

into the omnibus bill text. He should go one step further and veto any omnibus bill that explicitly has earmarks.

In the past six months, Congress has enacted a \$700 billion financial bailout and a \$1.1 trillion stimulus. I say it is time to end the culture of pork, and stop spending money that our children will have to pay back in the future.

#### SOLVING AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in 15 years we have a real chance to solve America's health care crisis. The stars are aligning as has never been seen before. The American people want a solution, American business needs a solution to stay competitive and retain their best employees, segments of the health care industry, such as doctors, want a solution, and the President and the Congress have started a dialogue. Yet despite all those positive signs, we must not make the mistake of believing a solution is at hand or that it will come easily.

As a nation we stand at a crossroads, either sweeping reform or sweeping this crisis under the rug with another Band-Aid. We have to translate the national dialogue into legislation that makes access to affordable health care coverage what it must be in a free and Democratic society, a right and not a privilege.

There are lot of pieces to that puzzle and some are more readily solved more than others. In fact, I think some early victories might help instill confidence in the American people. Let me give you an example.

When I graduated from medical school, I was \$500 in debt after my entire medical education. Today, the average medical student is well over \$100,000 in debt. When you are underwater by that much money, you are forced to make decisions based on debt service, not on public service. Across America, from inner-cities to rural communities, we are woefully short of primary doctors. And as long as new doctors have to chase high paying jobs to pay off their debt, we are going to remain short staffed in these underserved areas in our country.

Today I am introducing legislation that would offer scholarships that would pay for most all of tuition for medical students in public colleges if they will apply their medical training in underserved areas when they graduate; an even exchange, one year of tuition for one year of service.

The American Medical Association says there were 45,000 students enrolled last year in public medical colleges and the mean cost of tuition was \$20,000. For a total investment of less than \$1 billion per year, my legislation would provide a workforce so that every American can have access to affordable

health care wherever they live. The scholarships would be accessible to a medical student enrolled full time and in good academic standing at a public institution.

Imagine the positive impact that we would have if we empowered new doctors to serve their country and the highest ideals of their profession instead of serving their debt load. It is important to make the financial commitment at the beginning of medical school so that students can study areas that are related to primary care.

Anyone who knows me knows I have long advocated a universal health care system, providing a minimum set of benefits for everyone. But we cannot get universal coverage or any interim step on the way to universal coverage without addressing, and reducing, the cost of health care education for our doctors.

We could make a significant impact by lowering the cost of the health care workforce if my bill were accepted. But we would do something else. There are a lot of talented young people who don't have the financial means to go to medical school and fear a crushing debt burden even if they qualify. By removing that mountain of debt, we could use that rock to build a foundation for a permanent solution.

We can solve America's health care problem and we can do it before the end of this year, but this is a first step that must happen. We must think about the workforce that will provide that universal access to everyone in the country. We cannot continue with the present funding of health care education and expect that we are going to have the people to provide the primary care, to do the wellness care, to do the prevention. They will all go into high-paid specialties to pay off their debt.

This bill is a step that we must take, and it is one where we can make a step forward for all the people in this country.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Today we bless You and praise You Lord for friends. Friendship is a gift, Lord, freely given by one person to another. Not merited, not purchased,

never manipulated, never demanded, friendship is uncovered in mutual self-revelation and common exchange. Desires of the comfort found in another's companionship and tested by time, friendship spontaneously grows from within.

Friends truly know who we are. Friends stand with each other in good times and in bad times. True friends tell the truth without ever hurting. We steer friends away from what is wrong and seek only what is good for their friends.

Lord, strengthen Members of Congress with friends who will prove faithful no matter what transpires. Give them friends who will support them when they are right in spite of pressure from others and who will correct them when they are wrong no matter who agrees with them.

A friend may not change your taste, your reading, or your opinion, but a true friend will change what you long for and what you love. As different as they are from each other, true friends will accept each other as they are and share their differences—until they simply enjoy being together.

Lord, for lasting friends of the past, those we hold in friendship now and those we are yet to meet, we thank You, both now and forever. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 4. Concurrent resolution calling on the President and the allies of the United States to raise the case of Robert Levinson with officials of the Government of Iran at every level and opportunity, and urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson and to share information on the investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

S. Con. Res. 10. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of

1,000 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 105 (adopted April 13, 1989), as amended by S. Res. 149 (adopted October 5, 1993), as amended by Public Law 105-275 (adopted October 21, 1998), further amended by S. Res. 75 (adopted March 25, 1999), amended by S. Res. 383 (adopted October 27, 2000), and amended by S. Res. 355 (adopted November 13, 2002), and further amended by S. Res. 480 (adopted November 21, 2004), the Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, the appointment of the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress:

The Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) as Democratic Co-Chairman.

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) as Democratic Co-Chairman.

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) as Democratic Co-Chairman.

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN).

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN).

The Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) as Majority Administrative Co-Chairman.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS

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

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the need for raising awareness about deep vein thrombosis, commonly known as DVT. Two million Americans are affected by DVT every year. That is more than breast cancer and AIDS combined.

However, many Americans are not aware of what DVT is, or how to recognize its signs and symptoms. We may see people wearing pressure stockings following surgery or on long plane flights.

The tragic loss of our former colleague, Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn, to DVT demonstrates how close to home this disease can be for all of us. Not only is DVT killing too many Americans every year, it is also taking a toll on our Nation's hospital systems, costing approximately \$860 million annually.

That is why I am so proud to join with my colleague, Representative CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, in introducing a resolution recognizing Deep Vein Thrombosis Awareness Month and National DVT Screening Day. I hope

we can count on all of our colleagues to join us in supporting this resolution and in raising awareness about this disease.

#### OBAMA BUDGET

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I returned to Washington yesterday from my weekly visit home, and had the privilege of spending time with many of my constituents. They asked that I carry back a message to Washington, a simple message: stop the spending binge.

Right now families across the country are hurting. Many have lost their jobs, and many more worry they will be next. Families are tightening their budgets and small businesses are cutting expenses. The American people are making the sacrifices necessary to weather this storm. And yet they hear on their local news that it is business as usual in Washington. It is more spending and more taxes from the Democrat Congress and from President Obama, who promised a new direction.

The people in my district know we cannot borrow and spend our way back to a healthy economy. Let's follow the example set by the American people. Let's make the tough choices that are necessary to get our economy back on track. Let's start putting fiscal restraint and the American people first.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today and know that this Congress has started tackling the issue of health care reform in a real, meaningful way. Already this Congress has passed legislation that will provide health insurance to millions of uninsured children, bring health care into the 21st century with new health information technology, and start us on the path of providing high-quality care at a lower cost.

My home State of Minnesota has been a leader in this. In my district, the Mayo Clinic, in particular, is a renowned medical institution that has always been at the forefront of efforts to reform and improve health care. They helped pioneer the use of electronic medical records. Electronic medical records reduce the time patients spend in waiting rooms filling out forms, and they also let doctors access a patient's history immediately, reducing errors. They cut down on administrative costs, saving our entire system billions of dollars. In addition to leading the way on medical technology, Mayo has been a leader in providing high-quality care.

As we move forward on health care reform, we need to acknowledge our current rewards quantity over quality. We can look to Mayo, which has been

lauded for its ability to produce the highest quality outcomes at the lowest possible cost.

I am proud to represent my district, and I think we can lead the way to meaningful reform.

#### DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of a good friend, a mentor, and someone who proudly represented the great State of Washington, former Representative Jennifer Dunn. She tragically died of a pulmonary embolism in 2007.

Today, my colleague and I, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPs, are introducing a resolution marking the second Tuesday in March as the National DVT Screening Day. It is appropriate that we do so because deep vein thrombosis is killing about 300,000 people in the U.S. today. It is common, but preventable. It is time to make screening a health priority, and urge health care providers and patients to be aware of this silent killer.

Jennifer had an unwavering commitment to women and families in America and around the world. Let us remember her and others as we recognize the risks and treatment for DVT.

#### COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, last month the Department of Homeland Security reported that over 100,000 parents of U.S. born children were deported between 1998 and 2007. And the Homeland Security inspector stated that these figures are incomplete because the agency does not keep track of how many children each parent has.

This past Saturday, I hosted an event in my district for families to come and share their stories about how they have been impacted by the broken immigration system. The audience on several occasions had to hold back their tears as they heard the stories of how families, like the Serrano family from Bloomington, California, have been separated from their parents.

Children like those in the Serrano family are the real victims of this outdated immigration system that separates families.

As Speaker PELOSI said this morning at a meeting with Latino leaders, "We must immediately end raids that separate families."

I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate and President Obama to work with CHC toward comprehensive immigration reform.