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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord our God, throughout the ages of Holy Scripture, You have made promises to Your people; and Your divine promises were always fulfilled, in due time.

Be with Your people today. Realize in our day the hopes of compassion, peace, and justice You have placed within our hearts. Our deepest prayers are wrapped in such promises.

Look not upon our sins, Lord, unless it is to forgive and set us free. Fulfill in us Your word of salvation, both now and forever.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

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

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. REHBERG 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

### NOTICE

If the 111th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 23, 2009, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 111th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Thursday, December 31, 2009, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Wednesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Thursday, December 31, 2009, and will be delivered on Monday, January 4, 2010.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman*.

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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H14375

## STAND UP FOR THE TROOPS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Today I will begin circulating two privileged resolutions which will trigger debate and votes on a timely withdrawal of our troops from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution makes it Congress' responsibility to determine whether or not we go to war or stay at war. Consistent with article I, section 8, the privileged resolutions will invoke the War Powers Act of 1973. I ask for your support of these resolutions which will be introduced in the House in January.

Yesterday, with the Secretary of Defense at his side, the President of Afghanistan declared that his country's security forces will need financial and training assistance from the U.S. for the next 15 to 20 years. We cannot afford these wars. We cannot afford the loss of lives. We cannot afford the cost to taxpayers. We cannot afford to fail to exercise our constitutional right to end the wars.

Please sign on to the privileged resolutions to end the wars and bring our troops home. Stand up for the troops. Stand up for the truth. Stand up for the Constitution and Congress' responsibility.

## CALLING FOR A STIMULUS AUDIT

(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, American taxpayers deserve an audit of stimulus funds. Taxpayers have faced weeks of fake jobs in fake districts posted on recovery.gov. We have heard the Government Accountability Office announcement that one in 10 jobs are fake. Action must be taken.

I have introduced the National Commission on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create a bipartisan commission to investigate how many jobs have actually been saved or created by the Recovery Act. The commission will look at the circumstances in which these jobs have been saved or created. The commission will make recommendations on what works to save or create more jobs and what steps can be made to prevent the improper spending of taxpayer dollars, such as The Hill's front page disclosure today of a Democrat pollster receiving \$6 million to preserve three jobs.

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

## INSURANCE COVERAGE OF ABORTION

(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, one of the more divisive issues in our health reform debate has unfortunately been how to treat insurance coverage of abortion. Everyone agrees our goal is to preserve the status quo. Yesterday our colleagues in the Senate did exactly that by tabling the Nelson amendment, modeled after the Stupak amendment, which would have severely restricted a woman's access to reproductive health care services.

The status quo means no Federal funding for abortion other than in cases of rape, incest or life endangerment of the woman. The status quo means entities that receive Federal funds may use their own private funds for activities that are being prohibited from being paid for with Federal money. An example of this are the churches which receive millions of dollars in taxpayer funds every year to provide social services, but must segregate those funds from other funds used to engage in religious activity.

Similarly, the amendment I passed in the Energy and Commerce Committee, along with the current Senate language, maintains the same principle without eroding a woman's legitimate access to a legal medical procedure.

I urge my colleagues to reject inclusion of the harmful Stupak language in any final version of the health reform legislation. Maintain the Senate's language and the status quo.

## SEALS TRIAL

(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, President Obama is shifting our strategy to fight terrorists from a military model to a legal crime enforcement model. Case in point, this week, three Navy SEALs were arraigned on charges related to punching terrorist leader Ahmed Abed after he killed and mutilated four Americans in Iraq. A punch to the gut has led to the prosecution of three of our most highly dedicated and highly trained servicemen. Al Qaeda has many weapons and tactics to harm our troops, among them the weapon of our judicial system and the tactic of claiming abuse by our soldiers.

The SEALs risked their lives to capture Abed alive, when it may have been easier to kill him with a hellfire missile fired from a drone. They did not question the necessity of bringing Abed in alive so that he could be interrogated and so that valuable intelligence could be gathered.

Why would our soldiers undertake future operations when they too could be prosecuted based on the word of a terrorist? The Obama administration is taking us down a slippery slope where our legal system impedes our ability to fight an enemy that shows no regard for innocent lives.

## REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. CHU. Last night the Senate stood up for women. Last night the Senate rejected an amendment that would have hurt women all across this Nation. Though we won the battle, the fight is not over. We must oppose the Stupak language in the final health care bill. It was on this House floor that we passed the historic health care vote.

But there is one moment that night that I'll never forget. I'll never forget looking up at the vote board and seeing that our House voted for the biggest rollback of women's reproductive rights in decades. My heart sank. Thirty years ago I got into the women's movement to ensure that women would not die in a back-alley abortion with coat hangers.

Today, women finally have choice over their own bodies, but with the Stupak amendment that changes. It was not a compromise. Women will lose benefits. Plans will not offer abortion coverage. Women will be forced to buy an extra rider for abortion ahead of time. And what woman plans to have an abortion?

Let's not make women the sacrificial lamb of health care reform. Let's pass health care reform that benefits all Americans.

## HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, a constituent statement to Congress by Judy Brady of Texas District 31 on health care reform. I received this, and I wanted to read it to the rest of the Congress:

You tell us that the government needs to control health care because the government can administer programs more cheaply and fairly than the private system. Of course, recent studies show that nearly 10 percent of all Medicare payments are fraudulent. Why should we believe that government can do a better job with the entire Nation's health care system than it already does with Medicare?

We ask you to leave health care in the hands of doctors and patients and that you help drive down the costs of insurance so that more of us can be covered. Give us nationwide competition between private insurers, allow us tax deductions for insurance we purchase, and promote tort reform. Don't force us into a government system that will cost us more and cover us less.

## REFORMING WALL STREET TO PROTECT MAIN STREET

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