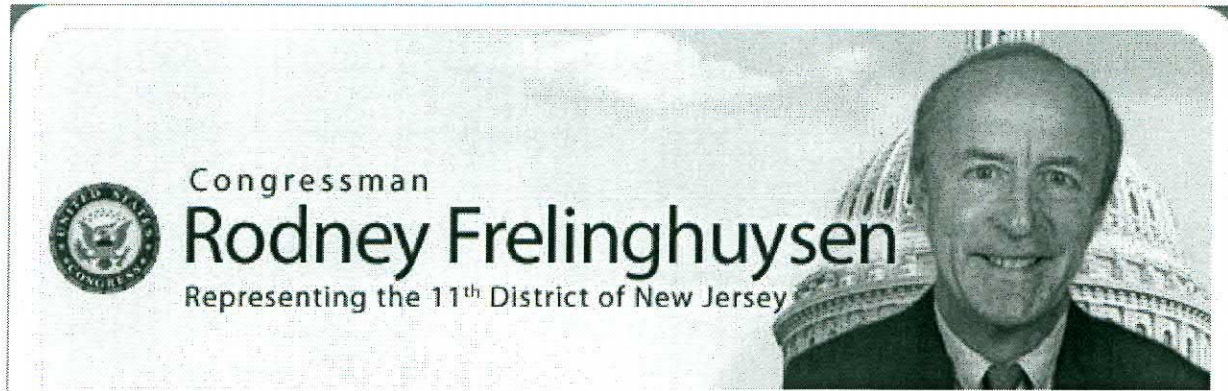




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March 16, 2010



<http://frelinghuysen.house.gov/>

Passing the Obama Health Care Bill Without A Vote?

As the House prepares for a possible weekend vote on the Obama-Pelosi-Reid government takeover of health care, Rodney took to the House floor this afternoon to denounce the process the Majority Democrats may use to move the bill through Congress, despite its lack of support from the American people.

Watch his speech here:

<http://frelinghuysen.house.gov/index.cfm>

Excerpts of the story from today's *Washington Post*:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/15/AR2010031503742_pf.html

"House may try to pass Senate health-care bill without voting on it"

By Lori Montgomery and Paul Kane

Washington Post Staff Writers
Tuesday, March 16, 2010; A01

After laying the groundwork for a decisive vote this week on the Senate's health-care bill, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi suggested Monday that she might attempt to pass the measure without having members vote on it.

Instead, Pelosi (D-Calif.) would rely on a procedural sleight of hand: The House would vote on a more popular package of fixes to the Senate bill; under the House rule for that vote, passage would signify that lawmakers "deem" the health-care bill to be passed.

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The tactic -- known as a "self-executing Rule" or a "deem and pass" -- has been commonly used, although never to pass legislation as momentous as the \$875 billion health-care bill. It is one of three options that Pelosi said she is considering for a late-week House vote, but she added that she prefers it because it would politically protect lawmakers who are reluctant to publicly support the measure.

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"It's more insider and process-oriented than most people want to know," the speaker said in a roundtable discussion with bloggers Monday. "But I like it," she said, "because people don't have to vote on the Senate bill."

Republicans quickly condemned the strategy, framing it as an effort to avoid responsibility for passing the legislation, and some suggested that Pelosi's plan would be unconstitutional.

"It's very painful and troubling to see the gymnastics through which they are going to avoid accountability," Rep. David Drier (Calif.), the senior Republican on the House Rules Committee, told reporters. "And I hope very much that, at the end of the day, that if we are going to have a vote, we will have a clean up-or-down vote that will allow the American people to see who is supporting this Senate bill and who is not supporting this Senate bill."

House leaders have worked for days to round up support for the legislation, but the Senate measure has drawn fierce opposition from a broad spectrum of members. Antiabortion Democrats say it would permit federal funding for abortion, liberals oppose its tax on high-cost insurance plans, and Republicans say the measure overreaches and is too expensive.

Some senior lawmakers have acknowledged in recent days that Democrats lack the votes for passage. Pelosi, however, predicted Monday that she would deliver.

"When we have a bill, then we will let you know about the votes. But when we bring the bill to the floor, we will have the votes," she told reporters..."

Rodney On the Failed "Stimulus"

The House Appropriations Committee held a hearing this morning on the President's budget for the next fiscal year. Watch Rodney question Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Budget Director Peter Orzag and Council of Economic Advisors Chair Christine Romer on the failed economic stimulus bill here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUYQPB9RdXk>

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