed by the President to be enacted into law. So the Democrats are just trying to pull a fast one on the American people.

The American people know that this is a bad deal. According to the Congressional Budget Office, run by a Democrat, they're right to be worried, because premiums will go up between 10 and 13 percent under this plan. That means \$2,100 more for the average family in America in health care expenses. It's a wrong plan, and we should oppose it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, this past weekend I visited with four of my six counties in North Carolina—Moore, Guilford, Davidson, and Rowan counties—hundreds of people, and without exception, no one spoke in favor of this bill. Increased taxes, they said to me, increased costs. The heavy-handed way in which it's been administered, as if to say, By golly, this is the bill you're going to get whether you like it or not.

Madam Speaker, this proposal is a train wreck waiting to occur. We need no train wrecks.

I will admit that some attention needs to be directed to the delivery of health care in this Nation, but this is not the appropriate vehicle to deliver it. We need to scrap this bill and start anew with a sound proposal.

PASSING THE HEALTH CARE BILL WITHOUT A VOTE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, to protect Members from voting on the Senate health care bill, Democrats are using a self-enacting rule to deem that bill passed by the House.

As Speaker PELOSI said, "It's more insider and process-oriented than most people want to know. But I like it because people don't have to vote on the Senate bill."

Huh?

This is the same Speaker who stated, "We have to pass the bill so you can see what's in it." So that you can see what's in it.

Huh?

They are distorting the Rules Committee procedures and the reconciliation process to ram through a health care bill. Where is the transparency that Speaker PELOSI talked about?

Huh?

Last year, the House was passing bills without reading them. This year, they are passing bills without voting on them.

The Democrats desire passage of a health care bill in the darkness of a self-enacting rule. It's an affront to the constitutional powers of Congress and every voter in this country.

DEMOCRAT HEALTH PLAN IS THE WRONG PRESCRIPTION FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, with millions of phone calls, emails and personal visits, the American people have made it clear to Congress that they want health care reform that lowers costs, not a government takeover of their health care system.

I support reforms that will lower the cost of health care and increase choices for Americans, but the fact is that the bills being pushed through Congress won't achieve these goals. They, instead, lead to higher spending and more government control.

Instead of listening to the American people, Democrats in Congress have made it clear that they will do whatever it takes to have their trillion dollar health care proposal become law. These bills making their way through Congress ignore the clear desire of Americans to scrap the government takeover of health care, and they ignore the clear desire of Americans to start over again.

Congress must, instead, focus on commonsense solutions that reduce costs, increase choices, and help more Americans afford the coverage they deserve.

The bottom line, Madam Speaker, is that Congress needs to start over on a new bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, when we picked up the headlines of The Washington Post today, it says, "Pelosi may try to pass health bill without vote." And through nothing more than budgetary gimmicks, like counting half a trillion dollars reserved for Medicare twice, the Speaker claims it's going to pencil out.

I think the American people know better. They understand that you cannot create a massive new entitlement program behind closed doors and expect our dire financial situation, our dire fiscal predicament in this country to do anything except compound.

Instead of addressing the actual drivers of rising health care costs, like escalating legal liability cost, and structural flaws in the way insurance is regulated, this bill compounds the problem and shifts the cost curve up, not down.

Faced with trillion-dollar deficits as far as the eye can see, now is the time to take a step back and look for incremental reforms that can increase affordability for millions of Americans without saddling future generations with this unpayable tab.

The American people know that when so-called health care reform includes tax hikes, less freedom and more government control, it's a government takeover of health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, we are hearing about the problems with this health care bill, from its failure to address the real cost drivers, as well as its subversion of the democratic process. But here's another problem. The Speaker of the House, on Monday, asserted that the bill before us is "about health care, health insurance reform. It's not about abortion."

Now for the reality. The bill before us would permit the Federal Government to provide subsidies to insurance plans that cover abortion, oversee State plans that cover elective abortions, and allow Federal officials to mandate that private plans cover abortions. It is replete with abortion.

The American people have spoken, and they do not want their taxpayer dollars entangled in the provision of abortion. Abortion is not health care, and no American should be forced to pay for it.

We should be supporting those in vulnerable circumstances. Abortion is so often the result of abandonment. Women deserve better. But true health care reform must be life-affirming. I will not support this bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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