

There is a better way of doing things, a way to guarantee access to affordable care for all citizens. Let's build the largest insurance risk pool possible, 300 million strong. If you are a citizen, you are in.

Let's openly disclose prices so we know the price of a pill before we swallow it. And let's be kind to those who are in need.

I urge the President to extend the lifesaving SeniorCare drug program in Wisconsin, and please, please, please, do not veto the children's SCHIP health care program.

There is a better way of doing things. Let's find it together, with no patient left behind.

DEMOCRATS' DEFEATIST SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, while our troops are on the battlefield continuing to go without critical funding needed to fulfill their missions, Democrat leaders still refuse to put forward a clean supplemental bill.

Last week, Senate Democrat Leader HARRY REID declared the Iraq war "lost." Just yesterday, a Democrat Congressman said it is the job of Congress to micromanage the war. Our military leaders should manage the war, not politicians in Washington.

Despite reports of progress by our military leaders, Democrats continue to advocate withdrawal and defeat. This puts American families at risk at home. Early withdrawal will escalate, not end, the global war on terrorism.

Our troops deserve more from the men and women elected to provide for their well-being. Members of both parties should support our troops and pass a clean supplemental bill.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

DEMOCRATS EXPAND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, this is Covering the Uninsured Week, so I wanted to take this opportunity to remind my colleagues about the 9 million children in America that live without health insurance. I also wanted to take the opportunity to remind the American people that just last month, the Democratic Congress passed a 2008 budget that includes a \$50 billion increase in funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and we did it without raising a penny of taxes. By contrast, the President submitted a budget that, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, would cut 1 million additional children out of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Thankfully for the American people, Madam Speaker, Democrats rejected the President's budget in favor of one that expands health care for children.

TIME TO PASS A CLEAN TROOP FUNDING BILL

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

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, the Democratic leaders have ignored the President's promise to veto legislation which loads our soldiers down with their pork-barrel spending and sets arbitrary deadlines for pulling out of Iraq. They know it is going to be vetoed, but they continue to make our troops wait.

The Commander in Chief, by their provision, would have to wait 15 days to deploy troops in certain circumstances, preventing us from having reinforcements for our soldiers in harm's way. They want to tie the hands of our generals by setting a surrender date. The first surrender date, they said, is July 1 of this year.

We don't need 535 generals in Washington commanding our troops. We need the professionals.

It is past time for the Democrats to do the right thing and pass a bill which funds our troops in harm's way. Their final drop-dead date deadline that they have set is very interesting, April 1, 2008. April Fool's day. Who are they trying to fool?

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS SUPPLEMENTAL CONFERENCE REPORT

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, the conference agreement reached between the House and the Senate on the Iraq accountability bill provides more funding than the President has asked for our troops, more for our veterans, while forging a new direction in Iraq. This bill will hold the President accountable for meeting his own military readiness standards. The Iraqi Government will also be held accountable for the first time for meeting political, economic, and security benchmarks that the administration itself has set.

This Congress must pass this legislation, because our troops have performed magnificently. The administration has failed. They have failed to hold the Iraqis accountable.

President Bush criticizes our time lines, while both Secretary Gates and General Petraeus admit there is no military solution, and Secretary Gates even called the time lines in the bill "constructive" and "helpful" in pushing the Iraqis to a solution.

Madam Speaker, this Congress has a constitutional responsibility to be accountable for war to the American public. The President will have the oppor-

tunity to sign this bill on the fourth-year anniversary of his declaration of "mission accomplished." I and the vast majority of the American people urge him to do so.

TROOPS NEED RESOURCES TO WIN THE WAR IMMEDIATELY

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

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, Congress must immediately send our troops the resources that they need to win this war, without strings and without delay. But instead, the Democrat leadership is proposing to tie the hands of our troops and hamstringing our generals with a misguided plan to micromanage the war effort. This is just unacceptable.

The Los Angeles Times has said, "It's absurd to try and micromanage this conflict and the evolution of Iraqi society with arbitrary time lines and benchmarks." And I agree.

It is absurd to assume that this war can be planned by 535 Members of Congress instead of our generals and our Commander in Chief. War by committee is not an option. I encourage the Democrat leadership of Congress to bring forth immediately a clean bill that provides the necessary funds for our troops and leaves tactical decisions in the hands of our generals and those who are experts.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, this Saturday is Workers Memorial Day, when we mourn the loss of workers who have been killed on the job or from work-related diseases. Additionally, this year marks the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Although there has been progress, thanks to the tireless advocacy of organized labor, many workers are still at risk. Last year, in Illinois alone, 194 occupational fatalities were recorded. Unfortunately, OSHA, under the Bush administration, has issued only one major standard in its 6-year tenure, and has either withdrawn or delayed dozens of worker protection measures.

Congress must ensure the first step of workplace safety by requiring that OSHA issue timely standards and ensure the enforcement of those standards in all areas of the workforce.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight, and I encourage all Members of Congress to honor our Nation's workers this Saturday.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS WITH A CLEAN SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BILL

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, the liberal leadership of this Congress has put themselves and the lives of our military members, our soldiers in the field, in a very difficult position. When they passed the supplemental spending bill earlier this month for the global war on terror, they only did it by loading it up with pork. It sounds like a grocery list. They have got money for spinach, for beef, for fish and for peanuts. Billions of dollars of pork. They made their Members an offer that they couldn't refuse.

They claim to support our military, but in this bill they tie the hands of that same military by instituting a timetable for withdrawal and taking the power for running the war away from the commanders in the field. The majority leader, HARRY REID, didn't help when he said he thinks the war is lost.

American citizens need to ask themselves the question: What would happen, what would happen, if we were to walk away? It is the same question our Speaker, who obviously isn't going to meet with our commanding general, also needs to ask.

Let's respect the soldiers in the field by doing our job and passing a clean budget.

GETTING ADVICE OF REAL PROFESSIONALS ON IRAQ

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, Bush, CHENEY and their Republican apologists here in Congress say "hands off their war. Leave it to the professionals."

Well, if they followed their own advice, we wouldn't be at war in Iraq. Remember CHENEY and Scooter Libby, who is on his way to prison, phonying up intelligence, overruling the intelligence and military professionals, saying there was a threat, that there were weapons of mass destruction? They didn't exist.

Then they fired General Shinseki because he had the temerity to suggest if we didn't put in 400,000 troops, there would be a massive insurgency and a civil war. They fired him. If they had not fired General Shinseki, if they followed his professional advice, our troops wouldn't be mired in the middle of a civil war; and Paul Bremer disbanding the Iraq Army, de-Baathification, against all professional military and intelligence advice.

Now the Republican lapdogs have the temerity to say "hands off Bush's war. Let the professionals run it." Well, it is time for some adults to step in here and really take advice from the professionals and get our troops out of the middle of this civil war.

COMMENDING ACTIONS BY INDIANA AUTHORITIES TO QUELL THE DISTURBANCE AT NEW CASTLE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, as the Nation looked on, once again Indiana law enforcement, State, county and city personnel, showed their professionalism and courage.

I rise today to commend the swift response by Indiana State and local authorities to quell the disturbance that began at 2:01 p.m. at New Castle Correctional Facility, at the very heart of my congressional district.

During a routine transfer from a dining hall to their cellblocks, a group of inmates removed their shirts, an officer was knocked to the ground, and the situation quickly spiraled out of control involving nearly one-third of the prison's population.

Guards quickly isolated the areas of disturbance. As the Nation looked on over the cable airwaves, backup officers arrived just 15 minutes later. The Indiana Department of Correction activated its Special Emergency Response Team and involved the State police. All offenders and the facility were secured by 4:45.

Investigations will go forward and questions will be answered, but, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of eastern Indiana, I rise to express my pride and gratitude to the law enforcement community involved, the State, the local, the city and the county, all those who ensured that this disturbance was contained, tragedy was averted, and the people of my congressional district were protected.

DEMOCRATS REFUSE TO IGNORE THE NEEDS OF THE UNINSURED AND LOOK TO EXPAND SCHIP FOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, this week is Cover the Uninsured Week. This year's focus centers on expanding health care coverage for America's children.

For 6 years, President Bush and the Republican Congress ignored our Nation's health care crisis. As a result, the number of uninsured increased by 7 million, to 47 million Americans; 9 million of them are children.

Studies show us that a child's health can be greatly improved if they have health care coverage. Children with access to health care are better prepared to learn in school and are better prepared to succeed in life.

The new Democratic Congress refuses to ignore America's uninsured, and that is why we passed a budget last month that provides a significant increase in funding of the SCHIP program. The \$50 billion increase in fund-

ing over the next 5 years would allow us to provide health care to millions of children who are currently uninsured.

THE MEDICARE HEARING ENHANCEMENT AND AUDITORY REHABILITATION ACT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1912, the Medicare Hearing Enhancement and Auditory Rehabilitation, HEAR, Act.

H.R. 1912 will provide for Medicare coverage of hearing aids and auditory rehabilitation services. Medicare is currently specifically prohibited from paying for hearing aids. The HEAR Act repeals this prohibition and directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to determine the most appropriate manner for Medicare to provide this benefit.

Hearing problems can make it difficult to understand and follow a doctor's advice, respond to warnings and hear doorbells and alarms. Hearing problems can also make it hard to enjoy talking with friends and family. All of this can be frustrating, embarrassing and even dangerous. It makes good sense to help these people better afford devices, treatments and other services that will improve their quality of life and increase their safety.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1912.

CHANGING DIRECTION TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, today the House will vote on and hopefully pass the emergency supplemental bill. To the individuals who disagree with this new direction and our demand for accountability, I ask, how much longer will you continue to sanction the undermining of our national security under the Bush-Cheney policy? As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I ask this because this bill states that "no units may be deployed to Iraq unless they are fully mission capable."

What are you saying if you vote against this measure? In the Armed Services Committee, the Army Chief of Staff testified that the Bush-Cheney strategy is outstripping the means to execute it. Our ground forces in the U.S. are short of training, personnel and equipment. This is very serious, and I ask how anyone can vote against this bill and sanction the unwise Bush-Cheney course.

The risk to our Nation is serious and deepening. We must change direction, make more strategic decisions and bring our diplomatic, economic and moral forces to bear to protect our national security.