

THE COST OF HEALTH CARE
INACTION IS TOO GREAT

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to dispel the myth that health care reform will suddenly move the burden of paying for the uninsured onto the rest of us. All Americans are already paying the high costs of a broken health care system with 47 million Americans uninsured.

The cost of caring for the uninsured gets passed on to all of us. The average American family is currently paying more than \$1,000 every year to support the uninsured. This \$1,000 fee is buried deep in every premium and pays for the broken health care system.

Health care costs are soaring out of control. Premiums have doubled in 9 years, growing three times faster than wages. These staggering prices are too high for American families. Members of Congress must come together to address the problem for the health of middle class Americans and the health of their wallets. The cost of inaction is just too great to sit back and do nothing.

GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE
WILL COST MORE JOBS

(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. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have painted a target on the backs of America's small businesses. As unemployment rises, 2.6 million jobs have been lost since January. Democrats continue to propose policies that will kill jobs.

First there was cap-and-tax, which will skyrocket electric bills, gas prices and food prices, and make American businesses less competitive. Now they have a government-run health care full of tax hikes and mandates on small businesses, which the NFIB estimates will cost 1.6 million more jobs lost.

Small businesses create the majority of jobs in this country. They are doing the best they can in this tough economy, but all they hear from Democrats is pay higher taxes. Democrats should stop feeding Big Government and start providing relief to small businesses.

Where are the jobs? We need health care reforms that help more Americans regardless of their preexisting conditions, help small businesses provide insurance for their employees, and keep in place an innovative side of our health care system.

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

□ 1230

DO YOU FEEL LUCKY?

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. You've heard the commercial: Don't support government health care.

So the question that you need to ask yourself then is, Do I feel lucky? Do I feel lucky that I won't be one of the 14,000 people a day who lose their jobs and can't afford health insurance, that I won't have such a high deductible that I avoid preventive care and end up with end-stage cancer because I didn't go to the doctor. Well, am I lucky?

Do I feel lucky that Junior won't break a bone and I end up in the emergency room with a \$5,000 bill? Do I feel lucky that I won't go bankrupt from my health care problems? Do I feel lucky that I won't have some pre-existing condition that prevents me from getting a new job? Do I feel lucky that my health care premium won't grow three times faster than my salary?

The American economy is in the intensive care unit. The disease is the high cost of health care, and the medicine is health care reform.

RISING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week my home State of Minnesota saw the unemployment rate rise once again, while seeing its exports drop by almost 20 percent from just 1 year ago.

The number one priority of this Congress and this administration should be job creation. But it's clear that the economic stimulus policies being pursued in Washington are failing. Congress has missed important opportunities to pursue real policies that will put Minnesotans and Americans back to work.

Instead, we've seen reckless spending and reckless borrowing at unprecedented rates, so much so that the fact now is that every man, woman and child in our country owes over \$37,000 as their share of the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, we should be reforming health care without throwing even more new taxes on the backs of families and small businesses, and we should be giving priority to helping small businesses, our number one job creators, to put Minnesotans and Americans back to work.

APOLLO MOON LANDING IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF ST. LOUIS PRIDE

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Science and Technology Committee, I rise today to remember the 40th anniversary of the Apollo Moon landing and the deep sense of pride it gave our Nation.

I, like all Americans, watched with amazement as Neil Armstrong declared: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." That moment demonstrates the magnitude of American know-how, ingenuity, innovation and our ability to rise to a great challenge.

My home city of St. Louis, Missouri, was instrumental in the success of that Moon mission, serving as home to then-McDonnell Douglas, which manufactured components for the third-stage booster rocket for Saturn V. That third-stage booster rocket launched those brave astronauts into lunar orbit, making the historic journey possible.

Now it's time to lead the world once again in innovation and science technology, especially as we transition to a new clean energy economy. Americans are ready to be called to action for a great challenge again.

HEALTH CARE REFORM A
PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, when the economic stimulus plan was passed earlier this year, the American people were told that we had to act immediately because of our economic crisis. We were also told that that plan would create or save 3 million jobs and that the unemployment rate would not rise above 8 percent, and that we had to act so fast that actually not one Member of this House or the American people had a chance to read the bill.

And what has actually happened since that time?

Well, the economy hasn't gained 3 million jobs. It's actually lost 3 million jobs. Where are the jobs?

Unemployment is almost 10 percent. In my home State of Michigan, it is 15.2 percent today, and \$787 billion has been added to our national debt and we have an annual deficit approaching \$2 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, now we're being told that we need to pass health care reform immediately because we're in a crisis. We're told that it will be deficit neutral because it includes massive new taxes on individuals and small businesses. But CBO says that it will actually increase the deficit, Mr. Speaker, while others say that it will force millions of Americans out of their private health insurance.

We do need to reform our health care system, but doing it in such a panic mode is a recipe for disaster.

EMPLOYER MANDATE HARDSHIP

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, our economy is struggling, and unemployment is near 10 percent. Yet the health care proposal being considered in Congress asks our job creators, the small businesses of America across this country, to pay a new 8 percent tax.

Last week, in the Ways and Means Committee, I proposed to exempt small businesses from this penalty tax if it would result in businesses having to lay off workers, cut wages, or reduce jobs.

America's businesses are hurting, and we're asking them to pay more taxes? Yet, my amendment was rejected. Requiring small businesses to pay a penalty tax is no way to help them stay in business and create jobs. American workers will be harmed. Workers will bear the new cost through lost jobs and smaller wages.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill. Americans need the confidence that their jobs are not in jeopardy, that we are working to protect and strengthen their health care, while supporting the small businesses that create jobs.

And these aren't speaking points. That's just some straight shooting from the sheriff.

STABILIZING OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, President Barack Obama's chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, reflected on the administration's lack of focus on the economy earlier this year when he said that our Nation's financial crisis presented an opportunity to accomplish agendas unrelated to the economy.

A good example of that was the so-called stimulus bill that had nothing to do with helping to save or create jobs in the private sector, but everything to do with expanding government programs and pushing our Nation \$787 billion deeper into debt.

The Obama administration and the Congress should be focused on one issue and only one issue, and that is stabilizing our Nation's economy so that Americans can keep the jobs they have and get back the jobs they lost. Only when the economy is stabilized should we be debating other issues such as energy policy and health care reform.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are hurting, and it's time that our

President and the Democrats in Congress stop ignoring their pain and get to work on fixing this economy.

WASHINGTON IS OUT OF TOUCH

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. It amazes me how out of touch we are in Washington. For months now, my constituents in western New York have been asking, where are the jobs, any jobs?

Well, according to this chart of job postings, we found out where they are: right here in Washington, D.C., as we continue to hire thousands of Federal bureaucrats. It's one of the only cities that's growing, and all for the wrong reasons.

It's appalling that we're continuing to grow the Federal Government while we're running a deficit of \$1.18 trillion.

When I ran a business, you always had a budget, and you lived within it.

When you look around D.C., you see construction cranes all around the skyline. It's because we can't construct enough buildings to house all these Federal bureaucrats that we're now hiring when we have this deficit.

We have to stop this excessive spending and work together to create the right jobs in the right sectors.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, the enemies of health reform have scoured all of Canada to find a story that fits with their message of "no change, no reform."

But I only have to look to my district, to Sharon Almeida from San Bruno, who sent me this letter titled, "What's Wrong With This Picture?"

Each month Sharon and her husband, Frank, net \$3,811 from Social Security and pensions. But they pay out nearly \$2,800 for Sharon's cancer treatments. That leaves them just \$1,000 for food, utilities, gas, insurance, never mind a little something for the grandchildren. Thank God they own their own home and no longer have a mortgage.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon and Frank worked hard. They played by the rules and raised a beautiful and supportive family. They do not deserve this.

So, to the critics of reform, I say, let the Canadians worry about the Canadians. It's time we come together to provide real health care reform for Sharon and other hardworking Americans.

TROUBLE IN CAPITAL CITY

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission

to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, trouble, oh, we got trouble right here in Capital City. With a capital T, and it rhymes with B and that stands for Broke. Right here in Capital City, right here, we've gotta figure out a way to help the Americans we're about to choke.

You've got trouble right here in Capital City. With a capital T, and that rhymes with D and that stands for debt. Right here in Capital City we've got trouble. Remember the millions, the billions, the trillions. And don't you forget, we've got trouble. We're in terrible, terrible trouble. The game of some 256 Members is a devil's bet. Oh, yes, we've got trouble, trouble. Trouble with a T. It rhymes with D, and it stands for Democrat.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it's time for commonsense health care reform that will strengthen free enterprise, lower cost and expand access to affordable quality care.

Unfortunately, at a cost of \$1.28 trillion, Democrats wish to create a new government program that will unwillingly force more than 100 million people out of their current coverage, increase taxes by \$818 billion, and cut 4.7 million jobs.

According to CBO, this legislation would also increase the Federal deficit by \$239 billion over 10 years and, as a result, would ration care, force doctors out of the profession and hospitals out of business, and ultimately provide fewer options and longer waits for patients.

Locally, new health mandates in South Carolina, a State already in financial crisis, would create more unbudgeted costs and reduce funding for other important issues in the State.

Spending so much and accomplishing so little, a government takeover of health care is the wrong direction for all Americans. Republicans have a better plan that expands access to affordable health care and allows families to choose the plan that best fits their needs.

CUT TAXES AND CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, Continental Airlines, one of the largest employers in Houston, has just laid off 1,700 people. And my friend, Mr. CHRIS LEE of New York, has put together an inspired chart that shows clearly what this liberal leadership of this House