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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Holy Etchmiadzin, Republic of Armenia, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we thank You for bestowing us with the grace to pray today for the leaders of this Nation who labor in the universal cause of liberty and justice. Increase their wisdom and resolution. Their actions grant inspiration and fulfillment to the desire for justice that lives in every heart. Our Father in heaven, render guidance to all nations, including the Republic of Armenia, our homeland and center of our faith, the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

With a solemn burden of history, we remember the victims of the genocide of the Armenians, the consequences of which are still felt by the entire world in new manifestations of genocide. Grant rest to the souls of all victims of crimes against humanity and bestow peace and justice on their descendants. Give pause to those who trample life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Lord, bless this land and people. Grant peace and safety to America's sons and daughters who serve their Nation abroad. May the United States continue her mission as a great beacon of hope. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SCHIP

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, when the House tried to reauthorize the children's health care bill, the President of the United States called SCHIP "a welfare benefit" for "middle-class households."

Maybe there is some confusion at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. Our bill provides health care for 10 million children whose parents work every day but can't afford to buy health care. They earn a paycheck, not a welfare check. They are parents like Dolores Sweeney.

Dolores lives in my district. She works for an insurance company that doesn't provide health care. She has three children, and they would like to buy private health care for their children but can't afford it. Her children were on SCHIP, and without the SCHIP program, they would have gone without health care.

Our bill does right by the Sweeney children and 10 million other children from working families. But the President says it's too expensive and calls it welfare for the middle class. At the same time, the President is eager to spend \$680 billion in Iraq. We have spent \$400 billion in 4 years in the war in Iraq, and for 40 days for the cost of the war, 10 million children in America will get health care for a year.

So the President can call the children's health insurance "excessive

spending" and he can call SCHIP "welfare," but for Dolores Sweeney, it is peace of mind.

URGING MEMBERS TO SIGN ON TO KIRK-CARNEY-POE-BERMAN-HARMAN LETTER REGARDING ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, it is sad when another country turns its arms against the United States or our allies, but it is a tragedy when those arms were made by Americans.

Many of us remember when advanced F-14 Tomcat fighters were provided to the Kingdom of Iran only to see these airplanes become the backbone of the ayatollah's air force.

Newspapers indicate that the United States will now offer a large arms sales package to the Saudi Kingdom. And while much of what is proposed looks useful against Iran, patrol craft and warning radars, satellite-guided bombs pose a particular danger if used in the wrong hands.

These satellite-guided bombs, called Joint Direct Attack Munitions, or JDAMs, are particularly lethal in battle, and if misused against American forces or our allies in Israel, their effect could be not just devastating but tragic.

We should not provide such weapons without ironclad, written guarantees to the Congress that such munitions could not pose a danger to future Americans or our allies. I urge Members to sign the Kirk-Carney-Poe-Berman-Harman letter to block this sale unless guarantees are made.

NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND ACT

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act, which the House will consider today.

This bill would create a national affordable housing trust fund to be administered by HUD, the Housing and Urban Development Department. The trust would increase the supply of decent quality affordable housing, especially for low-income families.

Owning a home is an American value, but many are not able to acquire that dream. With rising housing costs throughout the country, affordable housing for low-income Americans has become nearly impossible.

For example, in 2006 Los Angeles County residents needed to make at least \$50,000 a year to afford a two-bedroom apartment. That income is significantly more than what social workers, preschool teachers, and in-home health care aides earn on average. The gap between wages and housing costs in Los Angeles County and nationwide has skyrocketed.

I urge my colleagues today to vote for the final passage of H.R. 2895 so we can help all our constituents realize the American Dream.

U.S. ECONOMY AND TAXES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, America's economy is increasingly complex. While we hear reports of uncertainty, we also see many fundamental signs of health in the economy.

The latest good news is the recent jobs report that found the economy added 110,000 jobs in September and 89,000 jobs in August, a massive turnaround from the previously reported loss of 4,000 jobs in August.

With 200,000 new jobs added to the economy in the last 2 months, we once again have proof that Republican economic policies of cutting taxes to spur growth are still working. But we cannot keep our economy thriving on the tax cuts of yesterday. Congress must work to keep taxes low for America's working families.

We have already seen a Democratic budget that assumes a tax increase of nearly \$400 billion. If there are signs of uncertainty about the future of our economy, such a financial hit to American taxpayers would undoubtedly undermine the positive steps Republicans took to ensure economic growth and stability.

Everyone wants a strong U.S. economy. Let's keep it that way by preserving low taxes and not preying on the wallets of the families that work hard to keep this economy humming.

□ 1015

IN SUPPORT OF SCHIP

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

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the SCHIP bill, which will provide health insurance for 4 million uninsured children, expanded dental care, and, for the first time, treating mental disabilities and mental illness on a par with physical disability. The bill also contains premium assistance subsidies, so that at least 70 percent of these children's parents remain in employer-based private health insurance plans. But I rise most because of what I saw when my 4-year-old daughter was given 3 to 9 months to live and we lived on a cancer ward in the city. And this Nation, because of my military service, gave me the best health care possible for her to have an opportunity, her roommate was a young 2½-year-old boy diagnosed with acute leukemia whose parents did not have health insurance and social workers had to discuss whether that boy would, with my daughter, have an opportunity to live into life.

I rise in support of this bill for that young boy.

STOP OVERTAXATION AND OVERSPENDING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that Democrats remain ready to tax and spend as much as they can. Whether it's a war tax, an Internet tax, or a cigarette tax that will overly burden low-income families, the first Democrat solution seems to be to tax hard-working Americans.

And when they are not trying to raise taxes on American workers, they are spending their hard-earned money at reckless levels. The \$23 billion in new domestic spending this majority has proposed is just another sign that they feel they know better how to spend your own money.

We must restore fiscal sanity to government, but we should do that by making the necessary decisions here in Washington to save taxpayer money and spend wisely. Both parties need to pass fiscally responsible appropriations legislation rather than wait until we are forced to vote on a giant omnibus spending bill that will be full of earmarks. Let's stop asking Americans to pay for government's inability to get the job done.

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

IRAQIS MUST RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I just had the opportunity to travel in a bipartisan codel to the Middle East, particularly to Baghdad.

Robin Williams had an album at one time, "Reality, What a Concept." I thought about it while I was there. I saw a lot of reality. I saw our soldiers in life-and-death situations and doing it in a heroic fashion. They told me about their need to be redeployed over there not every 15 months, but every 12 months because the pressure is wearing on them and on their personal lives. The divorce rate is high, and it really takes a toll on their lives. They see the people working for the private companies over there making so much more money than them, the contractors, and they say, why should we re-enlist. But they do it because they're proud Americans.

But then we met with Prime Minister Maliki, and he said the sectarian war was over. Well, Prime Minister Maliki, it's not, and until the Iraqis deal with reality and deal with the Sunni and Shia differences, there won't be peace in Iraq and our soldiers will be working for a group that doesn't understand the problem, which is their own internal politics. The Iraqis must resolve their differences.

MORATORIUM ON EARMARKS

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, new earmark reforms required that Members' names be attached to their earmarks. Unfortunately, transparency alone has done little but air our dirty laundry without cleaning it. Transparency is not a substitute for oversight. Earmarks have names next to them now, but little else has changed. The House has approved thousands and thousands and thousands of earmarks so far this year, and more are likely to be added in the conference committees. However, we know full well that not all of these earmarks were given the scrutiny that Federal expenditures deserve.

Every week, I highlight an earmark by making an admittedly lame joke about it, but we need a process that inspires confidence, not jokes or humor. And, unfortunately, transparency alone has not gotten us there.

Until this body has a process that can be trusted, Mr. Speaker, I believe the taxpayers would be best served by a moratorium on earmarks, and I will soon introduce legislation to impose such a moratorium.

OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF SCHIP LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it was important to allow our Republican