

get it done, to have caps on insurance premium increases. Let's get it done, for better health care outcomes.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. As we enter into the most important and eventful week of the 30 years since I have been up here, I think of the consequences of the votes we will cast, both Republican and Democrat. When we passed the health bill on this very floor, the Democrats, with a 40-vote advantage on the House floor, passed H.R. 3962 with only a five-vote advantage, which showed that the outrageous health bill had been lessened in severity in the Commerce Committee and was softened up enough for the Senate to kill it.

Then a series of Senators negotiated gifts they were not entitled to, each receiving a different consideration, into being the coveted 60th vote. If we take the floor back, I would consider subpoenaing those who may have made the overtures to compare it to the law of bribery or corrupt deals. I would send the results to the Federal and State prosecutors. The bribery penalty as set out in 18 U.S. Code section 203 is imprisonment for not more than a year and a civil fine of not more than \$50,000 for each violation.

I consider offering a bribe, for a personal benefit, as worse than accepting one. Let's clean up the United States Congress and listen to our people whose only request is to take back their country.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express the concerns of Arkansas's Third District regarding health care reform. I have received an unprecedented amount of mail because the people of Arkansas aren't in favor of the legislative gymnastics and procedural tricks Speaker PELOSI is playing. It's inappropriate to play games to pass a health care reform bill Americans overwhelmingly oppose, a bill that represents 16 percent of our economy.

The administration called for an up-or-down vote with no procedural maneuvering, but Ms. PELOSI and the Rules Committee are currently in the process of bypassing this up-or-down vote. By approving this rule, the Senate bill will be deemed as passed. This is not the way our founders envisioned the government working for the people.

We owe it to Arkansans and all Americans to fight for real health care reform and at least have a real "yes" or "no" vote. How in the world do you pass a bill without voting on it?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I would like to read a few examples of some of the emails I have been receiving on the health care proposal.

From Columbia, Missouri:

"Just a note to encourage you to fight hard against this horrible health care bill."

From St. Charles, Missouri:

"Please vote 'no' on the health care reform now before the House."

From Hannibal, Missouri:

"Congressman, please vote 'no' on the Senate's health care bill. We need to scrap that plan and start over."

From Ashland, Missouri:

"Please do not vote for the health care bill."

From Huntsville, Missouri:

"I sincerely hope you do not vote for the health care bill as it now stands."

Finally, from Columbia, Missouri:

"Vote what your people want you to do, which is against this health care bill."

Madam Speaker, my constituents have listened to the debate and rejected the proposed health care bill. No, no, no, no, no. What part of "no" does the majority not understand? I am going to listen to my constituents. I am going to be voting against the health care bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respond to what I think that the leadership is going to bring later this week. I understand that they are going to bring a vote to the floor that the President and our Speaker believe is a socialist plan—or I know it is a socialist plan for the government takeover of health care. And the Speaker wants her members to have the courage to pass this what she believes is a prescription for health care reform in America.

What it is is a prescription for disaster in our country, and it is also a prescription for disaster for the majority party. That is what I would like to address the balance of my remarks to. The majority party is being asked to vote for something that their districts and their constituents don't want. The President yesterday in a speech said that what he was hoping the Members would do is show courage for a change.

Well, I agree with the President. I hope that the Democrat Members do show courage later this week. Show courage to not be a lapdog for the leadership and the President, and show the courage to be a bulldog for their districts and their constituents who adamantly oppose this socialist takeover of government health care for our country.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I had two town hall meetings in my district on Saturday, and at both events my constituents raised this issue: How can Congress impose the most sweeping intrusion into personal health care decisions in the history of our country without a direct vote on the bill? You see, my constituents have read the Constitution, including the provision that requires both Houses to vote on a bill before it becomes a law.

If the Democrat majority attempts to impose this law without a direct vote, two things will be obvious to every American. First, that the Democrats are ashamed to cast the very up-or-down vote on the health care takeover that the President promised as recently as yesterday. And far more disturbing, they will know that the Congress has now placed itself above the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, 10 generations of Americans have defended that Constitution. Don't think for a moment that this generation will do any less.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, there is one difference between my friends over here who are speechifying against health care reform today and 50 million Americans. The difference is that the roughly 15 Americans over here all have health insurance, and it is largely paid for by the taxpayers. Fifty million Americans don't have that good fortune. In fact, that difference is shameful, that difference is immoral, and I hope to God that this House has the courage and the decency to vote to change it this week.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BARTLETT. Health care costs are increasing at two and three times the rate of inflation. Obviously, if this continues, it will bury us. So any health care reform needs to address health care costs. There are two major cost drivers in health care. This bill is silent on one and makes the other worse.

The one that it is silent on is tort reform. Some people think the defensive medicine associated with the threat of malpractice suits may account for a fourth of all health care costs. This bill does nothing to address that. A second cost driver is administrative costs, which may again represent a fourth of all costs. This bill makes that worse by