

Rogers (KY)	Shuster	Upton
Rogers (MI)	Smith (NE)	Walden (OR)
Rohrabacher	Smith (NJ)	Walsh (NY)
Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (TX)	Wamp
Roskam	Souder	Weldon (FL)
Royce	Stearns	Weller
Ryan (WI)	Stupak	Westmoreland
Sali	Sullivan	Wicker
Saxton	Terry	Wilson (NM)
Schmidt	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (SC)
Sensenbrenner	Thornberry	Wolf
Sessions	Tiahrt	Young (FL)
Shadegg	Tiberi	
Shays	Turner	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Gohmert Tancredo

NOT VOTING—23

Carson	Johnson, E. B.	Ramstad
Conyers	Jones (OH)	Reyes
Doyle	Kennedy	Schakowsky
Emerson	King (NY)	Waxman
Gutierrez	Marshall	Weiner
Hall (NY)	Miller, George	Wilson (OH)
Hunter	Mollohan	Young (AK)
Jindal	Peterson (PA)	

□ 1044

Mr. BURTON of Indiana changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 17, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a letter received from Mr. William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held October 16, 2007, the Honorable Nicola S. Tsongas was elected Representative to Congress for the Fifth Congressional District, Massachusetts.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

Enclosure.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,

Boston, MA, October 17, 2007.

Hon. LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. MILLER: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special State Election held on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, for the office of Representative in Congress from the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts, show that Nicola S. Tsongas received 54,328 votes out of 105,985 total votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Nicola S. Tsongas was elected as Representative in Congress from the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts.

To the best of my knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by those municipalities located within the Fifth Congressional District, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE NIKI TSONGAS, OF MASSACHUSETTS, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from Massachusetts, the Honorable NIKI S. TSONGAS, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

Her certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to her election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and members of the Massachusetts delegation present themselves in the well, including the United States Senators.

Ms. TSONGAS appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 110th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE NIKI TSONGAS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the distinguished dean of the Massachusetts delegation, Mr. MARKEY.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the entire Massachusetts congressional delegation, it is my great pleasure and privilege to introduce the newest Member of the 110th Congress, the gentlelady from the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts, NIKI TSONGAS.

NIKI TSONGAS is the eldest of four sisters who grew up in a military family bouncing between air bases all across the United States, Europe, and Japan. In 1967, while her father was stationed at the Pentagon, she met her future husband, our late distinguished House colleague, Paul Tsongas, while he was working just across the street as an intern in the office of then Fifth District Congressman Brad Morse.

NIKI was Paul's soul mate and his strongest supporter when he ran successfully to join us here in the House of Representatives in January of 1975 and

for the Senate in 1978. She was at Paul's side when he ran for the Presidency in 1992 and when he fought so valiantly against the cancer that finally claimed him in 1997.

Over the years, NIKI TSONGAS has been a social worker, a community leader in Lowell, a lawyer, and an educator. As a community leader, she has had a passion for social and environmental justice, which she brings with her as she arrives in Congress. And through it all, she was an amazing mother to three daughters, Ashley, Katina and Molly.

Lowell and the Merrimack Valley has a strong industrial past, and nobody will better represent the roll-up-your-sleeves, hard work persona of this area like NIKI TSONGAS.

In January, our delegation was proud to cast our votes for the first female Speaker of the House. Today, I am proud to introduce the first female Member of the Massachusetts congressional delegation in 25 years.

I give you the distinguished gentlelady from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Congresswoman NIKI TSONGAS.

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, it has been a real honor and pleasure and treasure to be sworn in by the first female House Speaker. Thank you so much.

And I want to thank ED MARKEY and the members of the delegation who have been so supportive of me as I have journeyed through this most remarkable campaign. It was hard fought, but here we are. Thank you so much for all of the help you provided. It is my great honor to be part of this most remarkable institution. Thank you.

My race was about a lot of things. But as we approached the end, it was so valuable to me to be able to say that I want to come here and have my first vote cast to be around children's health.

There is nothing more fundamental to the long-term capacity of this country than to take care of its most vulnerable citizens. And so for me to arrive on this day and cast my vote to override the President's veto is something I will always remember, that I was part of this great debate around the future of our country, the generational responsibility we have both to our young and to our old, and to be here on this most remarkable day.

I am going to keep this short. We have a lot of work to do. That is one thing I learned throughout this campaign; people want change. They want us to come to the table, solve problems and move this country forward, and I am happy to be here to be part of that most remarkable opportunity. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman

from Massachusetts, the whole number of the House is 433.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). The unfinished business is the further consideration of the veto message of the President on the bill (H.R. 976) to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

I will also yield 15 minutes of my time to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the matter under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Today we face an awesome responsibility to do what is right for America's children. The debate here is about one thing only: health care for kids. Some have tried to change the subject, obfuscating this debate with misconceptions, half-truths, and outright lies. Whether this is ignorance or malfeasance, allow me to help them understand the legislation.

First, the bill terminates the coverage of adults under the CHIP program. I repeat, terminates.

Second, the bill prohibits the use of Federal funds for illegal aliens. Section 605 plainly states, "No Federal Funding for Illegal Aliens."

Third, the bill is fully paid for and will not increase the national debt. In fact, CBO estimates this bill, if enacted, will return money to the Treasury.

The legislation before us would provide health care and health insurance coverage for 10 million needy American children. It provides funding for States

to enroll millions of low-income children who are already eligible for benefits yet remain uninsured. Under current law, these boys and girls are entitled to their benefits. Continuing this situation of not providing coverage is a travesty.

I am not alone in this view. Former Surgeons General for Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and for the current President recently wrote in support of this legislation the following: "We implore you to not put off the health needs of our Nation's children. Please act today."

This legislation has the strong backing of the entire medical community, children advocates, educators, school administrators and school boards, as well as insurance companies across the country, and 43 of the Nation's Governors want SCHIP enacted because they know children cannot learn if they are not well.

□ 1100

They also know something else. These are the most vulnerable people in our society. We will be judged how we care for them; but beyond that, this is an investment in the future of the country. More than 300 organizations and a long list of distinguished Americans support this bill.

I urge my colleagues to join in overriding the veto.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent, of the 30 minutes that I control, I yield 15 minutes of that to the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. MCCRERY of Louisiana, to control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished ranking member of the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. DEAL of Georgia.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

All of us would like to see an extension of the SCHIP program, and I think there are some very basic principles on which all of us should agree, principles that should be embodied in a bipartisan piece of legislation. I would suggest there are five.

First of all, we should put the poorest children at the front of the line. That means we should require States actually to enroll 90 percent of their SCHIP and Medicaid-eligible children under 200 percent of the poverty line before they start enrolling children at higher income levels.

Two, no families with incomes above 250 percent of the Federal poverty level should be eligible for Federal SCHIP funds. States that want to go above that should feel free to do so with their own funds; but hardworking, tax-paying families in the Midwest and the

Southeast shouldn't be forced to subsidize the health care for children and families in the richer States who are making over \$82,000 per year.

Third, no Federal SCHIP funds for adults other than pregnant women beginning in 2009. We should give the States a year to transition their low-income adults to Medicaid, which is where they belong, and stop taking away limited resources from needy children and giving them to childless adults.

Fourth, keep the existing Federal requirement that States actually document the citizenship and identity of all of the applicants for Medicaid and clearly state in the bill that illegal immigrants are prohibited from receiving Medicaid or SCHIP benefits. Being able to write down a Social Security number doesn't actually prove you're a United States citizen. Federal benefits should not go to illegal immigrants.

Fifth, no millionaires in SCHIP. We should simply put a \$1 million net asset cap on eligibility for Federal SCHIP funds. If you have over \$1 million in net assets, you should be able to afford to pay for your children's health insurance.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes. After my 2 minutes, I ask unanimous consent to turn the remaining time to Chairman STARK to be able to yield to other people as he sees fit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, let me stand in a sense of bipartisanship, especially to my Republican friends, and remind you that come the next election, President Bush is going to be there at his ranch in Texas, and he will not be with you at the polls.

I say that because by that time the truth will have caught up with the message that the President is giving and most of you are using to sustain the President's veto.

Let me get to the one that I'm most familiar with, this \$83,000 ability of people to enjoy SCHIP. No one is more familiar with this than I am. It was the great State of New York that exercised its request for a waiver to ask the President of the United States whether or not a family of four would be allowed to buy in, even though they were making \$83,000. And guess what, under existing law, not new law, the President of the United States says, hell, no, you can't do it.

So we've got to emphasize over and over again, you could ask for it for \$1 million because it's not an entitlement, it's a block grant, and the Governors can ask for anything they want over 200 percent over poverty, and the President, Republican or Democrat or whoever she might be, will be able to say, no, you're not going to be able to do it. So knock that out.

And for all of the people that are upset with immigrants, legal or illegal,