

## BRINGING DOWN HEALTH CARE COSTS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, critics of the Affordable Health Care for America Act have said we're not doing enough to control costs. In fact, a great deal of what we have done in this legislation is aimed at reducing costs in the system—not just costs to Medicare and Medicaid, but also to the private system as well.

For instance, one of the things we do is move toward standardized forms, standardized billing forms. One estimate is that this could save the system \$30 billion a year. That's just one of the things that we put into motion to try and change the cost structure of health care in this country.

As my colleague from Minnesota mentioned, we're talking about changing the way we pay physicians so that we pay for the quality of care and not the quantity of care. In addition, we move to reduce readmissions to hospitals, because this is one of the greatest factors in high medical care costs.

Time after time in this bill, from comparative effectiveness research to investments in health care information technology, we do things that will bring costs down in health care, and that is our commitment to the American people. We will bring down costs and make health care affordable for every American.

## GREAT LAKES GITMO?

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

Mr. KIRK. Recently, the administration announced it may move up to 215 al Qaeda terrorists to Illinois. This proposal imposes an unnecessary new risk. We should slow it down and answer some basic questions.

The facility is only 22 miles from a nuclear reactor. What precautions are being taken? Commissions will be held in Illinois. How do we protect the families of jurors and prosecutors?

Since the facility will replicate Gitmo's military administration, how will Great Lakes Gitmo improve American PR?

Yesterday, we learned that two-thirds of the jobs claimed to be created will be active duty military. The Bureau of Prisons will hire no one over 37 years old and will hire nationwide, not just in Illinois.

It's ironic that the administration promised \$200 million to Palau to accept six terrorists—\$33 million a terrorist. But for 215 terrorists, Illinois would only get \$120 million—\$500,000 a terrorist. That's 66 times less than the rate paid to Palau.

The people of Illinois deserve to know a lot more about this proposal and how it would affect our safety.

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES?

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of this House for getting the health reform bill out. And what is in it for small business? No entity fares better under reform than small business. That's because the current health insurance system is rigged against small business, which now faces fewer choices, higher costs and, as a consequence, less stable coverage for their workers.

Health insurance reform will level the playing field and provide more stability and security to small business. Small business then will be able to cover all of their employees. It's all about jobs, and the reform will lead towards jobs.

## ADMINISTRATION DITHERS ON AFGHANISTAN

(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. Back in March, the President made it clear we need a comprehensive approach to secure stability in Afghanistan. He stated that the safety of people around the world is at stake. I issued a statement in support. General McChrystal has requested more troops and resources in Afghanistan to do just that, but this administration continues to dither.

Several weeks ago, former Vice President Dick Cheney used the term "dithering" to describe the President's indecision. I agreed with the former Vice President because "dithering" means to hesitate and waste time.

In the Los Angeles Times on Saturday, Doyle McManus highlighted that now some of the President's own supporters are beginning to wonder whether Cheney was right. For the sake of American families at home, Congress and the President should not dither, but listen to the commanders in the field.

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

## SUCCESSFUL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, AARP, an organization of 40 million Americans over the age of 50, announced the results of a poll regarding the Affordable Health Care for America Act. It found that by a two-to-one margin AARP supports this bill. And what's not to support?

This is a bill, for those who care about Medicare, which will close the doughnut hole, the infamous 100 percent deductible for seniors who are paying for the part D benefit that doesn't pay benefits after hitting \$2,300 in care. It eliminates copayments for preventive services, cancer screenings. But, most importantly, the actuaries for the Center for Medicare Services found on Friday that it extends the solvency of the Medicare trust fund by 5 years. So instead of going in a negative direction, we are strengthening the Medicare trust fund, which will ensure that Americans will have one of the most successful health programs ever created—Medicare for themselves, their children, and their grandchildren.

AARP, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society all support this bill, and the Senate should do the same and pass this measure and send it to President Obama for his signature.

## CMS REPORT

(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, just a week after the House passed Speaker PELOSI's health care reform bill, we've received a report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services showing what this bill will do to health care in America. If this bill were to become law, health care costs would increase by \$289 billion over the next 10 years. Rising costs are devastating families and businesses, but this trillion-dollar health care bill does nothing to stem the flood.

The same CMS report shows that proposed cuts to Medicare would reduce benefits for seniors. The \$571 billion in cuts could cause many doctors and hospitals to stop taking Medicare patients, leading to lines for service and degraded care. Further cuts to the program mean a greater burden on private insurance, a higher rate for businesses and individuals, higher costs, more government control, more taxes, and less competition.

Here we have more evidence that Speaker PELOSI's bill is the wrong kind of health care reform.

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## HOLDING WALL STREET ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Policies of poor regulation and lax oversight of our financial system came to a head 1 year ago, greatly contributing to the worst financial crisis this country has experienced since the Great Depression. Over the past year, we have made tough choices and taken firm steps to bring

our economy back from the brink, but there is still much more work to do on the path to recovery, including enacting comprehensive reform on how Wall Street works, to protect Main Street and American families.

As we move forward, we must hold Wall Street accountable by making commonsense reforms to our financial regulatory system that will help prevent such a crisis from ever happening again. As we rebuild our economy, we must assure Wall Street can't take risks that jeopardize the whole economy: businesses, large and small, and family budgets, savings and retirements.

Financial regulatory reform will put procedures in place to make sure taxpayers will never again have to bail out too-big-to-fail institutions who take on irresponsible risk. It also restores accountability and transparency so that the problems are recognized and fixed before they threaten the entire economy as well as outlaw many of the egregious practices that led to the worst financial crisis in decades.

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL RAYMOND ERIC JONES, A MEMBER OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Raymond Eric Jones got married at the tender age of 19 to Lucille, and then he was off to serve his country 2 years later in the great World War II. Raymond flew B-17s over Germany, including bombing Normandy to prepare for the D-day invasion. In 1944, before his 25th mission, he was informed that upon completion of that mission, he would be taken back home to America as a hero and do public relations for the Air Force.

But that was not meant to be. His B-17 on that 25th mission was shot up and quickly crashed in a German field. Four members died on impact. Even though he was wounded, Lieutenant Colonel Jones pulled the remaining two from the wreckage, and he would remain in a German prisoner of war camp for the next 11 months. Fifty-eight years later, Lieutenant Colonel Jones received the distinguished Flying Cross for saving his two crew members. He has also received the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the POW medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Monday, in the presence of his family, Taps will be played at Arlington National Cemetery, where Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Jones will be buried with full military honors, another member of the Greatest Generation who made America proud. Amazing breed—a rare breed, these World War II veterans.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Members, recently this House passed by 220-215 the historic health care reform bill, H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act. This legislation will have profound impact on the uninsured children in our country. In 2008, an estimated 64.1 percent of all children in the Nation had private coverage, 28.3 percent had public coverage, and 9.9 percent were uninsured.

But in Texas, we have 1.5 million children uninsured, giving us the distinction of having the highest number of uninsured children in the country. This is largely due to the State's refusal to fund State matching funds for the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP. In 2008, 26.8 percent of the children in our district were uninsured, the third highest for uninsured children in the Nation.

H.R. 3962 provides sliding scale subsidies to families with incomes of up to 400 percent of the poverty line, which would not be dependent upon State budget decisions, as in the case of SCHIP. Funding for the affordability credits would not be capped and would rise automatically when needed.

We have an obligation to provide health benefits to our children and H.R. 3962 will ensure that all plans provide an essential benefits package that includes comprehensive benefits such as vision, hearing and dental care for children as well as well-baby and well-child care.

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WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. REHBERG. When Congress passed the trillion-dollar so-called stimulus, the national unemployment rate was 7.6 percent. Some politicians warned that without the stimulus, unemployment could pass 8 percent. This month, unemployment blew past 10 percent; and like you, I am wondering where the jobs are.

In the infinite wisdom of the government, \$18 million was spent on a Web site to track jobs. The just-released job figures for Montana are listed by congressional district. Montana, of course, has only one district. Yet the Federal Government spent \$372,000 to create one single job in Montana's non-existent 8th Congressional District. Our imaginary 16th Congressional District did better, with 32.5 jobs. Only a bureaucrat would count half a job in a district that does not exist. The government spent \$1 trillion to save and create jobs, and the opposite has happened. Millions more Americans have lost their jobs, and now they want to fix health care like they've fixed the economy.

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS FOR NEVADA

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, for far too long Nevada's economy has primarily been dependent on gaming and mining for job creation. Now it's time to diversify and take action to create clean energy jobs in Nevada, the sunniest State in the country with abundant geothermal and wind resources. We need jobs in southern Nevada, and the key is to focus on innovative new clean energy technologies.

Just yesterday, a major solar developer in Nevada, Solar Millennium, announced that it plans to dry-cool its plant in the Amargosa Valley. That means it will use 90 percent less water than originally anticipated. This is very exciting. I have offered a number of amendments on the floor to improve the water efficiency of solar technology, which is important because many of the sunniest States are also some of the driest. This smart, innovative decision to use less water for this major solar project will speed the approval process, help stimulate the local economy, and create needed jobs in southern Nevada.

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TERRORIST DETAINEES IN GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage at President Obama's decision to bring terrorists being held at Gitmo to American soil for prosecution in our criminal justice system. This dangerous decision will grant these detainees, including the admitted mastermind behind 9/11, constitutional rights to which they most certainly are not entitled.

Prosecuting these detainees in our criminal courts also will raise the risk that they could be released on technicalities and will force our soldiers to worry about such things as reading captured combatants their so-called rights and preserving the chain of evidence.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama's decision is a gamble that we simply do not need to take. These detainees are enemy fighters who should be tried in the military justice system, not in American courts.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM'S IMPACT ON AMERICA'S SENIORS

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, we have heard how reforming our health care system will benefit both those with and without coverage. But what does reform mean for millions of our seniors?