

70 days since the President made the request. I call on this House to pass a clean bill, get it to the President's desk, so we can give our war fighters the tools that they need to achieve victory.

SCHIP

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

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

My home State of Pennsylvania is a model for this widely successful program. Our distinguished former Governor, the late Robert P. Casey, knew how important it was for Pennsylvania's children to have access to quality, affordable health care.

By meeting the health care needs of our children, we are better preparing them to be healthy adults. Numerous studies have shown that children with health insurance perform better in school and have higher attendance rates. Every child deserves a chance to grow up healthy and strong.

As the proud father of five, I know personally how important it is to have access to doctors, pharmacists and hospitals that your family can trust. Unfortunately, not all families have this security. Children without insurance are sometimes forced to delay treatment or put off preventive care entirely.

Our working families deserve better quality health care for their children. This is not a partisan issue. Rather, providing our children with health care should be a top priority for this Congress. Since its enactment in 1997, SCHIP has been enormously successful in reducing the number of uninsured children across the country.

HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS WITH CREATIVE FEDERALISM

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this week is "Cover the Uninsured Week," highlighting the fact that the health and well-being of our Nation's future is at stake.

Over 45 million Americans will be without health insurance at some point during this year. It's past time that Washington helps find real solutions to this very real problem. With colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and in the House and Senate, we have introduced legislation that will begin to take a meaningful approach to bringing down the cost of health care and help cover all Americans.

The Health Partnership through Creative Federalism Act, H.R. 506, empowers individual States and regions to develop unique solutions to fit the needs of their citizens. We are fighting to put the needs of patients first.

Unlike many other proposals, our reform rejects a one-size-fits-all model. The inflexibility of such an antiquated approach has continually proven ineffective in addressing individual health care needs. Working together, we can find a way to provide health care coverage for all Americans, so that American families will have a brighter and healthier future.

AMERICANS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to address my concerns for the 5.4 million Texans who are without health insurance. Nearly 25 percent of Texans are uninsured. That's the highest rate in the entire country. The irony is that Dallas and other cities have great health care networks.

The problem is that of access to care. In Dallas, there are many examples of health care excellence, including Parkland Memorial Hospital, Baylor University Medical Center, Methodist Medical Center, UT Southwestern Medical School, the Dallas Veterans Administration Medical Center, and others.

However, the price of insurance is robbing Texans of access to the appropriate medical care. Emergency rooms are overcrowded. Only half of Texas children are covered by employment-based insurance.

We must fix the problem of the uninsured. Affordable, accessible health care coverage should be available to every American. Health care should not be a cash cow for the insurance companies.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as President Bush said yesterday, this is a tough time in Iraq.

This week our Congress will hear from our commander in Baghdad, General David Petraeus, here on Capitol Hill. I suspect we will hear what I heard from General Petraeus on the streets of Baghdad just 3 weeks ago. That is, despite a wave of recent insurgent bombing, this war is not lost.

In fact, because of the President's surge and the brave conduct of our forces and the Iraqi forces, we are making modest progress in Iraq. In Baghdad, despite recent bombings, sectarian violence is down. Baghdad is not safe, but it is safer because of the presence of more than two dozen U.S. and Iraqi joint operating centers, and now more than 20 Sunni sheiks across the Al Anbar Province have united together to oppose the insurgency and al Qaeda.

I truly believe that we are making progress because of the President's

surge. This war is not lost. The American people know in their hearts that victory is our only option.

Let's give General Petraeus a willing ear, the time and the resources and the authority to secure a victory for freedom in Iraq, for ourselves and our posterity.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today we observe Equal Pay Day, the day that indicates just how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year.

Women are more highly educated and productive than ever, yet these gains have not yet translated into equal pay across the board. A Government Accountability Office study that JOHN DINGELL and I sponsored showed that when occupation, marital status, job tenure, industry and race are accounted for, women still earn eighty cents for every dollar men earn.

This wage gap extends across all income levels and occupations, and it's even wider for minority women. There is no excuse for this gap between men and women. Both men and women must feed their families and pay their rent. Let's pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and close the gender wage gap for good.

VICTIMS SHOULD BE SEEN AND HEARD

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, to support National Crime Victims Week, the Washington Post printed an opinion piece submitted by a criminal defense lawyer that belittled victims of crime, implying that victims are what is wrong with the criminal justice system and our society.

It seems the op-ed writer does not believe the criminal justice system should pay any attention to victims. To him, crime victims should not be seen and not heard. However, the same Constitution that protects defendants also protects victims of crime.

Justice is viewed as a scale, a balance. As a former judge, I always balanced the rights of defendants with the rights of society to be safe and the rights of crime victims. A court of law is to seek justice, justice for defendants and justice for victims.

Sometimes defendants don't want justice, especially the guilty ones. They think it's Burger King, where they can have it their way. But justice is not having it your way. It's doing the right thing for the right reason. The right thing is for victims to be heard and present in our courts of law, and then let the courts weigh the rights of the defendants and victims to achieve justice so that we can have liberty and justice for all.

And that's just the way it is.

IRAQ TIMETABLE AND FUNDING

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, this Congress remains committed to forging a new direction in Iraq. Overwhelmingly, the American people support our plan to establish important benchmarks and a responsible timetable to redeploy the troops.

Yet, the President has threatened to veto our legislation, even though it ensures our troops have everything they need, and for our veterans when they return home. However, just last week, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said, and I quote: The debate in Congress has been helpful in demonstrating to the Iraqis that American patience is limited.

Mr. Gates went on to say that the strong feelings expressed in the Congress about the timetable probably has had a positive impact on communicating to the Iraqis that this is not an open-ended commitment. To ensure that the Iraqis step up and take control of their own country, we must continue to demonstrate that the American people will not stand for an open-ended commitment of American resources or personnel.

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INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IMPORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, since 1992, Michigan has not been able to control the millions of tons of trash entering our State from Canada, and the problem continues. Every day, over 400 trucks from Canada dump trash into our State. These trucks come barreling across the border without inspection and examination, raising a viable national security threat.

At this time, our State government has almost no say in whether or not Michigan should accept the over 4 million tons of trash and hazardous waste from Canada every year. Michigan instituted laws banning Canadian trash in 1988, but the Supreme Court struck down these laws a mere 4 years later and ruled that Congress has not granted such authority to our State.

For too long, Michigan has had its hands tied by the Federal Government, and it is time to let the decisions about the integrity and the safety of our land be made by those who inhabit the land. As a proud cosponsor of H.R. 518, I urge my colleagues to support the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act and empower Michigan to make certain the beauty and safety of our land remains intact for generations of Michiganders to enjoy in the future.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS LOOK TO COVER SOME OF OUR NATION'S UNINSURED BY EXPANDING SCHIP PROGRAM

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

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, last month the Democratic Congress showed the commitment to expanding health care coverage to millions of children who are currently uninsured. In our budget for the upcoming fiscal year, we included a \$50 billion funding increase for the SCHIP program so that we can provide health to millions of additional children.

After SCHIP was created 10 years ago, the number of uninsured children began to fall every year. But last year, for the first time since 1998, the number of uninsured actually went up.

As we recognize Cover the Uninsured Week, it is important to highlight the growing number of families without access to affordable health insurance and the need for this Congress to strengthen SCHIP now. For 6 long years, this problem of the growing number of uninsured has been ignored. This new Democratic Congress will not ignore the problem. We are committed to expanding health insurance to millions of children who need insurance, and our budget gives us the opportunity to achieve this worthy goal this year.

REJECT THE IRAQ EMERGENCY FUNDING BILL

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, this week the House will once again take up an Iraq emergency funding bill which is seriously flawed and should be rejected.

Having 535 politicians attempt to micromanage the war on terror from atop Capitol Hill is a recipe for disaster. This Congress should not be telegraphing our war strategy to the enemy and setting arbitrary timetables for withdrawal, nor should we be tying the hands of our Commander in Chief and military leaders on the ground.

Iraq has become a central battlefield on the war on terror, not because we say so, but because the terrorists themselves have declared Iraq to be the central front for their global jihad. Therefore, it is vital that we win the war and achieve success in Iraq. To do so, this Congress must reject efforts to micromanage the war and give the Iraqi new strategy opportunity to succeed.

HONORING MR. DAVID HALBERSTAM

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, yesterday a great American died, David

Halberstam. We had a mutual friend, and through that I got to know Mr. Halberstam. He chronicled and wrote and reported the events of the last half of the 20th century. He saw truth, he spoke truth, and he wrote truth; and he gained his first fame at the age of 30 when he received a Pulitzer Prize for reporting about a quagmire known as Vietnam, a misdirection of American energies in foreign policies that led us to lose over 30,000 lives and many casualties in a great blunder under American foreign policy. We have a similar situation today in Iraq, another mistaken folly, and lives are being lost.

Madam Speaker, I would hope that we could speak truth to power, and that power would know that the Congress is giving the President a bill to support the troops, to bring the troops home and support them by seeing that they are not put in harm's way, and that the President will support the bill that the Congress gives him.

We have lost a great leader in Mr. Halberstam, and may the truth and knowledge that he brought to this country be imbued in this House and in executive leadership where another politician along with the 535 here serve.

PASS A CLEAN BILL

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, the liberal leadership of this Congress put the lives of our soldiers in the field in a very difficult, very difficult position. When they passed the supplemental bill earlier this month, they loaded it up with pork. Actually, the bill sounds more like a shopping list. There is money for spinach and for fish and for peanut storage. A lot of pork, and it is something that does not do a service to our military.

But what the leadership did was to make an offer that couldn't be refused to a lot of Members. They claim to support the military, but in the bill what they are doing is tying the hands of the military by inserting a timetable for withdrawal and taking the power away from the commanders in the field. Majority Senate leader HARRY REID didn't help when he considered that the war was lost. That is the message that he is sending to our troops and to the terrorists alike, that everybody ought to give up.

American citizens need to ask themselves, is defeat an option? What would happen if we were to leave?

What we need to do is let the soldiers do their jobs, us do ours, pass a clean bill, and send it to the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings