

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let me quote from a meeting with the editorial board at the San Francisco Chronicle that then-candidate Barack Obama had in January of 2008. He said, "under my plan of a cap-and-trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket. This will cost money. They will pass that money on to consumers."

Well, ladies and gentlemen, unfortunately, the President's cap-and-trade plan, or as many people call it, the cap-and-tax plan, does exactly that.

There was a recent study conducted by MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and it was able to assess the fact that a total energy bill for the average household will increase over \$3,000. As a matter of fact, it will be up by \$3,128 per year. According to CBO testimony, those figures actually will relate.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ON THIS SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF WAR, LET US WORK FOR PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, in 2 days, we will mark the sixth anniversary of America's invasion and occupation of Iraq. When President Bush announced the start of the conflict on the night of March 20, 2003, he said that America must go to war against a regime "that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder." Of course, Mr. Speaker, we know that those weapons did not exist and that the war should never have been fought. But today, I don't want to go back, and I don't want to revisit all the many mistakes of the past. Instead, I want to use this time to remember the literally millions of men, women and children from the United States of America, from Iraq and from the many other countries whose lives have been shattered over the past 6 years.

These include those who died, the wounded, the veterans, the refugees, the orphans, the widows and the many other family members who are left to mourn and to struggle. We have a great responsibility in this House of Representatives to honor and to give meaning to their sacrifice. I believe the best way to do that is by committing ourselves to work for peace so that war becomes a thing of the past.

On this sixth anniversary, Mr. Speaker, this anniversary of the occupation, we have more reason to hope for peace than on the previous five. That is because we have a new leader in the White House, one who has already taken some very positive steps. Presi-

dent Obama is committed to diplomacy, not war, and the most important tool of American foreign policy. He has banned the use of torture. He is closing the notorious prison at Guantanamo Bay. And he has announced a plan to remove all combat troops from Iraq. But Mr. Speaker, there is much more that we need to do.

The Iraq withdrawal plan will leave 50,000 troops behind to continue the occupation. That is unacceptable. All troops and military contractors must come home by August 2010, at the latest. In Afghanistan, the administration is planning to double down on our military involvement. But, Mr. Speaker, there is no military solution to the situation in Afghanistan. That is why I have joined my colleagues, BARBARA LEE and MAXINE WATERS, in asking the President to establish a timeline for the redeployment of our troops out of Afghanistan. We have also called for a plan to assist the Afghan people, because we cannot defeat the Taliban with bombs and bullets. We can only defeat the Taliban by helping the Afghan people to meet their desperate needs for schools, for roads and for economic development.

But we need to do more than just solve problems as they arise. We need to be proactive. We need to have a comprehensive strategy for keeping the peace. Let me suggest two ways to achieve that goal. First, I believe this is a good time to renew Congressman KUCINICH's calls for the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Peace so we can work full-time to analyze international problems and advise the President on strategies to prevent war and to peacefully resolve conflicts around the world. The President of the United States has never had the advantage of such advice. I believe it is high time that he did.

Second, I believe that this is a good time to renew our proposal for a smart national security plan. "Smart" is based on a simple idea: War is an outdated concept. That is why my smart plan keeps Americans safe through strong global alliances and better intelligence, as opposed to pre-emptive military strikes. Smart also calls for the United States to support nuclear nonproliferation, and it includes an ambitious humanitarian development agenda to end the hopelessness and oppression that lead to war and terrorism in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, after these many years of violence, one thing is clear. The American people have had enough war. They are seeking a better way to make the world safe for their children and grandchildren. So let us resolve in the honor of those who suffer because of a mistaken occupation 6 years ago to do everything we can to avoid the mistakes of the past and lay the foundation for a peaceful future.

That is the best way to honor those who were caught up in the chaos of Iraq. And it is the best way to turn the tragedy of this sixth anniversary into a

time of hope for the people of the world.

REDESIGNATING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY & MARINE CORPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues in the House, from both parties, for joining me as cosponsors of H.R. 24, legislation to redesignate the Department of the Navy to be the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. As of today, this legislation has 100 cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, this is the right thing for the Congress to do. For the past 7 years, the language of this bill has been part of the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act. And this year, I'm grateful to have the support of Senator PAT ROBERTS, a former Marine, who introduced the same bill in the Senate, S. 504. With his help, I'm hopeful this will be the year the Senate supports the House position, and we can bring proper respect to the fighting team of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

It is important to remember: The National Security Act of 1947 defines the Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force as the four services. It clearly indicates that the Marine Corps is a legally distinct military service within the Department of the Navy. The Navy and Marine Corps have operated as one entity for more than two centuries, and H.R. 24 would enable the name of their department to illustrate this fact.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share part of a 2006 editorial published by the Chicago Tribune which describes what that legislation is really all about. And I quote the editorial, "no service branch shows more respect for tradition than the United States Marine Corps does, which makes it all the more ironic that tradition denies the Corps an important show of respect, equal billing with the other service branches." They are the words that were in the editorial in the Chicago Tribune. But sometimes it is good to break with tradition. The War Department, for example, became the Department of Defense after World War II. The Army Air Corps was elevated in 1941 to the Army Air Forces, and in 1947 to the autonomous Air Force.

The Marine Corps has not asked for complete autonomy. Nothing structurally needs to change in their relations with the Navy which has served both branches well. The Corps only asks for recognition. Having served their Nation proudly and courageously since colonial days, the leathernecks have earned a promotion.

Mr. Speaker, the marines who are fighting today deserve this recognition.

Before closing, I would like to show you what this change could mean to

the family of a fallen Marine. Mr. Speaker, on this poster is an enlargement of a copy of a letter that the Secretary of the Navy sent to a Marine Corps family. The Marine was killed for this Nation serving in Iraq. And I read from the letter from the Secretary of the Navy, and I will point out that the head of the letter says, "the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C.," with the zip code, November 18, 2008. "Dear Marine Corps family, on behalf of the Department of the Navy, please accept my very sincere condolences on the loss of your loved one."

Mr. Speaker, if this becomes reality this year, should this be a requirement, if any more of our Marines are killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, the letterhead would say, "the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., Dear Marine Corps family, on behalf of the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps."

Mr. Speaker, that is what it is all about. This is one fighting team, and the name should carry equal, Navy and Marine Corps. And with that, Mr. Speaker, before I close, I will ask God to continue to bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to place in His loving arms, to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I close by asking God to continue to bless America.

DISPELLING THE MYTHS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as we begin a potentially transformational debate about health care this year, I think it is critical that we start making policy based on facts and empirical data, rather than anecdotes. Currently, our Nation's conversation about the future of health care is a little sloppy when it comes to backing up interesting stories with actual data. The result is that dozens of myths both about our own health care system and about that of other countries with systems of universal care have become so dangerously prevalent as to risk becoming accepted truth.

So, I thought it might be useful for the next few months to try to come down to this floor and dispel some of those myths and to put hard cold facts back on the table as we begin to move forward with a better way of providing health care for this country.

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So let's start with this. Over and over I have heard the health care reform skeptics tell stories about people that they know or that they have heard of living in Canada or living in England waiting for care, who had to wait weeks or months or maybe even years to get to see a doctor or to get to have a procedure done.

Every time I hear these stories I think to myself, "Well, they are right; that one person probably did encounter that type of resistance from the system." But then I also think to myself that it doesn't matter, because in this place we need to make policy not on anecdote, we need to make policy based on true, real, aggregated data.

So I think it is time that we started talking about this idea, often promulgated by menacing stories of people waiting in other countries for a necessary surgery, that a health care system run or overseen by a public entity comes automatically with unreasonably long wait times for care. The fact is not only is that idea a myth, but the very idea that our own health care system delivers the speediest care in the world might be an even bigger myth.

So here are the facts.

Mr. Speaker, a Commonwealth Fund study of six industrialized nations showed that the U.S. actually ranked fifth out of six in patients reporting that they could receive a same day or next-day appointment for an immediate medical problem. We were behind New Zealand, Great Britain, Germany, and Australia, just in front of Canada. In fact, the difference between us and England was astonishing, especially because many of the stories that you hear about wait times come from the British system.

In England, 71 percent of patients receive a next-day appointment for a nonroutine or emergency care visit. In the United States, that number is 47 percent. That means, in other words, that more than half of Americans when they believe that they have an immediate need to see a doctor have to wait at least 48 hours to get in to see that physician.

Here's another fact. A study by the Institute for Health Care Improvement cited in a recent speech by a medical director of a large U.S. insurer showed that, on average, Americans are waiting nearly 70 days to see a health care provider. That same medical director noted that many people who are diagnosed with cancer are waiting over a month to get in for their first appointment for care.

Compare that to Canada, a country with a system of universal health care most often cited as having unreasonable wait times. Canada's national statistics agency reports that its citizens are now waiting about 3 weeks for elective surgery, a week less than many people in the United States are waiting for cancer treatment. And today in Canada, there are no wait times for emergency surgery.

Now as Paul Krugman points out, it is true that across the board, Canadians do wait longer for nonelective surgeries. For instance, in one case, the facts back up the claim that hip replacement and knee replacement surgeries happen more quickly in the United States. And, in fact, there probably are people from Canada traveling to the United States to get those pro-

cedures done. But you know who pays and schedules those procedures here in the United States? You guessed it, the government. As it turns out, in America's government run health care system, Medicare, which pays for those hip replacement and knee replacement surgeries, wait times aren't really that much of a problem.

The fact is, there is ample evidence to dispel the myth that Americans don't wait for health care, and those in government-run systems do. And when we looked at the Canadian, which in some cases does have longer wait times, we need to remember this: In Canada, they are spending about half as much money on a per capita basis as the United States. If they spent 1 percent more of their GDP, they could eliminate their wait times.

The bottom line? Stories about people waiting in lines for health care in other countries are just that; they are stories.

The facts, on the other hand, dispel that myth. We wait for health care, too. Mr. Speaker, health care reform is our chance to fix that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AIG BONUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in the House in strong opposition to AIG's recent payments to employees in the form of bonuses. I can't believe that this conversation is even necessary. The handling of these bonus payments by AIG's management is an insult to the people who are ultimately paying for them, the American taxpayer.

I believe that good business behavior and superior professional performance should be rewarded. That's the way the market system works and should work. People that are good at their jobs should be recognized. Compensation bonuses awarded to certain AIG employees do not fall into this category of recognition. The American people own 80 percent of this company, yet 73 individuals employed by AIG received a bonus of at least \$1 million each.

The CEO of AIG today here on Capitol Hill called the bonuses "distasteful." I can tell you that Kansans have a much more colorful description when they are telling the story about these bonuses. Their outrage stems from a series of corporate actions, actions that have steadily eroded our Nation's confidence in the competency of Wall Street and the business community, and the Federal Government's response