

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.

Our auto companies and our corporations stagger under cost increases. Our small businesses choose between covering their employees or taking a step towards insolvency. And of course, health care costs are the leading cause of bankruptcy for American families.

We cannot fix this economy without reforming our health care system. We cannot be fiscally responsible without addressing the stunning economic liabilities that we have associated with Medicare and other promises we have made.

The reforms that we are offering will offer a real choice of plans to small businesses in America. It will provide tax credits to small businesses, and it will end the practice of insurance companies denying coverage to Americans who need it. Most importantly, it will emphasize prevention, wellness, and patient-centered care.

The bottom line, reforming health care to contain rising costs is the most effective action we can take to return our Nation's budget to balance and make our workers the most competitive in the world.

PATIENT-CENTERED SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I draw attention to a vision for a new era of American health care, a clear path to provide access to affordable, quality care for all Americans.

There's no doubt that our health care system is failing some of America's patients. Now, some in this body believe that the solution is giving greater control over health care decisions to Washington, a government takeover of personal health insurance.

Now, as a physician, I know that government interference only harms patient access to health care. Real positive reform will only be achieved by empowering patients, not government and not bureaucrats. Positive reform starts with giving ownership of health coverage back to the patient, not the government. Allowing individuals full control over their coverage will make insurers truly accountable to patients, leading to greater choice, innovation, and responsiveness.

Secondly, we must provide the proper financial incentives so that there's no reason to be uninsured. With tax reform, not government mandates, we can achieve universal access to care for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have a positive, patient-centered prescription for America that doesn't result in a government takeover.

□ 1230

HONORING THE LIFE OF AMBASSADOR JACK HENNING

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, we lost a lion of the labor movement and a true son of San Francisco with the passing of Ambassador Jack Henning. Jack spent the vast majority of his 93 years fighting for men and women in the fields, factories, and loading docks of America. The only thing he loved more than telling labor stories to anyone who would hear them was telling them to those who didn't.

For 26 years, Jack was the driving force behind the California Labor Federation, but he served our country in many ways. He was the director of the California Department of Industrial Relations under Governor Pat Brown, Under Secretary of Labor for President Kennedy, and U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand for President Lyndon Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts are with Jack's family and the millions of Americans—most of whom never knew him—who earn a liveable wage, work under safer conditions, and are able to take their child to a doctor because of the tireless passion of Ambassador Jack Henning.

A REAL WAY TO PEACE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as President Obama begins to wade into the Israel-Palestinian conflict, he must remember who our friends are. Israel is America's most reliable and only democratic ally in the Middle East. Yet in his speech last week in Cairo and in statements by his administration, President Obama seems only to want to pressure Israel, while not requiring similar concessions from the Palestinians and other Arab states.

Starting with the British Partition Plan in 1937—when they were offered the western part of Palestine—then again to the U.N. Partition Plan in 1947, to the Camp David talks in 2000, and most recently in December of 2008, the Palestinians have rejected every plan to divide the land into independent states. Each time their answer was “no.”

No outside party, President Obama included, can arbitrarily impose a peace agreement, nor can peace be achieved by setting conditions on just one party, Israel, which has been willing to take the necessary and difficult steps towards peace and consider compromise.

THE RECOVERY BILL

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, it is undeniable that we have seen many positive signs in our economy since January. The unemployment rate, while still far

too high, is improving and money is starting to flow through the economy and into our cities and municipalities to improve our infrastructure and ensure the safety of every American.

The recovery bill has been at the core of this progress and has saved and created jobs and made much-needed investments in my local district. For example, in my hometown of Utica, New York, the recovery bill provided the City of Utica with over \$2 million for lead abatement in homes across the city. This lead abatement program will put people to work and improve the health and quality of life for countless families. Without this recovery bill funding, the City of Utica would have had to have continued to delay this vital program because it is likely that they did not have the funding necessary to proceed with these plans on its own.

I will continue to fight for the recovery bill funding for critical projects in my district, and I know that we will see even more progress in all of our communities as we all continue to work together to lead America out of this economic crisis.

ENERGY

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of building a clean energy economy for America. Americans are fed up with the same tax breaks for oil companies that post record profits while working families are stuck paying exorbitant prices at the pump. Americans want a new energy economy, a green economy, to take us into the future, to take us into a carbon-neutral economy, to take us into jobs, to take us into a future in which we are not dependent upon the automobile for every transportation decision.

The time has come to transform our economy for decades to come. The time has come to create American jobs with new, clean, American-made energy. The clean energy jobs plan is the next step in creating millions of American jobs in clean energy, efficiency, and modernizing a smart electric grid. We can reduce our dependence on costly oil, curb pollution, and create jobs. We can do this. Yes, we can.

FIX THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

(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 to call out the siren and the clarion call for fixing America's health care system. We urgently need to fix it, and we realize that if you've got it, you like it, you can keep it.

We need to get a system that will allow those that are underinsured and without insurance to be able to be