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Mr. Speaker:

Here we are, on the verge of one of the most significant votes Congress has ever taken.

The only time that I can think of which perhaps rivals the importance of this vote has been when we have decided to send the finest our nation has to offer into the perils of war.

And yet it is mind-boggling, literally unconscionable, to think that we are about to slap the American people in the face and have the audacity to say, "we know better than you do."

In town meetings – at tea party rallies – from emails, faxes, letters, and millions of phone calls that have literally jammed the Capitol switchboard – the voices of America have spoken out.... begging, pleading with their elected representatives... please... slow down... start over ... and do this the right way.

Sadly, instead of listening to the American people, the Democrat Majority – at least most of them – have chosen to tune the people out ... to ignore the angst, the fear, the frustration and the anger and somehow hope this will all just go away.

Let me assure you.... it will not!

This whole process has been insult! It's an outrage! It's an all-out attack on freedom and liberty... on fiscal responsibility... and on the sanctity of human life!

On Thursday afternoon, right after work, a man from my district left his wife and children at home, drove all night – some 998 miles – all the way from Fairhope, Alabama, to Washington, D.C., just to go door-to-door to those Members who were still on the fence to encourage them to do the right thing.

When I thanked him for making the trip, he said, "Congressman Bonner, I just couldn't sit back and look my children in the face and tell them – years from now – I didn't do everything I could to keep this from happening."

Earlier this morning, a man from Mobile walked into my office – he had stopped in Knoxville, Tennessee to pick up his mom – and together they came for the same reason...to thank those of us who are voting no and to reach out to every last undecided Member of Congress and beg them to listen to American people.

All day long, we have welcomed people to my office ... from towns in Monroe County and Escambia County in my district ... to folks from New Jersey all the way to California... all of them, literally thousands, who descended on Capitol Hill today... came for the same reason... to leave no stone unturned before the vote tomorrow afternoon.

Common sense tells us that with a bill this big – and with so many last-minute deals being made – that there are going to be a lot more angry people -- throughout the entire country -- when all the details of this legislation become known in the coming weeks and months.

Isn't it ironic that just the other day the speaker told a group "we have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it."

Well, earlier today, we saw how true that promise was with the disclosure that Democrats have now added a new 3.8 percent Medicare surtax that will hit average, middle-class taxpayers who have invested in real estate -- just what an already depressed real estate market needs!

Or the fact that just a couple hours ago the House attempted to fix another little problem that we discovered with this bill... a provision that if left unchanged could have taken more than 9.5 million veterans out of Tri Care.

Once again, just another example of the dangers of passing legislation on the fly.

While the outrage of the American people did help us succeed in taking "Deem and Pass" off the table earlier this afternoon, we are still left with reconciliation, a process that leaves many Americans dizzy in terms of the ever-changing rules that are being rewritten just to pass this bill.

The American people remember reconciliation.

Back in October of 2007, then-Senator Barack Obama said of reconciliation, and I quote, "We are not going to pass universal health care with a fifty plus one strategy."

A couple years earlier, in May of 2005, then-Senator Biden said, and I quote, "I say to my friends on the Republican side, you may own the field right now, but you won't own it forever. And I pray God when the Democrats take back control we don't make the kind of power grab you are doing."

Back home, this might sound like double-speak.

Sadly, in Washington, it's just another day at the office.

Madam Speaker, while many people are understandably focusing on the vote that will take place tomorrow – on the third Sunday in March – trust me, it will be the vote taken on the First Tuesday in November that will offer the American people the last word on this sorry spectacle.

I yield back the balance of my time.