

It will mean a stronger and more improved Medicare program. More services will be covered under the program, including free preventive services. The safety and quality of care will also be improved through payment and delivery system reforms to encourage better care.

In addition, reform will bring tighter oversight by creating new tools to fight waste, fraud and abuse within Medicare, as well as save costs by eliminating gross overpayments. Medicare itself will be protected by extending the solvency of the Medicare trust fund by 5 years.

Most importantly, our bill will mean lower drug costs for seniors by allowing the government to negotiate drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and by closing the doughnut hole that thousands of seniors just in my district alone hit each year.

Mr. Speaker, security and stability is what reform means for seniors and why most recently 63 percent of AARP members support the House version of health care reform.

HEALTH CARE BILL WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT SENIORS

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, a new report says the health care bill that just passed the House will sharply reduce benefits to seniors. This report was done by President Obama's own administration. The Washington Post says it all. You can see it right here: "This bill would sharply reduce benefits for some senior citizens and could jeopardize access to care for millions of others."

My district has more than 267,000 seniors, the oldest congressional district in the country. I will not stand by while we devastate Medicare and raise taxes on individuals and small businesses. The report also warns that hospitals and nursing homes could stop taking Medicare all together.

I urge every Member of Congress to read this report so we can focus on real reform that does not punish our seniors.

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINICS

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of just one of the essential programs included in the Affordable Health Care for America Act. This bill includes the first dedicated Federal funding for school-based health clinics. School-based clinics garner strong bipartisan support, and this provision is one of the many bipartisan initiatives included in our health reform legislation. Today clinics in our schools are providing comprehensive and easily acces-

sible health care to nearly 2 million students across the country.

Students spend 5 days a week in school. It's the most logical place to offer primary and preventive care. Without this legislation, some students may have no access to health education, screenings and other primary services. At the height of the flu season, there is a need for supporting these clinics, these school-based health clinics, now more than ever. This is just one more reason of why I urge my colleagues to help pass real health reform now.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT THOMAS CLAIBORNE, UNITED STATES MA- RINE CORPS

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, there are many heroes who have served our Nation from the Sixth Congressional District of Colorado. Today I rise to pay tribute to one hero in particular. Marine Corps First Lieutenant Thomas Claiborne of Parker, Colorado. On October 29, 2009, First Lieutenant Claiborne was lost when his Marine Super Cobra collided with a Coast Guard C-130 during an escort mission off the coast of California. The lives of the crew of both aircraft were lost in this tragic training accident.

First Lieutenant Claiborne graduated from the University of Colorado magna cum laude on a full Navy ROTC scholarship in May 2006 with a degree in aerospace engineering and later earned his wings as a pilot in the United States Marine Corps. He is remembered as a fine young man, an outstanding student and a dedicated Marine Corps officer who had always dreamed of flying. First Lieutenant Thomas Claiborne was a shining example of the Marine Corps traditions. As a fellow marine, my deepest sympathies go out to his family and to all that knew him.

FINANCIAL SERVICES REFORM

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, President Bush's policies of deregulation, poor regulation, and lack of oversight of our financial system came to a head a little more than a year ago, and they brought us the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. As my friends on the other side of the aisle talk about unemployment and the stimulus package, it is their policies that made all of this necessary in the first place.

But the Democratic Congress is roaring back to protect consumers, to make our financial system more safe and sound, and to provide an orderly resolution of financial firms that have failed. Legislation being proposed right

now will provide unprecedented protections for American consumers through the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, put procedures in place to make sure taxpayers will never again have to bail out too-big-to-fail institutions, restore accountability and transparency so that problems are recognized and fixed before they threaten the entire economy, outlaw many of the most egregious practices, like subprime lending, and put our economy on a stable footing.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Congress is only a few steps away from passing a health care reform bill that is much needed for the American people. If we lose sight of our main goal to provide access coverage to everyone, especially the poor and the middle class that have already sacrificed or contributed so much so this country, I say, Ask not what you can do for the insurance companies but ask what you can do for the American people.

This is a humanitarian issue about responsible parents trying to provide for their families. The House bill ends the doughnut hole prescription drug coverage, ends copayment for preventive care, ends discrimination based on preexisting conditions, and provides more health care for our youth. The health bill means less red tape and less paperwork, more time with your families and doctors, lower premiums for older Americans.

This is extremely important at a time that the American families are stretching their budgets to the brink to make ends meet their needs and may have lost their jobs. Access to health care is not a privilege. It's a human right. I urge my colleagues to fight for the American family and pass real health care reform.

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FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Financial Services Committee's work to overhaul our financial system. Across the Nation, including my home State of Rhode Island, predatory lending and unregulated mortgage brokers led to unsustainable home loans and a drain on our economy. Now, with unemployment at 13 percent, my constituents, like many across the country, have had no other choice but to turn to credit cards to support their families and small businesses. Now what's happening is these struggling Rhode Islanders are subjected to the deceptive practices of credit card companies

greedily generating more profit before new regulations go into effect. We've all seen it. These practices include rising minimum payment amounts and interest rates, decreasing limits and closing accounts without proper notification. For these reasons and many more, consumer protection must be the cornerstone of financial reform. Further, we must restore accountability and transparency of financial institutions and eliminate risks that contributed to the financial collapse.

I look forward to voting on legislation which will address these past failures, strengthen regulation and oversight and put our country back on a path to economic stability.

HOW QUICKLY WE FORGET

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, how quickly we forget. Last year at this time the Nation faced the worst financial crisis in decades, shedding over 600,000 jobs a month. We knew that unemployment was going to get worse before it got better. This is little consolation to the millions of Americans who are currently unemployed, facing foreclosure, or forced to take multiple low-paying jobs to make ends meet.

Earlier this year, we took unprecedented action by passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The impact of this legislation is growing more evident each day across this country, but it's not enough, especially if you don't have a job.

It's time for us to focus on creating jobs that enable Americans to take care of themselves and their families. We must engage in long-term job creation, continuing the Recovery Act to rebuild our roads, bridges, water, sewer, and energy infrastructure to compete in a global economy. We must open credit markets to enable the real job creators, small businesses, to grow and hire.

Mr. Speaker, as millions of Americans continue to suffer, I ask us to get busy creating jobs and move quickly to pass a bill that will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and make critical investments in our infrastructure.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of special interests out there that are making noise about what the House health care bill means for seniors. But seniors that I met with yesterday in Meriden, Connecticut, they're not falling for the scare tactics. That's because for years they've been dealing with the rising cost of health insurance, and they're the ones that have been paying for the

prescription drug doughnut hole that was created by the Republicans and their drug industry allies. The seniors that I talked to yesterday, they support the health care reform bill because it lowers their out-of-pocket expenses in Medicare. It eliminates the doughnut hole, and it extends the life of Medicare to make sure that it will be around for their kids and their grandkids.

And that's why AARP supports the bill as well, with polling showing that their members also support health care reform by a 2-1 margin. Mr. Speaker, seniors out there support health care reform because they, better than anybody, know what the status quo is, and they don't like it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CLEAN HULL ACT OF 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3618) to provide for implementation of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3618

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Clean Hull Act of 2009".

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) ANTIFOULING SYSTEM.—The term "antifouling system" means a coating, paint, surface treatment, surface, or device that is used or intended to be used on a vessel to control or prevent attachment of unwanted organisms.

(3) CONVENTION.—The term "Convention" means the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001, including its annexes, and including any amendments to the Convention or annexes which have entered into force for the United States.

(4) FPSO.—The term "FPSO" means a floating production, storage, or offloading unit.

(5) FSU.—The term "FSU" means a floating storage unit.

(6) GROSS TONNAGE.—The term "gross tonnage" as defined in chapter 143 of title 46, United States Code, means the gross tonnage calculated in accordance with the tonnage

measurement regulations contained in annex 1 to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969.

(7) INTERNATIONAL VOYAGE.—The term "international voyage" means a voyage by a vessel entitled to fly the flag of one country to or from a port, shipyard, offshore terminal, or other place under the jurisdiction of another country.

(8) ORGANOTIN.—The term "organotin" means any compound or additive of tin bound to an organic ligand, that is used or intended to be used as biocide in an antifouling system.

(9) PERSON.—The term "person" means—

(A) any individual, partnership, association, corporation, or organized group of persons whether incorporated or not;

(B) any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, except as provided in section 3(b)(2); or

(C) any other government entity.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(11) SELL OR DISTRIBUTE.—The term "sell or distribute" means to distribute, sell, offer for sale, hold for distribution, hold for sale, hold for shipment, ship, deliver for shipment, release for shipment, import, export, hold for import, hold for export, or receive and (having so received) deliver or offer to deliver.

(12) VESSEL.—The term "vessel" has the meaning given that term in section 3 of title 1, United States Code, including hydrofoil boats, air cushion watercraft, submersibles, floating craft, fixed or floating platforms, floating storage units, and floating production, storage, and offloading units.

(13) TERRITORIAL SEA.—The term "territorial sea" means the territorial sea as described in Presidential Proclamation No. 5928 on December 27, 1988.

(14) UNITED STATES.—The term "United States" means the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction.

(15) USE.—The term "use" includes application, reapplication, installation, or any other employment of an antifouling system.

SEC. 102. COVERED VESSELS.

(a) INCLUDED VESSEL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), after the Convention enters into force for the United States, the following vessels are subject to the requirements of this Act:

(1) A vessel documented under chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code, or one operated under the authority of the United States, wherever located.

(2) Any vessel permitted by a Federal agency to operate on the Outer Continental Shelf.

(3) Any other vessel when—

(A) in the internal waters of the United States;

(B) in any port, shipyard, offshore terminal, or other place in the United States;

(C) lightering in the territorial sea; or

(D) to the extent consistent with international law, anchoring in the territorial sea of the United States.

(b) EXCLUDED VESSELS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following vessels are not subject to the requirements of this Act:

(A) Any warship, naval auxiliary, or other vessel owned or operated by a foreign state, and used, for the time being, only on government noncommercial service.

(B) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any warship, naval auxiliary, or other vessel owned or operated by the United States and used for the time being only on government noncommercial service.