

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 Franktown, 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

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, this week debate continues in the Senate over a massive health care overhaul. What's at stake for seniors? Many seniors will probably see their benefits cut or higher premiums. The Senate bill cuts more than \$135 billion from hospitals serving seniors. It cuts \$40 billion from home health agencies, \$15 billion from nursing homes, and nearly \$8 billion from hospices—an all-important service our seniors depends on.

Seniors deserve to know how Washington Democrats are going to pay for their massive new government-run bureaucracy because cuts like these will affect their care.

As a heart surgeon, I know that we can do better. We need to work together to strengthen Medicare, putting it on sound footing to ensure that it will be there when seniors need help with their health care costs.

We need to lower health care costs for seniors and all Americans by increasing competition in the insurance marketplace, promoting wellness programs, and limiting frivolous lawsuits in medicine. We can accomplish these commonsense solutions if we work together.

Let's protect seniors. Let's protect Medicare.

AMERICAN JOBS ARE TRENDING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, while one month with fewer job losses does not show success, it certainly shows that we are trending in the right direction.

This blue is since President Obama took office; the red is the time under former President Bush. You see back in January of 2008 we started losing jobs. Here is when the Presidential candidate for the Republicans claimed that the fundamentals of our economy were sound. And in the last month that President Bush was in office, this country lost over 740,000 jobs.

The blue shows the direction under the Obama administration where we are trending in the right direction. It's not success, but it certainly shows we are trending in the right direction from over 70,000 jobs to 11,000 jobs. It's a tragedy for any family that has lost a job, but it does show that one election has truly made a difference in our economy.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know the American people deserve some answers. Where are the jobs? Ten months after passing a

\$787 billion stimulus package, unemployment has reached 10 percent and thousands of workers have stayed unemployed for 6 months or more. Unfortunately, the Democrats still think throwing money at the struggling economy will fix it.

Albert Einstein once said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results." The first stimulus didn't work. The new stimulus would only increase the already massive deficit and provide a temporary fix.

Higher taxes and higher spending is not the formula for economic growth. What America really needs is to encourage entrepreneurial activity, help small businesses, and get the government out of our pockets.

OPPOSITION TO STUPAK-PITTS AMENDMENT

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I've witnessed the horror of choice between back alley abortions and sometimes enforced marriages to try to avoid disgrace. Those were the realities that women faced prior to 1973. My fear is if this harmful Stupak-Pitts language is signed into law, we will revert back to those dark times.

Critical to this debate is a breakdown of the facts. The opposition says that it codifies current law. It is grossly incorrect. Stupak-Pitts goes far beyond current law, placing unprecedented restrictions on the individual's use of their own private dollars. The Hyde amendment does not apply to private funding nor does it apply to administrative costs. It has only placed limits on direct Federal appropriations being used to fund abortion benefits. That brings in everyone who has insurance from their employer, which is tax exempt, which means, of course, a Federal subsidy.

The Hyde amendment does not include similar, far-reaching language. Seventeen States currently provide abortion coverage without separate funding.

We must not go back to the back alley.

UNITED STATES IN DANGER OF LOSING ITS CREDIT RATING

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise again this morning to remind this body that we must stop this runaway spending in Congress or we are in jeopardy of losing our AAA credit rating. This would greatly hurt the United States of America's credit.

Moody's Investment Services indicates the United States will lose its AAA rating in 2013 if Congress con-

tinues to put us on this fiscal train wreck of too much spending and record Federal deficits. The Federal deficit for 2009 was \$1.4 trillion, tripling our record. The President's own Office of Management and Budget estimated in August that the budget deficit would be more than \$9 trillion over the next 10 years. Add this to the \$12 trillion in U.S. debt, and we're on a track to nearly double our record.

Mr. Speaker, we must stop the spending and stop it now.

THE BIRTHERS AND DENIERS ARE WRONG

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, the President is right to go to Copenhagen and lead the world against global warming. He is right to defeat the birthers who have tried to stop him from being President and the deniers who refuse to accept the fact of global warming. Both the birthers and the deniers refuse to accept clear, pure facts.

I just read that a former Governor of Alaska was arguing today in a newspaper that there is no such thing as global warming associated with human activity. She needs to read the National Academy of Sciences report which concludes it is a fact. She needs to read the report of NASA—the people who put the men on the Moon—that concludes this is a fact. She needs to read the NOAA reports about acidification of the ocean which shows it is a fact.

The birthers and the deniers are wrong. We should restore American leadership and make sure the jobs of the future clean energy economy are here, not just in China. The President is right; the deniers are wrong yet again.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in January, President Obama and congressional Democrats promised spending another trillion dollars would create jobs immediately and that unemployment would not rise above 8 percent. Almost 1 year later, millions of Americans are still plagued by unemployment and many are struggling to make ends meet. In October, 190,000 jobs were lost and more than 2.8 million jobs have been lost since the so-called stimulus was signed by President Obama.

The American people continue to ask, Where are the jobs? I can safely say the answer lies in the House Republican economic recovery plan. Our plan provides targeted tax relief for working families and small businesses. Just as American families must improve their economic situations