

50TH ANNUAL FORT LAUDERDALE
INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the occasion of the 50th annual Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. Running from October 29 through November 2 in locations across Fort Lauderdale, the boat show will have a major impact on south Florida's economy. In previous years, the impact has been as high as \$500 million.

Tourism and the marine industry are critical to our local economy, and the annual boat show is a major draw, with more than half of the visitors coming from outside our area.

Families from around the world come to visit south Florida to enjoy our sunshine, our beautiful beaches and the remarkable quality of life. The boat show puts all of these qualities on display while also supporting the marine industry, which provides 134,000 high-paying jobs in our community.

The Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show is the biggest and best show in the world and has been so for many years. I would like to thank the organizers and the community leaders of this world-class event and wish them well during their golden anniversary boat show.

HISTORIC TOWN HALLS

(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, over the weekend, I hosted the first congressional town halls ever held at Barnwell High School for Barnwell and Aiken Counties; at North High School for Orangeburg, Calhoun and Southern Lexington Counties; and at Wade Hampton High School in Varnville for Hampton, Allendale and Jasper Counties.

At each town hall, I was inspired by the enthusiastic and concerned citizens who support health insurance reform such as H.R. 3400, but they oppose a big government health care takeover. They see the administration's efforts as an attack on senior citizens and small businesses. They are shocked at bills that would kill jobs in communities with record unemployment.

I am grateful for the historic record-setting turnouts at town halls across the Second Congressional District in Columbia, Lexington, Beaufort, and Hilton Head. I look forward to the town hall this Saturday at Oakwood-Windsor Elementary School for citizens of Aiken County.

Town hall participation is making a difference, limiting government. And expanding freedoms.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SHOWING THE NATION WHAT
CLEAN ENERGY IS ALL ABOUT

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, this beautiful picture is of the Kibby Mountain Wind Project, which went online last week and became the largest wind power development in Maine's growing wind energy industry. This is just one example of how Maine is becoming a leader in wind energy.

Also last week, the Obama administration selected Maine to become the home for a national deepwater offshore wind research center. Our State has committed to building 3 gigawatts of land-based wind power and 5 gigawatts of offshore wind power in the Gulf of Maine, developing new technology and creating new jobs in the process.

All across Maine, small and large wind power developments are popping up. This summer, I watched along with my friends and neighbors as three turbines have gone up in our island community, a project that will make my town energy independent and save us money over the long run.

Maine is showing the Nation what clean energy is all about. We can create homegrown solutions to our energy problems, freeing us from our dependence on foreign oil, making us self-sufficient, and creating good-paying jobs that can't be exported.

A SCOURGING PLAGUE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are families in America where assault, violence and terror at home are a way of life.

Yvette Cade got a restraining order against her abusive husband, a man that she daily and dreadfully feared. But a Virginia judge lifted that protective order when her husband, Roger Hargrave, promised he would seek counseling.

Soon after the order was lifted, Yvette went off to her job at a T-Mobile store. Her husband later walked in the store, doused her with gasoline and set her on fire. A customer boldly put out the fire that resulted in third-degree burns over 60 percent of Yvette's body.

That was 4 years ago. Yvette, a survivor, has spent 92 days in the hospital and she has had 14 surgeries. She lives in daily turmoil and pain, pain inflicted on her by her worthless, wretched husband.

Mr. Speaker, October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Brutality at home cannot remain a dark secret any longer. Domestic violence is a national health care issue; a crime and a scourging plague on a nation's culture.

And that's just the way it is.

DENOUNCING THE CUBAN REGIME

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to denounce the deplorable and dangerous actions of the Cuban regime.

On Monday, The Miami Herald reported that in the 6 months after the attacks of September 11, dozens of Cuban spies walked into our embassies all over the world and sent our officials on wild goose chases disguised as terrorist threats. These intelligence agents fabricated threats to deliberately pull our officials away from their work of identifying and preventing more attacks.

I cannot stress the underhanded and malicious nature of the regime in Cuba. These actions directly undermined our national security. These agents repeatedly, before and after 9/11, visited embassies. They posed as defectors to get our intelligence to waste time and resources. These visits to embassies increased dramatically after 9/11, and Cuban agents specifically used our sensitivity to terrorist threats to mislead our officials.

The Cuban regime deceived us when we were most vulnerable, in the months after the deadliest attacks on American soil.

Mr. Speaker, I am outraged by this news, and I hope my colleagues are, also.

A SCARY TIME FOR THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Halloween is just around the corner, but unfortunately, the Democrats who control both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue, if they have their way, there will be no treats, but only tricks, for small businessmen and -women and other hardworking taxpayers in the form of higher taxes, more government regulation and even more debt to be saddled on to the backs of our children and grandchildren.

News that our Speaker has all but guaranteed her caucus that there will be a robust public option in any health care bill to pass Congress is a code word for this, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer. If you think government is too big now, just wait.

Sadly, there is a reason why so few Americans have any confidence, much less respect, for the leaders here in Washington. It is because our so-called leaders have shown absolutely no respect to the hardworking taxpayers of this country, with a spending and borrowing spree unlike anytime in American history.

Halloween or not, this is a scary time for American taxpayers.

PRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE
FORUM

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday night, I held a health care forum in my district to hear the thoughts and concerns of my constituents as we continue this critical debate on health care reform. There were strong feelings on all sides of the issue, but the important thing is we were able to come together and have a productive forum on the important factors that are central to reforming health care so that we can reduce costs, increase access, expand choice, and strengthen—yes, strengthen—Medicare.

I want to thank Temple Ner Tamid for hosting the forum; Mitch Fox for moderating with such grace; our panelists, Tom McCoy and Max Richtman; and especially the approximately 500 people who cared enough to come together and get involved in this discussion.

As the health care debate continues over the coming weeks, I look forward to sharing with my colleagues in the House on both sides of the aisle the valuable thoughts and ideas that were discussed at Monday's forum.

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PRESIDENT OBAMA REVERSES
HIMSELF ON HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during the Presidential campaign, Senator Obama ran an ad attacking Senator Clinton because her "health care plan forces everyone to buy insurance and you pay a penalty if you don't." If that sounds familiar, it should. That's exactly what the Obama administration is now forcing on the American people. What Senator Obama once criticized, President Obama now embraces.

Democrats' health care bills penalize people who don't buy the government's designated kind of health insurance, and the fine or tax can be close to \$2,000 per person. Just as bad, most people who do buy health insurance will pay higher premiums, and seniors, especially, will see their benefits cut according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Senator Obama was right. President Obama is wrong. Why have so few in the national media pointed out the about-face, flip-flop, backtrack, and 180?

OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, the upcoming reauthorization of our surface

transportation programs provides us with a unique opportunity to examine the ways we can maximize the return on our investment of taxpayer dollars we make in our Nation's infrastructure. If we strive for both economic and environmental sustainability, I believe we should support the idea of having this Nation's infrastructure designed to last without maintenance as long as possible and be 100 percent recyclable. The technology to meet these goals exists today, and we will save billions of dollars over time and lighten the financial burden for future generations.

As we work to address the cost of rebuilding our roads, bridges, and transit systems, we can require the use of 75-year maintenance-free and 100 percent recyclable materials. If we do this, we will be able to fund more projects and make critical infrastructure improvements faster.

The technology that exists today to meet all of these goals is galvanized steel. Galvanized steel is made up of naturally occurring zinc bonded to steel, which protects it from erosion for 75 years without maintenance. Steel bridges, sign structures, guide rail, light poles, facilities can benefit from it. This is technology available to us.

DON'T COST MY PATIENTS
COVERAGE OR BENEFITS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as a physician, a family physician for over 30 years, I must speak out again on health care. The President promised, promised that if you like what you have you, you can keep it. But it appears, with the current Democrat health plan, this is not true, at least when it comes to seniors.

Both the House and Senate proposals contain billions in cuts to Medicare Advantage, a very popular private insurance program that 25 percent of America's seniors have chosen for themselves. With ObamaCare this, the Greatest Generation, will lose benefits they currently enjoy, another broken promise by the President. Many seniors will be forced to pay for services such as supplemental vision or hearing coverage that was previously covered. Consequently, seniors will be dumped back into the regular Medicare that, according to this plan, will have \$300 billion stripped from it.

The net result of this broken promise for seniors, some of whom are my patients, will be to have substantial reduction in service, care, and benefits.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, responsible health insurance reform re-

quires a comprehensive approach. For example, health insurance companies often deny coverage if you have a pre-existing condition. But if we require insurance companies to cover preexisting conditions, all Americans must be required to carry health insurance; otherwise, people will just wait until they get sick before they buy insurance. And if all Americans are going to be covered, we must have mandates and taxes to subsidize those who can't afford it.

Furthermore, in most States, there's only one company with an overwhelming market share, and so, without a public option, people in many States would be mandated to buy insurance from a sole-source, for-profit corporation without any limit on what it can charge. You know that's not fair.

So even though there is a consensus that people with preexisting conditions should be able to buy insurance at a reasonable cost, we cannot achieve that goal without mandates, subsidies, and a public option to provide competition. That's why we need comprehensive health insurance reform with a public option.

RECOGNIZING CASEY HILMER

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Casey Hilmer of Cincinnati, Ohio, of the suburb of Indian Hill for finishing fourth in the women's division of the 30th Columbus Marathon.

Casey, running her first marathon, and having no formal marathon training, finished with a time of 2 hours and 54 minutes. This was only 7 minutes behind the overall women's winner. Casey also finished first in her age bracket.

While her fourth place finish is extraordinarily impressive, it is what she overcame that brings me to this floor to celebrate her accomplishment. Ms. Hilmer's finish is made more impressive by what she's had to overcome.

More than 6 years ago, at the age of 13, she was attacked. As she was jogging near her parents' home, Casey was abducted and stabbed four times. Thankfully, this did not stop her from doing what she loves—running.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Casey is a shining example of perseverance and dedication. Casey will not be deterred. I am confident this strong young woman will accomplish every goal on which she sets her mind.

Congratulations, Casey, on your remarkable accomplishment. Perhaps your next goal—the Olympics.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, more evidence is coming in every day that