

## 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.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, last year we witnessed the near collapse of our financial system. According to one estimate, the United States lost an estimated \$8.3 trillion of wealth in 2008. Right now, more than 15 million Americans are unemployed and looking for work. Families and businesses continue to struggle as our economy slowly recovers. We must ensure that this never happens again.

Hardworking Americans on Main Street have been the victim of Wall Street's excess and greed and also of Washington's failure to hold investors accountable. Our constituents, the American people, deserve better. The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009 will rein in risky behavior on Wall Street and create powerful protections for middle class families.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for middle class families and protect their financial future by supporting H.R. 4173.

#### FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. REHBERG. This year, for Christmas, my wife, Jan, and I took out three loans for our three children, \$40,000 each. Of course, since my youngest daughter isn't old enough to get a loan, we had to sign for it, but the bank assured us she'd have to pay it all the same. Then with the \$120,000 in new-found credit, Jan and I went on a spending spree, leaving our children to repay \$40,000 each. Great, huh?

Of course this story isn't literally true. No parent would dream of saddling their children with \$40,000 in debt. No parent would do that, but right now the estimated share of the national debt is \$40,000 per American man, woman, and child; and that debt is just as real.

That's why I've cosponsored a resolution to require any increase in the statutory debt limit be considered as a stand-alone bill and passed by a supermajority of Congress. If we're not going to cut up the government's credit card, then let's make it harder to get new cards when we max the old one out.

#### ONE PERSON CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend, Dr. Jim Young, on his impact on the health care reform debate. Earlier this year, Jim gave me a copy of the book, "Overtreated," by Shannon Brownlee. This book, and Jim's encouragement, opened my eyes to the shortcomings of our country's reimbursement model, a fee-for-services model,

and the need to go to a health care delivery system that rewards high-quality, low-cost patient outcomes.

After months of negotiations, I'm proud we were able to secure language in the House bill to finally achieve a quality-based reimbursement model. Jim has been practicing family medicine in Iowa since 1973, following his service in the United States Navy. He's a valuable adviser and friend, and his insights and inspiration helped improve the House Health Care Reform bill to better serve all America. His spirit and his example show what one person can do to change the course of history.

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#### DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS AWARDED TO GEORGE OHLMAN

(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, on Saturday, November 28, in Frantown, Colorado, I was privileged to present George Ohlman with his Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. Ohlman, 88 years old, was a pilot and flight leader in the famed "Thunder Bums" fighter squadron during World War II flying combat missions over Europe in P-47 Thunderbolts. Ohlman flew over 100 combat missions in World War II. Mr. Ohlman was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his—and I quote from the award record—"extraordinary leadership and superior flying ability."

On September 3, 1944, near Mons, Belgium, then-Lieutenant Ohlman led his wingman in a strafing run on enemy positions. His aircraft received several direct hits, but he nevertheless continued the attack until out of ammunition. Due to the chaos and confusion prevalent during war, he never actually received the medal. Rectifying that oversight last month was a great honor for me.

#### OPPOSITION TO THE STUPAK-PITTS AMENDMENT

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to show opposition to the Stupak-Pitts amendment and its new limitation on women's reproductive rights. The House bill already had language that reflects current law prohibiting funds from being used for abortion while allowing women to use their own money to buy the coverage that they need.

The Stupak-Pitts amendment goes beyond the Hyde amendment. It sets new precedent for restricting women's rights and eliminating coverage for an important and legal health service that millions of women currently have.

That's why I will join with my colleagues to vote against any final health reform bill if it contains the Stupak-Pitts amendment.

#### LESSONS FROM AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from a trip to Afghanistan to assess the conditions on the ground. I want to update my colleagues on what I saw.

First of all, our military leadership has expressed confidence in our ability to achieve victory, and they need the additional troops promised by President Obama. The bigger problem lies with Afghanistan itself.

President Karzai must do the following to ensure success in Afghanistan: end the corruption, provide credible Afghan security forces, eliminate the illicit drug production, and grow the Afghan economy. These conditions are paramount to achieving victory when the U.S. military departs the country. And finally, Pakistan has to step up and stop serving as a safe harbor for terrorist insurgents.

The morale of our troops are high, and our commanders on the ground are confident that we can win if Afghanistan and Pakistan achieve these goals. None of these goals are easy, but they are crucial to the success of the security of Afghanistan.

#### OPPOSITION TO THE STUPAK-PITTS AMENDMENT

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my constituents who called, faxed, emailed me in strong opposition to the Stupak-Pitts language and its inclusion in health care reform.

The grand myth in this debate is that the Stupak amendment is simply an extension of current law, which prohibits the use of Federal funds for abortions except in the case of rape or incest or to protect the life of a mother. It is not current law. It would be the largest restriction on abortion access since Roe v. Wade—preventing women from using private dollars to purchase coverage for a legal medical service.

A recent George Washington School of Public Health study warns that the Stupak language will reduce access to women who already have it by encouraging insurers to "drop coverage in all markets." That is not the status quo.

The Stupak-Pitts language is unfair, unnecessary, and unwise. The Senate rightly rejected it last night. It cannot be part of health care reform. Women will not be forced back to back alleys.

#### MEDICARE CUTS WOULD IMPACT OUR SENIORS

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House