

A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE REFORM

(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 know that we deal with a lot of important issues here in Congress, but there is probably no issue that is more personal and important to millions of moms across the country than health care. When your son or daughter is sick, there is nothing more important than making sure that they get better. And many women all across this country who are taking care of their elderly parents or in-laws are often consumed with countless tests and doctors' appointments and wrestling with insurance companies and Medicare.

As we address health care, what does every American deserve? What does every mom demand?

First is to have access to doctors and nurses you know and trust. The doctor-patient relationship is one of the most important relationships in our country, and it is really the foundation of our health care system.

Second is to protect the high quality of health care that we have enjoyed. We have been the innovators. We have been the ones that have been doing the research to cure new diseases, and we really have been the envy of the world.

Third is to reduce health care costs. This must be at the heart of reform.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with Republicans and Democrats to address this issue.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITION IN VIETNAM

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, I continue to be concerned about the human rights condition in Vietnam. Despite their membership in the World Trade Organization and being granted permanent normal trade relation status, Vietnam continues to deny their citizens their fundamental human rights and political liberties.

The Government of Vietnam continues to restrict Internet access and goes as far as to imprison those who would use the Internet to challenge the Communist Party.

The United States must be a leading advocate for human rights. And we must make it clear to governments like those of Vietnam that it is unacceptable to deny people their basic human rights. I hope, especially under this new administration, that Congress will be able to work together and to recommit itself to fighting for the rights of the Vietnamese people.

This weekend, our Orange County delegation will have the honor of wel-

coming the United States Ambassador to Vietnam to our community. And the delegation looks forward to continuing to work with the Department of State to make human rights a priority.

THE NATIONAL ENERGY TAX PLAN

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, despite rising gas prices across the country, Democrats in Washington continue to push for a national energy tax that will make the pain at the pump even worse. Just 1 year ago, gas prices made their steady rise to over \$4 a gallon. A return to record gas prices would be especially harmful during the current economic recession. But that is not deterring Democrats from moving forward with their national energy tax plan.

Representative JOHN DINGELL, a Democrat from Michigan, said it best when he said, "nobody in this country realizes that cap-and-trade is a tax, and a great big one." Republicans in Congress realized this startling reality, and the American people are beginning to as well.

Over the past week, Republicans held energy summits in Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, and San Luis Obispo in California. These summits provide an important opportunity to explain to the American people the devastating consequences of the Democrats' national energy tax plan and to craft better energy solutions. The American people don't want the Democrats' national energy tax. They want and deserve energy independence.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATING THE 2009 GRADUATES OF NORTH FOREST HIGH SCHOOL IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to support the graduating class of North Forest High School in Houston, Texas, the 2009 graduating class, a school district, the North Forest Independent School District, that suffered the ravages of Hurricane Rita, and then right on the heels of Hurricane Rita came Hurricane Ike and destroyed many of the buildings of that particular school district. Then Forestbrook High School suffered heinous acts by vandals who destroyed the school and caused the school district to have to close one of its high schools. So today the graduating class will be the merger of those two high schools, and boy have they united.

I'm honored to be their guest speaker. And because of that, Mr. Speaker, I will miss some legislative initiatives. But I rise to support the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act. I

would have voted "aye" on the rule, "aye" on final passage, and I would have voted "aye" on two amendments, Mr. GREEN and Mr. BRIGHT of Alabama. And then, as well, I would have voted "no" on the gentleman's amendment from California, Mr. ISSA.

But the main point is to recognize that I am going to salute these students because they deserve it. They've overcome adversity. Congratulations to the North Forest High School Class of 2009.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, one of the first acts of the 111th Congress was to enact the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, historic legislation to jump start our economy and create good-paying jobs.

The Recovery Act money is being allocated at a pace of almost \$1 billion a week. And I'm pleased to say that we're already seeing positive effects of the Recovery Act in my district, Pennsylvania's Third.

While times are still very difficult for many families struggling to make ends meet, we have seen a glimmer of some encouraging news in recent days. During the month of April, Erie County's unemployment rate stabilized for the first time in months. And in neighboring Crawford County, the unemployment rate actually fell. This is the result of the targeted, job-creating investments in our Nation's science, clean energy, education, health care and transportation infrastructure through the Recovery Act.

Certainly there is more work to be done. And as the Recovery Act continues to take effect, we must renew our commitment to continue to create the good-paying jobs that will stay here in the United States.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, from the Committee on Homeland Security, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-134) on the resolution (H. Res. 404) of inquiry directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives, not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, copies of documents relating to the Department of Homeland Security Intelligence Assessment titled, "Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment," which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2200, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 474 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 474

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2200) to authorize the Transportation Security Administration's programs relating to the provision of transportation security, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Homeland Security now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to reconsider with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5

legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 474.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume. House Resolution 474 provides for consideration of H.R. 2200, the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act of 2009. This legislation is a much-needed fix to an agency tasked with maintaining security in some of our most important facilities. The urgency is clear, especially since many programs under TSA have not been altered or revised since their original authorization in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act passed immediately after the attacks on September 11, 2001.

Since that time, we have seen threats against our transportation systems change dramatically. We've seen attacks against rail and mass transit systems in London, Madrid and Mumbai. As a result, this legislation broadens the focus of TSA to address more than just aviation security, which, for years, received an overwhelming majority of funding and manpower.

So this bill triples the funding for surface transportation systems. I'm pleased to say this increased attention to surface transportation is done in consultation with consumer groups to ensure security provided at subway stations and other facilities does not turn the daily commute into a daily mess.

In addition, we create a much-needed position of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Surface Transportation to give a voice to that component of TSA.

Another significant advance in this bill is its risk assessment allocation method. According to the FAA, there are 561 certified airports in the United States, including commercial and general aviation. Moreover, there is an untold number of bus terminals, subway stations, and rail facilities in the United States. The security of the American people demands TSA's limited resources be directed toward the modes and facilities which face the greatest risk.

This bill directs the TSA administrator to adopt a policy whereby funding is allocated based upon risk, not merely based on population or some other criteria.

Regarding aviation security, the bill provides for a strengthened perimeter security program at our Nation's airports. It also provides a pilot program for biometric identification access systems at seven airports for airport employees. And in many cases, security experts have found canines can provide unparalleled detection of narcotics and explosive materials. So this bill provides for 250 canine detection teams, and an amendment by Representative DOC HASTINGS of Washington will provide for even more.

There are plenty of other positive steps this legislation makes. But what I believe is most important about this bill is the way it has made its way through the House. The bill has been developed over several months with a great amount of input from majority and minority Members, labor and business and independent analysis. The bill passed out of the Homeland Security Committee without any dissenting votes, and as it comes to the floor, 14 substantive amendments will be debated. Of those 14, eight are Republican amendments and six, obviously, are from the Democratic side.

I had the privilege to serve on Homeland Security, Mr. Speaker, and it is with pride that I say I found that committee to be among the most bipartisan committees in the House of Representatives. The efforts by Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING to work for the protection of the United States work well within the committee and allow for bipartisan effort from both sides.

The rule will provide for ample debate on this important bill and allow Members to vote on many proposals to improve it. This bill is a great example of bipartisan cooperation to address a problem our Nation wishes us to address. The security of our Nation's passengers require sensible solutions, and this bill provides them just that.

I urge a "yes" vote on the rule and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, first I'd like to thank my friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) for the time. And I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, Mr. Speaker, if I may, I'd like to remember and ask the House to recall that today is June 4. Twenty years ago a massacre occurred in Beijing. Thousands of students and other pro-democracy activists were murdered. Subsequently, they were rounded up, those who had not been murdered, who had been in the square, and thrown in dungeons and tortured. And so it's been 20 years, but we cannot forget.

The regime is still in power there. They haven't had much reason to regret their murders and their systematic oppression of the people. But over you, in something that distinguishes this Congress, we read the words "In God We Trust." And I do. I trust that justice will be done, and that those who committed the murders at Tiananmen Square in June of 1989 will be brought to justice. We can never forget, Mr. Speaker.

With regard to the rule being brought forth today, bringing forth important legislation to the floor today, in order to protect our transportation systems after the cowardly attacks of September 11, 2001, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law on November 19, 2001, the Aviation and Transportation Security Act. That legislation created the Transportation Security Administration, TSA, improving