

There was no health care bill on the House floor Tuesday. But you wouldn't know it. The phones are ringing off the hook on Capitol Hill, so much so that's it's impossible to reach either the telephone operators or lawmakers' offices.

Since noon Washington time, lawmakers have been going to the chamber to give one-minute speeches on where they stand on health reform.

The comments are virtually all along party lines – Republican members are railing against the Democratic measure, calling it a government takeover of health care and bitterly complaining about the process the majority is planning to use to get the bill done before President Barack Obama leaves on his trip to Asia on Sunday.

Democrats are supporting the bill, saying action is long overdue and telling stories about constituents who don't have or have lost their health insurance.

So far more than 165 members have spoken. I cannot remember another issue where something like this has happened since the debate over the Iraq war.

The line was so long of lawmakers who wanted to speak that Rep. Dana Rohrabacher went back to his office for meetings before returning to lambaste the measure. "This legislation will make sure the American people are more addicted to socialism because they will be more addicted to the federal bureaucracy." said Rohrabacher, R-Huntington Beach. He said the bill will increase the cost of health care and "will not prevent funds from going to illegal aliens or abortion."

Rep. Ken Calvert said that he "recently polled my constituents and two-thirds are absolutely opposed to the health care bill. Let's kill this bill and save American freedom and our economy."

Orange County's delegation reports huge numbers of calls and e-mails on this issue. Rep. Ed Royce has gotten more than 1,000 e-mails in the past couple of days, all opposed, his office

says. **Rep. John Campbell's office says his calls are 70-30 against the majority's bill.** Even the calls into the county's sole Democratic representative, Rep. Loretta Sanchez are 50-50 on the bill, although her staff says many of the calls are not from people who live in the 47th District.

Sanchez, D-Santa Ana, voted in favor of the House bill last year and is expected to say yes to the current measure. She has supported a public option for health reform.

Royce said the bill is filled with "budgetary gimmicks" and won't save any money. "The American people know better. They understand that you cannot create a massive new entitlement program and expect our dire fiscal situation to actually improve," said Royce, R-Fullerton.

Campbell also zeroed in on whether the bill is affordable.

"It's like learning that you can't pay the mortgage on your house and buying a second one and five more cars," said Campbell, R-Irvine. "Americans wouldn't do that. But President Obama and the Democrats in this house are going to."