



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

No. 164

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

November 5, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: I will sing forever of Your love, O Lord; throughout the years I will proclaim Your truth.

The starry heavens are Yours. The whole world is Yours. You established the earth and all it holds together. You created the north and the south, the boundaries of the land.

In You we find power and strength. Your justice becomes the foundation of all lawmaking. You help us keep all things in order.

We will find love and truth in Your presence, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLEMING led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

IS THIS A TIME TO PLANT OR A TIME TO REAP

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the Book of Ecclesiastes says, To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven, a time to plant, a time to reap.

Many years ago, people in States across America planted the seeds of single payer health care. Those seeds have sprouted and borne fruit where powerful State citizens' movements exist to create not-for-profit health care. This led to passage of an amendment to the health care bill which protected the rights of States to pursue single payer. Unfortunately, that amendment was taken out of the bill and we must try to get it into the conference report.

While the State health care movement is strong, the national single payer movement is still growing. It has resulted in the Conyers bill, H.R. 676, Medicare for All. The bill has 87 co-sponsors, a significant number, but nowhere near enough to bring the bill to the floor where it would face certain defeat.

To those who want a stand-alone vote on single payer now, I want to ask this question: Is this a time to plant or

a time to reap? What fruit will be borne from a tree that has received no light and no water in this Capitol?

ILLEGALS AND THE HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the \$1 trillion government will take care of us all health care bill will allow illegals to get benefits. Every year, 10 million illegals use fake or stolen Social Security cards to work here. The Government Accountability Office reports over a 15-year period, 9 million people even used the same Social Security number. It was 000-00-0000. How is that for policing the system?

This is the same inept, goofy program that will be used to monitor citizenship under the health care bill. No one has to even show a valid photo ID to sign up. Can't do that, it might hurt someone's feelings. There is no real enforcement to prevent illegals from receiving health care that citizens and legal immigrants must pay for; all they need is a name and fake Social Security number. Isn't that lovely.

Once again, Americans will continue to pay for illegals who disrespect the law. So now Americans and illegals will stand in line side by side together for that expensive rationed health care.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, after months of fire and fury and endless rhetoric, after months of staged protests and shouting down honest debate about health reform, after months and months of promising a real plan for the reform we all agreed we need, I stand

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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before this Congress literally as-tounded by the health reform plan offered by the loyal opposition.

After all this time, this is the best you could produce? It seems that you have backtracked. Now you don't believe in health reform. Instead, the Republicans have embraced a plan that will drive up the cost of health insurance for the sickest and most vulnerable, a plan that will start a race to the bottom where insurers drop the sick and flock to States with the weakest regulations. Yes, that's exactly what I said.

A plan that bails out the insurance companies, relieving them of any responsibility to cover the individuals that need insurance the most. You are going backwards instead of forwards.

I must admit that I congratulate them for somehow turning the status quo into 230 pages of legislative text. I contend there is only one real reform plan, and we will be voting on it in a few days.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair, not to others in the second person.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, God tells us in Hosea 4:6, My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, the American citizens need to know that the Pelosi health mandate bill that we are going to be voting on evidently Saturday night is going to destroy our economy. It is going to destroy jobs. In fact, the President's own economic adviser says 5.5 million people will lose their jobs if this bill becomes law.

Mr. Speaker, the American people need to read the bill and need to know what is in it. It is being forced down the throats of the American people. Mr. Speaker, this is a dead, rotten, stinking fish that the Speaker is trying to force down the throats of the American people before they have an opportunity to see it. I encourage the American people to know what is going on here and to tell their Congressman that they reject the insurance mandate that is proposed by the Speaker in the Speaker's health insurance mandate bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, central to finding a uniquely American solution to America's health care chal-

lenges is strengthening Medicare for our Nation's seniors. Our health care reform effort renews our commitment to the health and security of American seniors by ensuring the long-term fiscal health of Medicare and improving the quality of care that seniors receive. The House bill adds valuable new benefits for seniors and improves access to primary care.

Seniors now pay up to 20 percent of the cost of preventive services like mammograms and colonoscopies and vaccines. As of January 1, 2011, seniors will no longer have to pay any copay for preventive services. This is a major win for America's seniors.

Health care reform also sets us on a path to close the coverage gap in Medicare part D, known as the doughnut hole. In 2011, Medicare will pay \$50 more for seniors to get drugs, and they will receive a 50 percent discount on brand name drugs. Health care is good for our seniors. Health care is good for America. Now is the time to act.

ENROLL CONGRESS IN PUBLIC OPTION

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, in July, I offered House Resolution 615, which urged my colleagues who vote for a government-run health care plan to lead by example and enroll themselves in the same public plan. The resolution has 96 Republican cosponsors and prompted almost 2 million Americans from across the country to contact my office in support of this.

Yesterday, I and several of my colleagues offered an amendment to the Pelosi health care bill that, if passed, will automatically enroll all Members of Congress and all Senators in this public option. This amendment is a direct response to the outcry of millions of Americans who have contacted me.

Members of Congress are exempt from this government takeover of health care, and I believe that if a law is good enough for the American people, then it should be good enough for the elected officials that represent them.

Tonight I will host a Webcast at 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, and I urge anyone watching to join me through my Web site, fleming.house.gov, to talk more about it.

CONGRATULATING MICHELLE WILMOT

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Chamorro soldier, Michelle Wilmot, for receiving the 2009 Outstanding Woman Veteran Award.

Michelle was a member of Team Lioness, the first female Army team attached to Marine infantry units to con-

duct operations such as raids, checkpoints, and personal searches for weapons and explosives. She also served as a medic and a retention NCO during her 8-year stint.

As a member of Team Lioness, she was featured in a documentary film entitled Lioness, and in a chapter of Kirsten Holmstedt's book, *The Girls Come Marching Home*. Michelle holds a bachelor of science degree in political science and speaks Arabic and six other languages.

Having personal understanding of the difficulties facing soldiers returning from war, she was chosen as program director of the Northeast Veteran Training and Rehab Center in Gardner, Massachusetts. The center specializes in treating veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

On behalf of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, I want to congratulate Sergeant Michelle Wilmot, winner of the Massachusetts 2009 Outstanding Woman Veteran Award.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, across the country, the American people have been calling for months for Washington to pass responsible reform that will lower the cost of health insurance to small business owners, working families, and family farms.

Yesterday, House Republicans answered that call by putting forward commonsense legislation that will reduce the deficit, lower health insurance premiums, and ensure coverage for those with preexisting conditions. You can read all about it by going on www.healthcare.gov.

As a result of the House Republican bill, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office now confirms, families will see their health insurance premiums reduced by up to 10 percent, and hardworking taxpayers can expect deficits to decrease by \$68 billion over the next decade.

The Pelosi health care plan: more government, more spending, more deficits. The Republican plan: less government, lower deficits, and lower health insurance premiums.

That's your choice, America. Let your voice be heard.

HEALTH CARE REFORM FOR WOMEN

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, few Americans have more at risk or at stake in health care reform than women. Forty States allow private health insurance companies to gender rate their premiums. As a result, a 25-year-old woman may pay between 6 percent and 45 percent more than a 25-year-old man for the same coverage.