

in my district because of Toda's innovation, the Recovery Act's commitment to battery development, and a never-give-up attitude. This is how we turn our economy around one job at a time.

### THREE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

(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, I returned from my district here just a couple of days ago after hearing from my constituents at several town hall meetings. One of the things they made absolutely crystal clear was they wanted us to start over on health care. They weren't arguing for the status quo. They are arguing for a new start.

So what do we have on Thursday? The President inviting Members from both Houses, both Democrat and Republican, for what? For what? A session in which it appears that the ground rules are going to be we are going to start with the House and the Senate bills.

I don't know. I am proud to be in this House, in part because of my love of the Constitution. I look at the Constitution, and it says we have three different branches of government and we are responsible for legislation. I don't see where there is a monarchy, where you are supposed to go and have an audience with the monarch surrounded by his court jesters.

### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, last week I, too, had a chance to be out in my local district. I was on Main Street in St. Peter, Minnesota. We had great conversations about how small businesses can continue to create and revitalize our economy. But do you know what they talked about most? Health care. They shared stories about double-digit increases in premiums. They shared stories about a difficult time hiring new employees because of the cost of health insurance. But one story in particular stuck with me.

I walked into Julee's Jewelry Store in St. Peter, Minnesota. Julee is a woman who has poured her life into making her business work, but she also shared a story with me.

Her son Trevor was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. So as she and Trevor fight for his life, they are also fighting their insurance company to pay for the chemotherapy that their doctor ordered. She also told me she fears her son will never be able to

change jobs because of a preexisting condition. Our current health system is limiting our ability to innovate and grow our economy.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I represent the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. I am proud to do so because of the high quality, low cost care that they provide.

I would like to leave you with a quote last week from the Mayo Clinic: "Reforming health care in America is absolutely essential. The status quo is not sustainable."

### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I went online and got the President's proposal here, and it is 11 pages, and it is a summary. And then I got the summary of the summary, and it looks like it is about 19 pages summarizing the 11 pages. So I guess we are creating jobs by trying to do summaries of the summaries of the summaries. That is not good enough. People are out of work.

We heard last year, a year ago that if we did not pass the stimulus bill, the porkulus bill, if that didn't pass, unemployment might go as high as 8.5 percent. God, would that we would be there instead of where we are today.

This is not going to create jobs. It is going to suck more money out of the economy that government uses that the businesses will not have to create jobs. Let's help America. Let's put people back to work so they can afford their own health care.

### HEALTH CARE AND JOBS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. When we were fighting in the civil rights movement, you could always count on the naysayers to stand aside and say America could not tolerate the equality of so many new people. Here we are today with the same crowd complaining about the good.

Let me tell you about the Investment Act that has generated opportunities for jobs. Before I tell you that, we do have a health care plan, one that will provide the largest middle class tax cuts in American history for affordable health care, one that will provide you with a competitive marketplace to go in and buy your insurance. No pre-existing condition can ever keep you from health insurance. As far as I am concerned, the people in the 18th Congressional District understand the good, and they know that health care in this form is good for them.

Then, as we stood with Speaker PELOSI at the Port of Houston on Monday and were able to announce \$45 mil-

lion to fix one of the most dangerous bridges in the Nation, investment, and to acknowledge 2,000 jobs and 3,000 extra jobs, the good is on the way.

### WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO ON JOB CREATION

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently held a job fair in my district, and despite one of the snowiest travel days of the entire winter, more than 2,000 people showed up. The overwhelming turnout makes one thing clear: We have a long, long way to go to create real jobs.

But instead, Congress has embraced record borrowing and record spending while unemployment now hovers at about 10 percent. Millions of Americans are scraping by wondering why hundreds of billions of dollars of their tax money is being wasted, with millions of lost jobs to show for it.

An economic recovery without jobs is not a recovery. We need to strengthen small business and create the private sector jobs. If we want to boost our economy and put people back to work, we have got to get our priorities straight to help the entrepreneurs, the risk-takers, the innovators, the dreamers, instead of growing government.

### HEALTH CARE

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, the news that private health insurance companies earned a record \$12.2 billion in profits last year is a stark reminder of the need for enacting health reform now. Their profits are up 56 percent from the previous year, yet more and more Americans can't afford health insurance and are being dropped when they get sick.

As we have seen with Anthem Blue Cross in California, insurance companies are raising their premiums on individuals by as much as 40 percent. This is ridiculous. Fortunately, we have a plan to address this huge problem.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle may think the status quo is fine. I certainly don't. We must enact health reform legislation, holding insurance companies accountable, ensuring that patients have access to affordable care, improving the quality of health care for everyone.

I welcome the release of the President's proposal to achieve these important goals. I look forward to the outcome of Thursday's summit. As these outrageous premium increases show, we have an urgent need to move forward on health care reform.