

defense community who are directly involved in their missile defense decisions. I was able to see firsthand the stability and security that American missile systems provide for our allies. Recently, the administration announced a change of plans, eliminating missile silos in Poland and radar in the Czech Republic, which raised concerns both in our missile defense community and among our international allies. Clearly this logic must be questioned as a successful launch of the long-range Shahab-3 missile shows that we must protect our allies in the region and, most importantly, the eastern United States.

These Iranian tests demonstrate a need for ground-based interceptors, if not on Poland, then on the eastern coast of the United States. American safety and security is essential to our soldiers abroad and citizens at home. Because national defense is a non-partisan issue, we in Congress will work together to make sure our decisions are well thought out and executed.

OPEN UP THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, in October 2008, just a year ago, Congress lifted the decades-long ban on energy exploration off America's coasts, clearing the way for expanded domestic oil and gas exploration. Unfortunately, instead of moving forward with a plan to explore the Outer Continental Shelf, this administration has stopped progress by instituting an extended 6-month public comment period.

Now the Obama administration has indicated offshore exploration may not happen until 2012, meaning what was a mere 6-month delay for comments has now become 3-year ban or could become a 3-year ban on offshore drilling.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are still waiting for expanded oil and gas exploration. With unemployment nearing 10 percent and our Nation's deficit topping \$9 trillion, it is simply irresponsible to continue this de facto ban on American energy protection. We need to take an all-of-the-above approach when it comes to our energy portfolio, an approach which includes developing American offshore energy resources.

HEALTH CARE STATUS QUO IS UNAFFORDABLE

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Since 2000, families in Pennsylvania have seen a 100 percent increase in their health premiums. Nearly one in five Pennsylvania families pay more than 10 percent of their

income on health care. This is simply unaffordable for middle class Americans.

As we advance health care reform, we must ensure that Americans have access to meaningful, affordable health coverage, and we can do that by expanding private and public insurance options available to individuals and small groups so meaningful coverage is more affordable; by establishing consumer protections, including ending preexisting condition exclusions; setting commonsense policies to expand options for insurance coverage, including allowing young adults to stay on their parents' insurance policy; ensuring that Americans know what their insurance coverage truly means, by eliminating confusing terminology which results in consumers paying for expenses that they thought were covered, and putting a reasonable limit on insurer overhead and profits so that more of our premium dollars are used on health care.

The status quo is unaffordable. That is why the President and Congress are committed to passing a health care reform that benefits all of us.

ROBERT CLENNEY—TEXAS LAWMAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Highlands, Texas, lost a lawman to a tragic traffic collision last Saturday night. Harris County Precinct 3 Deputy Constable Robert Clenney was hit by a car from behind and spun into oncoming traffic where he again was hit head-on by a pickup truck. He was 38 years of age. To make matters worse, the driver who hit Deputy Clenney's SUV from behind fled the scene. Police are now searching for the hit-and-run scoundrel.

Deputy Clenney was a beloved husband and father of two young daughters. His wife, Denise, says her husband had always wanted to be a lawman. It was his dream, and he achieved that dream. He had been a deputy constable for 11 months when he lost his life.

Lawmen are a special breed of people. They run toward trouble when others are running to safety. They protect people, property and the community. These first responders hold evildoers accountable to our laws. Deputy Clenney will be buried this Saturday in Texas. We will always be grateful for folks like Deputy Clenney, grateful for his service and his sacrifice. We pray God's peace to his family after their loss of this Texas lawman.

And that's just the way it is.

YOUNG ADULT HEALTH CARE COVERAGE ACT

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak on behalf of the

age group that boasts the highest uninsured rate in our country, our young adults. Young adults, those between 19 and 29 years old, are more frequently without insurance than any other age group. At 31 percent uninsured, nearly one in three 18- to 29-year-olds are without health insurance. This gap in coverage occurs when young people graduate from school or reach an age limit imposed by insurance companies that do not allow them access to their parents' health insurance plans.

Young adults entering the workforce often take jobs that lack benefits or cannot afford them on their own. The Young Adult Health Care Coverage Act would give these young adults access to their parents' health insurance during these transition years when it is so difficult to maintain coverage on their own. This bill is a no-cost bipartisan solution to the problem of young adults without health insurance.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to support health care reform to provide quality health care for all Americans.

FANG ZHENG

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor to celebrate with Fang Zheng, a man from China who recently walked for the first time in 20 years. Twenty years ago, I remember the whole world was watching on TV with such hope as peaceful demonstrators poured into Tiananmen Square in China, calling for freedom. Fang was among those brave activists. When the tanks rolled in to break up the demonstration, one of them rolled over him, causing him to lose both of his legs. This young man, who had been an Olympic hopeful, was now wheelchair-bound.

Last year he finally was able to travel to the United States and seek asylum. Moved by his story, the owners of a prosthesis center that worked with wounded war veterans offered to design him new legs; and yesterday here in the Capitol, these new legs allowed him to dance with his wife for the first time ever.

That celebration was a powerful symbol that the American people have not forgotten the Chinese struggle for freedom and the courage of people like Fang Zheng who speak out and who long to enjoy the same freedoms we hold so dear. You can see his story on YouTube.

THE NEED FOR A HEALTH CARE PUBLIC OPTION

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to congratulate the American people on how savvy and smart they

are when it comes to this health care reform effort. A survey was done recently, and the question was asked, Do you support an individual mandate, which is the requirement that people purchase insurance coverage? In answer to that, there was some ambivalence. People weren't so sure. Then they asked the question this way, they said, What if we give you a public option, would you support an individual mandate? And a clear majority said, Absolutely, we would.

Now let's think about that for a minute. What they were saying was, Don't force us to go purchase insurance coverage if we have to buy it from the same old cast of characters that's been jerking us around for decades. But if you give us a real option, then it absolutely makes common sense to require that.

So once again Americans have demonstrated they understand this problem. They understand why we need to have a public option in the mix, and that's what we're going to push forward with in this legislation.

FIX GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE BEFORE ENACTING ANY NEW REFORMS

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we discuss the issue of health care, one thing that's brought up often is, Why not let the government run health care? After all, we already have Medicaid, Medicaid, TRICARE and the VA.

Here is a true story: a gentleman in his eighties needs a motorized wheelchair, so he gets a medical exam. A few dozen pages of paperwork are filled out, and 3 or 4 months go by, waiting for the wheelchair to arrive. Unfortunately, during that time, the medical exam expired after 60 days and has to be repeated. Again, more billing, a couple dozen pages of that, and he gets his \$25,000 wheelchair. Unfortunately, by that time, he is in hospice care and can barely use it. And here is the other tragedy: it goes into storage. It can't be used. It cannot be returned, and it's a big waste of money in many ways.

It's not atypical for issues with Medicare and Medicaid. They, quite frankly, will pay for this sort of expense but will not pay for the care it takes to prevent these sorts of problems. Before we take on more health care and \$1 trillion more spending, shouldn't we fix those things we are already responsible for? I think that would save a lot of money, make a lot of sense, and save a lot of lives.

WE NEED HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday in my office in Memphis, I had citizens

come visit me. Two parents had children with spina bifida. They explained the love they had for their child, but the expenses it is causing them because our system of Medicaid is not sufficient in Tennessee to really give them the benefits they need, and how much it costs them.

Another person came to my office to tell me that I had saved her life. Well, I hadn't saved her life, but she would have been cut off of TennCare, our Medicaid system. And but for 10 days when we got them back on, she wouldn't have got the transplant that did save her life.

Do we need health care in America? I think those stories and stories like them say we do. I was gratified last night doing a teletown hall meeting in my district where 83 percent of the respondents said they supported President Obama's health care plan. The Ninth Congressional District of Tennessee gets it. I hope America gets it.

□ 1015

MASSIVE MEDICARE CUTS IN THE BAUCUS HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

(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, Senator BAUCUS's health care bill is out, and the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has reported it has 15 major surprises in it. Massive cuts to Medicare.

You can see here that the bill cuts \$133 billion out of Medicare Advantage, forcing 3 million seniors out of their choices; \$128 billion is going to be cut for Medicare for hospitals; home health is cut, part D; skilled nursing is cut; hospice is cut; medical imaging, wheelchairs are cut.

So we now see how this is so-called paid for, on the back of senior health care.

I urge seniors to read this Baucus bill and learn about its massive Medicare cuts.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2647, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 808 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 808

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, to provide special pays and allowances to cer-

tain members of the Armed Forces, expand concurrent receipt of military retirement and VA disability benefits to disabled military retirees, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the rule provides for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered without any intervening motion except 1 hour of debate and, if applicable, one motion to recommit.

The bill was introduced on June 2, 2009, by Chairman IKE SKELTON and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. The committee marked up the bill on June 16, 2009, and ordered it favorably reported, as amended, by voice vote June 16, 2009.

The Committee on Rules reported a structured rule making in order 69 amendments, which then passed the floor 222-202. And today we have the conference report that we have now concurred with the Senate.

Despite any differences about our ongoing missions in Afghanistan or Iraq, we all agree that funds that have already been approved as part of the annual spending plans should not be held up for any reason, not with our troops in harm's way.

The bill authorizes \$550.2 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy and also authorizes \$130 billion for overseas contingency operations for fiscal year 2010.

For our service men and women, it authorizes a pay raise of 3.4 percent for the military, expands TRICARE health coverage for Reserve members, bars fee increases on TRICARE inpatient care