

By Rep Steve King

At times it has been difficult to separate fact from fiction in the ongoing American conversation about health-care reform. Boil it all down, and essentially the entire debate rests on two premises.

Premise one: Liberals say we spend too much money on health care. Their proposed solution is to raise taxes on small-business owners to spend over a trillion dollars more on government-provided health-care services.

This logic is puzzling - you cannot bring down the cost of a problem by throwing more money at it. In addition, tax increases on the engine of our economy, small businesses, will force companies to shrink their labor force, hire fewer workers or simply close their doors altogether.

Premise two: Too many are uninsured in America. The number frequently cited by government-run health care advocates is 47 million.

But when you subtract from that 47 million certain groups - illegal immigrants, immigrants who are today barred by law from public welfare, those who qualify for health insurance under their employer's plan, those who make over \$75,000 a year and those who qualify under existing government programs - the number actually turns out to be 12.1 million uninsured. This number is less than 4 percent of the population.

To reduce that number of uninsured from 4 percent down to perhaps 2 percent, Pelosi Democrats are proposing a 1,990 page bill (H.R. 3962) that will put government bureaucrats between patients and doctors, fund abortion and illegal aliens with taxpayer dollars, raise taxes and make millions of Americans reliant on the government for health services that should be personal and private. H.R. 3962 will put in place the framework for socialized medicine, the crown jewel of socialism.

The damage this bill will do is irreversible. This plan will decrease the quality of our health care, cost American jobs and raise our taxes to pay for more Washington spending.

If we kill this bad bill, America can have a real conversation about bringing down health-care costs and reducing the number of uninsured. Real solutions include full deductibility of medical expenses for all Americans, lawsuit-abuse reform, increasing Health Savings Account contribution amounts, purchasing health insurance across state lines, allowing small businesses to band together to negotiate Association Health Plans and fixing Medicare reimbursements to raise reimbursement rates for states like Iowa that have high quality care at a low cost.