

Mr. Speaker, while Congress has the right to debate this war, it has the responsibility to help win it as well. That means letting this new strategy work through the end of the year, or the beginning of the next, if we are truly serious about a stable Iraq and a safer America.

□ 1015

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, as you just heard, this week House Democrats unveiled the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act, a bill that reauthorizes SCHIP, ensures millions of children receive the care they need, and protects Medicare for America's seniors.

The introduction of the CHAMP program comes days after the National Governors Association, made up of both Democrats and Republicans, called for urgent action to reauthorize the SCHIP program. Unfortunately, while strengthening SCHIP has broad bipartisan support from our Nation's Governors and in the U.S. Senate, the Bush administration and some congressional Republicans oppose efforts to strengthen the program so it does not continuously run out of money. Instead, they are proposing to underfund the program significantly, which would cause millions of children to lose coverage.

Mr. Speaker, insuring America's children is an affordable goal. It costs less than \$3.50 a day to cover a child through SCHIP.

DANGER OF DEMOCRAT HEALTH CARE PLAN

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, health care decisions are often the most personal and important decisions ever made, and those decisions should rightly be made by patients and doctors, not bureaucrats and insurance companies. So it's concerning that the Democrat leadership plan to move forward with a large expansion of Washington-controlled bureaucratic health care under the guise of providing care for children.

The House Democrat plan would cost \$50 to \$80 billion, and include children whose families have an annual income up to \$82,000, making 71 percent of all children in America eligible for government-run socialized medicine, a level of income where 89 percent of children already have private health insurance. Why? Because these Washington politicians believe they can make better health care decisions for America's families. They don't trust patients, and they don't trust doctors.

As a physician I know that the best medical decisions are made by patients and families. The positive solution is patient-centered health care, making insurance available to all patients and families. Let's put patients in charge, not Washington. That's what Americans want.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHAMP ACT AND PROVIDING HEALTH CARE TO 5 MILLION MORE KIDS

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, is one of the most important and worthwhile programs in our government. It was created with broad bipartisan support by Congress in 1997, and provides critical health care benefits to children whose parents either cannot afford insurance, or hold jobs where health insurance benefits are not provided. Today, 6 million children and low-income families have health care because of this SCHIP program.

This week, Democrats in this body introduced legislation known as the CHAMP Act, which would reauthorize SCHIP, preventing it from expiring on September 30, leaving these 6 million children without access to health care.

The CHAMP Act would also extend SCHIP coverage to 5 million additional uninsured American kids, and ensure that States have the tools to reach children who are eligible for the program, but are not enrolled.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the CHAMP Act. By passing it, we will reauthorize SCHIP to protect health care benefits for up to 6 million children currently receiving them, and provide it to an additional 5 million who desperately need it.

COPS

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

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the appropriation bill before us today. This legislation addresses the violent crime problem head on by investing \$100 million into the COPS program to put more cops on the street.

We need additional cops now more than ever. For example, in my hometown of Orlando, Florida, we experienced a 123 percent increase in the murder rate last year. Yesterday I received a letter from a 7-year-old boy in Orlando. He writes, "My name is Santiago Valera. I am a 7-year-old boy. I live with my grandma. We live in Orlando, Florida. Every day bad people rob and kill good people. They even shot my Auntie Connie in her neck. I'm afraid to go outside and play. I don't want someone to kill my little brother or me or my grandma. Please help us."

To Santiago and all the other little boys and girls of central Florida, please know that we hear your concerns, and help is on the way.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIREs). The Chair will remind Members to refrain from trafficking the well while other Members are under recognition.

NO PERMANENT BASES IN IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Yesterday, the President of the United States went to South Carolina to address the United States military to convince them that the al Qaeda network in Iraq is part of the international network of al Qaeda. But as I rise to support the legislation that will appear on the floor today, No Permanent Bases in Iraq, I rise vigorously to support this important legislation, that I have co-sponsored.

The National Intelligence Estimate has been very clear, and that is that al Qaeda has become stronger because of our military presence in Iraq. It's time now to make the statement and the decision, no permanent military bases of the United States in Iraq.

Four thousand lives, almost, of our soldiers have been lost. They are our heroes. We claim they are our heroes. They've done their job. It is time now, Mr. President, to redeploy our soldiers in a safe manner and recognize the misdirected war in Iraq, political reconciliation is the answer.

It is time now for the Iraqis and the Prime Minister to stand up, along with the sister states in the region, and establish the reconciliation government for Iraq. Please support No Permanent Bases in Iraq.

THE BIG THREE: MODEL CORPORATE CITIZENS

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, my friends on the other side of the aisle are often quick to criticize corporate America for everything from outsourcing jobs to poor health care and retirement benefits for their workers. However, we have some very responsible corporate citizens that we call the Big Three. And over the last century, the Big Three have been the leaders in providing health care benefits and retirement benefits as well for their workers. These efforts were actually crucial in building up the American middle class. GM, for example, spent \$3.3 billion last year on health

benefits for their 432,000 retirees. In comparison, non-U.S. auto manufacturers spent roughly just \$23 million for their 1,200 American workers and American retirees.

And one would think that after decades of commitment the Big Three have shown to the American worker that that would earn them the admiration and the sympathy of the Democratic leadership. Unfortunately, that does not seem to be the case. The Democratic leadership that should be holding up the domestic auto industry as models of corporate responsibility are instead trying to ram through increased CAFE standards that will put U.S. auto workers in the unemployment line and likely bankrupt U.S. auto companies.

I urge my colleagues to reject these policies which will help our foreign competitors, and instead stand up for American jobs.

IOWA NATIONAL GUARD 1ST BATTALION, 133RD INFANTRY

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to welcome home the Iowa Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry. The Ironman Battalion returns to Iowa today after a 22-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While serving in al-Anbar province, the Ironman Battalion provided transportation security for more than one-third of the fuel used by coalition forces in Iraq.

It is with a heavy heart that I note that the 133rd Infantry lost two soldiers. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones.

Now that the 133rd has returned home, we must honor their service by providing for their health care and productive futures. Our commitment to these citizens must extend throughout their lives.

On behalf of the Second District of Iowa, I thank the soldiers of the 133rd Infantry for their service. It is with great pride and gratitude that we welcome them home today.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF SECRETARY NICHOLSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, Secretary Jim Nicholson resigned from his position at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

As a highly decorated combat veteran, his experience in the Army for over 22 years gave him insight into the needs of veterans. He has implemented many reforms since assuming the lead-

ership of the VA in February 2005. He established electronic medical records for the nearly 8 million people in the VA health care program. This enabled the successful transition of veterans from hospitals damaged by Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

In addition, Mr. Nicholson improved care for veterans with brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder, mandating screening of all returning veterans for signs of PTSD, and adding mental health services at more than 100 medical centers.

Secretary Nicholson also hired suicide prevention counselors at each of the VA's 153 facilities and established a 24-hour national suicide prevention hotline.

I want to thank Secretary Nicholson for his commitment and leadership, and wish him well in his future endeavors. God bless him.

JAMES MADISON'S "POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS"

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from James Madison, chief author of the Constitution, from remarks he wrote on April 20, 1795, which sound as though they could have been written today.

"Of all the enemies of true liberty, war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded because it compromises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes. And armies and debts and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few.

"In war, too, the discretionary power of the executive is extended. Its influence in dealing out offices, honors and emoluments is multiplied; and all the means of seducing the minds are added to those of subduing the force of the people. This same malignant aspect in republicanism may be traced in the inequality of fortunes, and the opportunities of fraud, growing out of a state of war, and in the degeneracy of manner and of morals engendered in both. No nation can preserve its freedom in the midst of continual war. War is, in fact, the true nurse of executive aggrandizement."

COMMENDING COLLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the prestigious independent school districts in Collin County, Texas, for their sterling reputation and superior education.

Forbes Magazine, long-time experts on all things money, recently ranked

the public schools in Collin County as second in the entire Nation for the best education for your dollar. What a tremendous distinction.

The students' overall average score was 1102 on the college entrance exam, and the schools boast a 92.2 percent graduation rate. This demonstrates that knowledgeable teachers, community pride, parental involvement and top-quality schools are all working together to achieve academic success.

I want to personally commend the cities of Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie and their independent school districts for this exceptional award and national recognition for what they do best, teaching our kids and making the future of Texas and the United States even brighter.

Congratulations to all concerned.

NO PERMANENT MILITARY BASES IN IRAQ

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, our intelligence agencies have confirmed that al Qaeda is stronger in numbers and effectiveness than it has ever been. And that's because 5 years ago, when we had bin Laden cornered and crippled, we outsourced the job of capturing him. And then we diverted our focus and our resources to Iraq, which turned out to be his greatest dream realized because it gave him so many propaganda tools as a rallying cry and a recruiting tool. And that's just what happened.

And now, when President Bush says that he envisions a military presence in Iraq similar to South Korea, well, we've been in South Korea for 50 years, this plays into their propaganda. We need to make clear there will be no permanent military bases in Iraq; that we are not there as occupiers, but rather as liberators.

Let's start getting serious about winning this global war on terrorism. We can start today by passing the resolution declaring that the Congress is unequivocally opposed to permanent military bases in Iraq.

□ 1030

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support this morning of the funding levels included in the State and local law enforcement in H.R. 3093. This legislation reverses a dangerous downward trend in the Community Oriented Policing Services program, the COPS program.

Specifically, it increases the COPS budget to \$725 million, which is a \$183