

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, it has been barely over 100 days since the Recovery Act was passed by this Congress and signed into law by President Obama. Since the recession began, Americans have understandingly been worried about our Nation's future and their own economic future.

Because of the Recovery Act, we have created and saved over 150,000 jobs, cut taxes for 95 percent of Americans, and made funds available for over 4,000 transportation projects across the country. We have made progress in a short time, but there is still a lot more to do on the road to recovery. I commend President Obama on his efforts to speed up those efforts to get Americans back to work even faster.

The Department of Transportation is quickly putting \$27.5 billion to work creating jobs in my home State of Missouri and across the country to rebuild and repair highways, roads, and bridges. By the end of 2010, the funds will have created or saved an additional 150,000 jobs.

Investments in our national transportation system are critical to our long-term economic success, and part of getting there will be putting people back to work rebuilding America on the road to recovery.

CAP-AND-TRADE DESERVES TO FAIL

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, cap-and-trade threatens to be a well-intended disaster. Under the ruse of reducing carbon emissions to clean the environment, cap-and-trade will hobble the economy. By some estimates, it reduces GDP by \$9.6 trillion over two decades, eliminates 1.1 million jobs per year, and increases the Federal debt by 26 percent. Electricity rates jump 90 percent, gas prices 74 percent, and natural gas prices 55 percent.

Cap-and-trade is designed to disguise what it truly is, in the words of Mr. DINGELL, "a great big tax." It imposes higher taxes on producers, so producers pass higher prices to consumers. The authors are targeting the producers so that the producers increase the prices on consumers. If the authors targeted consumers rather than the producers, it would connect them too much, and therefore, they must distance themselves from the families who bear the costs.

The authors know the effects. They are hiding from them. It is underhanded, it is subterfuge, it deserves to fail.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT JEFFREY ALAN HALL

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Alan Hall. On June 1, 2009, Jeffrey was killed in action in Afghanistan. As north Alabama mourns this sudden, devastating loss, I would like to recognize Staff Sergeant Hall and his entire family's sacrifice.

Jeffrey was an 8-year veteran of the United States Army, earning many well-deserved awards and decorations, including two Army Commendation Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, a NATO Medal, and a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Staff Sergeant Hall is an inspiring example of someone we can all look up to and inspire to be like. He put the safety of all Americans before his own, and the people of this Nation will be forever grateful. He motivated and inspired those who were around him, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him, as well as those who never had the honor and privilege of meeting him.

Our country has lost a great soldier and an even better son. All of us in north Alabama are deeply saddened by the loss of Jeffrey. On behalf of the entire community in the Tennessee Valley and across Alabama and the Nation, I rise today to join Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, the United States Army, and the family of Jeffrey Hall in honoring his service, memory, and life.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the government-run health care plan that my Democratic colleagues are pushing will lead to health care rationing and, ultimately, months of wait time for patients seeking treatment.

Today, I want to read a testimonial from a Canadian citizen who has experienced firsthand the ill effects of their government-run health care.

"When I came to the major hospital in downtown Toronto with appendicitis, I had to wait overnight until a doctor saw me, but they did not have a CAT scan machine available, so they sent me home. I had to return to the hospital the next day, and at that time they rated me 'less urgent.' When I asked them why, they told me I received the less urgent rating 'because I have not died yet.' Again, it took many hours before I was able to see the doctor. Then I had to wait hours for an operating room before I was told that only those who would otherwise certainly die would receive surgery. However, the vet care in Canada is private, so there is nothing like this when it comes to taking care of my dog. The doctor is always available for a dog, but not for a human."

Mr. Speaker, health reform must not preclude man nor his best friend from access to quality health care.

H.R. 1550, THE CONSUMER ASSISTANCE TO RECYCLE AND SAVE (CARS) ACT OF 2009

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider the CARS Act of 2009. This legislation is critical, not only to spur growth in America's auto industry, but to save and create jobs throughout the economy.

History shows that one of the quickest ways to end a recession is to sell more automobiles. New car sales constitute a major percentage of the Nation's consumer spending, and increasing vehicle sales also stimulates demand for raw goods, from which automobiles are manufactured. Production of glass, steel, plastics, and other primary materials will be increased as more new cars are sold, creating jobs throughout the economy.

Similar programs have shown proven results abroad. In Germany, sales were boosted roughly 40 percent. Many other nations have acted to strengthen their economies with policies designed to sell more automobiles, and the U.S. should not be left behind.

We must pass the CARS Act today to create a recovery, not just for our auto industry, but for the entire economy.

U.S. JOURNALISTS ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, two American journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, are reporters for Current TV. They were in China near the North Korean border making a film about the horrible sex trafficking between North Korea and China. The North Koreans claim they crossed the border illegally, so the Communist court sentenced them to 12 years at hard labor. That's some border enforcement policy.

The conditions in these prison camps are harsh. Some reports say a quarter of the inmates die of starvation every year. The prisoners do backbreaking work in factories, coal mines and rice paddies. They're also used in experiments involving biological weapons. I guess the Communists didn't get the memo on human rights.

Now we hear that the journalists may have actually been kidnapped and forcibly taken to North Korea. Anyway, they are being used as political prisoners to try to force this administration to give more concessions and American money to North Korea.

North Korea is starving. The Communist regime is bankrupt. But they want to be able to sell nuclear technology to terrorist nations, so they're holding these journalists ransom until they get their way.

Mr. Speaker, the journalists should go free, and the North Korean outlaws should take their place in that prison. And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

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

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, over the Memorial Day recess, our Nation lost two individuals that I consider to be national treasures. Two marines that were known as "Navajo Code Talkers" passed away: John Brown, Jr., of Crystal, New Mexico, and his compatriot, Thomas Claw. Both were 87.

During World War II, the Marines recruited members of the Navajo Nation for the specific purpose of devising a code that was based on the Navajo language. The Japanese were never able to break the code, and the Code Talkers were credited with helping save lives and contributing to the military success in the Pacific theater.

The Code Talkers' contributions were invaluable, and we should always be grateful for their service. They did so much, and their contribution can be summarized best by what John Brown said when he was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal: "We have seen much in our lives. We have seen war and peace, and we know the value of the freedom and democracy that this great Nation embodies. But our experience also reminds us how fragile these things can be and how vigilant we must be in protecting them."

FISCAL RESTRAINT

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand the voting card of the United States Congress. Now, this is the ultimate credit card. There's no limit and there's no penalties. And it's wrong.

Every time I hear a solution from the Democrats, it's about spending more. We have got to stop running this country on a credit card. The problems that we face in this Nation, the challenges that we face are not solved by charging things on the credit card.

The American Dream is not about overspending and being in debt. It's about hard work and perseverance and liberty. Every time we add dollars to this card, we take away that liberty.

I urge my colleagues, come up with solutions that don't include an increase in spending. Cap-and-trade is one of the largest tax increases in the history of the United States of America.

Please, let's stop running this government on a credit card. Institute fiscal restraint, and remember that it's the people's money. It's not the Congress' money.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, our current health care system is unsustainable. Working people go every day without care or struggle to pay increasingly higher premiums and deductibles. In my home State of Maryland, 76.7 percent of the uninsured are from working families.

Now, if a single-payer plan is not adopted by this Congress, which I support strongly, then we must have a robust public plan option like Medicare to be enacted to reduce costs for small businesses and individuals, provide true competition, and give patients the choice they deserve. A public plan option has to be available to all without exclusions. It must retain patient choice and implement reforms that promote quality care, prevention, primary care, and chronic health care management. And importantly, a public plan option must address health care disparities in underrepresented communities.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress and President will be judged by our ability to construct a health care system that covers all Americans, lowers costs for everyone, and provides real and competitive choice for health care. The time for reform is now, and we can't delay.

THE CRISIS IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, it's time we address the crisis in health care. We can ensure every American can get the care they need, protect individuals from costs that can bankrupt them, and make health insurance portable so they can move or change jobs without losing health insurance coverage. We can also stop insurance companies from avoiding sick patients by reforming the system to pay when people become healthier.

Enacting a public plan will not bring about this type of change. If you think you won't be affected by a public plan, consider this: a recent analysis by the respected independent firm The Lewin Group estimated that 70 percent of individuals who have health care coverage through their employer would lose those benefits in favor of a public option. This plan could very easily be a Medicaid-like plan. In fact, Senator KENNEDY is proposing expanding Medicaid to families making up to \$110,000 a year in legislation he dropped yesterday.

When supporters of a public plan say they want a public plan to compete with private plans, the facts show that what they're really saying is they want a Washington bureaucrat to take over health care decisionmaking. Buyer beware.

H. RES. 505, CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF DR. GEORGE R. TILLER

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, later today the House will consider H. Res. 505, a bill that condemns the tragic murder of Dr. George Tiller, and offers our condolences to his wife, four children and 10 grandchildren.

He was known as a doctor of last resort and a friend to women when they were in desperate need of support and care. His murder in his church in Wichita, where he served as an usher and where his wife sang in the choir, was a violent, lawless and senseless act.

At his memorial service this past Saturday, Dr. Tiller was remembered for his generosity of spirit and his sense of humor. Let us also remember him for his courage.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

IMPRISONMENT OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, news came yesterday that Laura Ling and Euna Lee, two American journalists held in North Korea, and held there since March, have been found guilty of illegally entering North Korea. They've been sentenced to 12 years of hard labor. These court proceedings were a cruel joke, nothing more than a kangaroo court. I know of no justice system in North Korea. The two should be immediately released.

As if there were any doubts, the North Korean regime has shown its true colors, a hostile regime bent on destroying the lives of its own citizens and others.

Let's be clear. These two wouldn't have been near North Korea were it not for the barbaric cruelty of its regime. Ling and Lee were convicted of so-called "grave crimes." It is the North Korean regime that commits real grave crimes against millions of North Koreans every day.

President Obama, himself, must make it clear that this action cannot stand. Now is the time for urgent action.

OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, it has become amply clear to all Americans, North, South, Republican, Democrat, rich, poor, that our health care system is not just a moral embarrassment to the greatest country on Earth, but a severe economic liability.