

Mr. REHBERG. As some are toasting the success of the so-called stimulus, unemployment rates spiral out of control. Now the White House plans to spend 18 million taxpayer dollars to redesign the Web site that tracks how many jobs have been "saved or created" by the stimulus.

Montanans shouldn't be asked to foot the bill for a Web site that only serves as political damage control for a failing big government policy. We'd rather know the reality on the ground. That's why I launched a Web site that lets my constituents report their experiences with the stimulus. Montana Stimulus Watch didn't cost taxpayers millions of dollars, but it did bring to light that a company had to lay off 24 workers because stimulus dollars went to an out-of-State contractor to pave a Montana road.

I doubt those layoffs will be counted in the slippery "saved or created" formula, but then again, \$18 million can't buy credibility.

WOMEN IMMIGRANTS—THE NEW FACE OF MIGRATION IN AMERICA

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, today I hosted a panel discussion on the results of a historic poll on women immigrants to America. Today, women comprise half or more of the immigrants entering this country. Women are the new face of migration in America.

Among the findings of this historic poll, many women immigrants acknowledge speaking little or no English, while confronting anti-immigrant discrimination, lack of health care, and low-paying employment, well below the status of the professional work most did in their home countries.

Thirty-eight percent of the women came to join family members; 22 percent to make a better life for their children. Their top two biggest challenges were helping their children achieve success and being able to hold their families together.

The poll data paralleled my mother's own experience in bringing me and my brothers to the United States from Japan in the mid-1950s: her desire to build better futures for us; her early, low-paying, no-benefits jobs; her determination to keep the family together as head of household.

The importance of family to women immigrants is something we can all relate to and support as we discuss and debate immigration reform.

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MAYOR FOR A DAY

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

Mr. ROSKAM. A few years ago, my predecessor, Congressman Henry Hyde, started a great program. It was an ini-

tiative to invite young men and women to participate in a civic conversation. It's in Elmhurst, Illinois, and it's a Mayor for a Day program.

I am pleased to announce that Brad Martin of Brian Middle School was the winner of the Mayor for a Day program. I won't read his whole essay. You can go to my Web site and check it out.

But essentially he said that if he were a mayor for a day, he would start a CARE program, which essentially stands for Caring and Respecting Everyone. I think in this day and this age in the 111th Congress, all of us can learn from the wisdom of Brad Martin.

WHEN IS ENOUGH, ENOUGH?

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

Ms. SPEIER. When is enough enough? AIG is getting ready to pay out more in retention bonuses. This is on top of the \$165 million they paid out in March to the same executives whose credit default swaps and other poorly designed financial products drove the world economy off a cliff.

The only difference is this time around they are trying to get the American people to say that what they're doing is right.

Give me a break.

Taxpayers have already infused \$170 billion into AIG. And where is their break? A teacher in my district gets \$60,000 a year. A bench scientist coming up with a cure for cancer gets maybe \$200,000 a year. An ER doc saving people's lives every single day gets maybe \$350,000 a year.

AIG has asked the administration's compensation czar, Kenneth Feinberg, to sign off on these bonuses—even while acknowledging he has no authority to stop them. Why? Because AIG wants cover.

I urge Mr. Feinberg to reject AIG's request.

GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA SIGNS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if there's one thing the Feds are really good at, it's wasting money. And thanks to the so-called stimulus bill, there are billions of citizen dollars floating around loose being blown by the wastecrats.

In a report released last week by the Government Accountability Office, we found out that the money is not being used to create permanent jobs in the private sector as it was intended. It's actually being used to pay for overspending in State budgets and expand government bureaucracy.

In some States, Mr. Speaker, they're erecting signs to try to convince people that the government stimulus boondoggle is a success. Here's one of those signs. This sign is being posted where

no construction has actually started—and the signs cost \$2,000 in Pennsylvania and New York. New Jersey pays \$3,000 for a sign like this. Who's making these signs—Michelangelo?

When Big Government is in charge of the job creation business instead of private industry, it's easier to create million-dollar public relations propaganda signs than it is to create real jobs.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we're closing in on a moment in American history that has taken over 70 years to reach. In the mid-1930s, Franklin Delano Roosevelt considered a proposal that would extend health care coverage to every American. But he withdrew the idea because the political will was not up to the challenge at the time. But times have changed.

President Obama has called on the Congress to pass comprehensive health care reform legislation—and he has the support of the American people behind him, especially the middle class.

There are countless facts and figures to support his effort. There are maps, there are charts, there are all kinds of spread sheets, but there is one fact that stands out above all others: Every American today either faces his or her own health care crisis or knows someone who is.

When Americans play by the rules but see their economic lives threatened and destroyed because of their medical expenses, America must change. We are at the crossroads of providing a fair deal for the American people. But we cannot take progress for granted. Times like this don't come along very often. We cannot afford to let this one fall short.

CONGRATULATING MS. SUSAN LEWIS ON 45 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. I rise today to honor Ms. Susan Lewis, who spent her life in the classroom devoting her time to educating our youth. Ms. Lewis is retiring from 45 years of teaching. More than 30 of those years were spent at Coleman Junior High in Van Buren, Arkansas, teaching algebra.

Coleman Junior High will undoubtedly be losing an amazing individual who contributed to the lives of two generations of Arkansans. Her time in the classroom provided her students the necessary tools for building a brighter future.

Ms. Lewis exemplifies the idea that with good teachers there is improved student achievement. Her hard work and dedication made her a model for

success for students and her coworkers. We are blessed to have had such a caring teacher as Ms. Lewis. I commend her for her service as well as her good work and wish her continued success in future endeavors.

I ask my colleagues today to join with me in honoring Ms. Lewis, a wonderful teacher who has always and will be dedicated to the students of the Third District of Arkansas.

HEALTH CARE CHOICE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Private health insurance companies have two-thirds of all Americans that have insurance enrolled in their plans, and they pay one-third of the overall costs for health care in this country. Two-thirds of that cost is borne by the American taxpayer and the working middle class of this country.

You will hear in the next few days a lot of harping about the cost of health care reform for this Nation. I think the only way—and I believe sincerely—to reduce health care costs, bring private insurance companies under control by having a competitive plan, is to have a public option.

A public option does not deny people health care because of preexisting conditions—a public option in the free marketplace that competes with private insurance, and a public option that extends health benefits and opportunities to all Americans.

If we are going to do health reform right, we must provide competition for public insurance, and we must provide opportunity and choice for the American people.

THE WOMEN'S FUND OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. The Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County is a catalyst for social change and economic justice, assisting women to reach their full potential. Together with the Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy at Florida International University, the Women's Fund published a report entitled: Portrait of Women's Economic Security in Greater Miami, which reflects the dire economic situation facing women.

More than half of working women do not earn adequate income to cover their most basic necessities. Eighty-six percent of single mothers do not have enough income to be self-sufficient. Nearly 20 percent of women who work are underemployed. And only one-fourth of women have a retirement or pension plan.

The numbers in these categories are even lower than the national average

but reflect the problem of women across the country.

Here in Congress I work to empower women to be self-sufficient and support policies that enhance women's economic security, including legislation to provide paid parental leave to Federal employees.

I will continue to work for south Florida women by promoting initiatives that protect the rights of women across the Nation.

HEALTH CARE CRISIS ALSO AN ECONOMIC CRISIS

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

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Mr. Speaker, until we fix health care in this country, families and small businesses will bear a heavier and heavier financial burden that will slow economic recovery and stifle growth and investment.

In Ohio, health care costs for small businesses have grown 30 percent in recent years. Employer coverage across the State has declined, so that now less than half of all small businesses offer health care coverage benefits to their employees.

The average Ohio family that does receive health care coverage from their employer pays nearly \$13,000 in premiums every year. And because more than 1 in 10 Ohioans lives without any health insurance, Ohio's economy loses between \$3.5 billion and \$7 billion every year due to lost productivity.

The health care crisis is an economic crisis, and part of fixing our economy is ensuring that every single American has quality, affordable health care. The status quo is no longer tolerable for Ohio and no longer tolerable for America.

AMERICANS DESERVE A BETTER SOLUTION

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the trillion-dollar stimulus bill produced by the Obama administration and congressional Democrats is not working. Unemployment is nearing double digits—and rising. Americans are hurting as they struggle to find work and pay the bills. So, what's next?

Despite all the broken promises, now the liberals want to meddle with the health care system and spend another trillion dollars. For their plan to work, Democrats are proposing tax hikes on everything from small businesses to the elimination of the tax deduction for charitable contributions to tax hikes on your favorite soft drink at the convenience store.

Americans deserve a better solution. House Republicans have a plan that won't bankrupt us or increase private insurance rates. In fact, the Republican plan will reduce health care costs, expand access, increase the quality of

care for Americans. Most importantly, the plan ensures that medical decisions are made by patients and their doctors—not government bureaucrats.

The Democrat's government-run health care program is the wrong decision for America. Let's support the plan that offers Americans the freedom and choices they deserve without strangling future generations with insurmountable debt.

MEANINGFUL REFORM NEEDED

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Health Subcommittee I have been a strong supporter of meaningful health care reform, including a robust public health insurance option.

But there's a problem with the plan that's on the table because it incorporates a Medicare reimbursement system that isn't fair. And all you have to do is look at States like Iowa and Minnesota, which consistently rank in the top five in terms of quality patient outcomes and in the bottom five in Medicare reimbursement. Or look at the State of Louisiana, where we spend more per Medicare patient than any other State, and Louisiana is ranked 50th in objective patient outcome measurements.

That system is flawed. When you base the public health insurance option on Medicare plus 5 percent, you perpetuate an inefficient system.

Medical economists will tell you the most effective way to take this head on is to address the problem of over-utilization in geographic parts of the country which waste money and result in poor patient outcomes.

Unless we incorporate those incentives into this public option and address this problem with Medicare, we will never have meaningful reform.

STIMULUS BILL NOT WORKING

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

Mr. PENCE. Will Rogers once said: The opposite of progress is Congress. Watching the debate on the floor today, I start to get a better idea about what he meant.

At a time when our country is facing the worst recession in a quarter of a century, the Democrat majority here in Congress just got done passing a national energy tax that will raise the cost of utilities for every American household. And now they're down here on the floor talking about raising taxes for a government takeover of health insurance. All the while, millions of Americans are out of work, hundreds of thousands of Americans continue to lose their jobs every month.

Now, when this trillion-dollar stimulus bill was passed in February, we