

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

cared for in this Nation. We need to reduce the serious health disparities. We need to also ensure that there is a public option, that there is universal access to health care. Make it a good Medicare plan that helps the young, the old, and the working Americans.

In addition, we need to be fair to how we pay for it. We need to realize that physician-owned hospitals are not the enemy. In fact, they help to, in essence, bring down health disparities. Many physician-owned hospitals or investor-owned hospitals with doctors involved are in the urban and rural areas where no other hospitals would go. Let's fix this system in a fair manner that addresses the question of making sure the 47 million-plus who are underinsured and those without insurance can have a good public option, can as well have a fair system of good doctors and have good hospitals and make it work for working Americans and others who are in need.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF DR. GEORGE TILLER

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 505) condemning the murder of Dr. George Tiller, who was shot to death at his church on May 31, 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 505

Whereas Dr. George Tiller was murdered in Wichita, Kansas, on May 31, 2009;

Whereas Dr. Tiller is mourned by his family, friends, congregation, community, and colleagues;

Whereas Dr. Tiller, 67, was killed in his place of worship, a place intended for peace and refuge that in a moment became a place for violence and murder;

Whereas places of worship should be sanctuaries, but have increasingly borne witness to reprehensible acts of violence, with 38 people in the United States killed in their place of worship in the past 10 years and 30 people wounded in those same incidents;

Whereas these acts of violence include the murder of an Illinois pastor at the pulpit in March 2009, the murder of an Ohio minister in November 2008, the murder of an usher and a guest during a children's play in a Tennessee church in July 2008, the murder of four family members in a church in Louisiana in May 2006, and the shooting of a worshipper outside a synagogue in Florida in October 2005; and

Whereas violence is deplorable, and never an acceptable avenue for expressing opposing viewpoints: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) offers its condolences to Dr. Tiller's family; and

(2) commits to the American principle that tolerance must always be superior to intolerance, and that violence is never an appropriate response to a difference in beliefs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER of New York. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 505, which condemns the murder of Dr. George Tiller, who was shot to death at his church on May 31. The resolution also offers the condolences of the House of Representatives to Dr. Tiller's family. I know that Dr. Tiller and his family are in the thoughts and prayers of every Member of the House today.

I want to commend our colleague, the distinguished chairperson of the Rules Committee, my fellow New Yorker, Ms. SLAUGHTER, for introducing this resolution.

It is imperative that the House of Representatives speak with a united voice in condemning this crime. It is a sad reminder that medical personnel are still at risk from armed extremists who are willing to resort to deadly violence in order to advance their causes even when they cloak their cause in the language of life. There can never be room in a free society for the use of deadly violence to advance a cause. It is against everything this country stands for. I have no doubt there isn't a single Member of this House who would disagree.

This resolution renews our commitment to the American principle that tolerance must always be superior to intolerance and that violence is never an appropriate response to differences and belief.

As deplorable as this murder was, it was all the more reprehensible because the victim was targeted as he was leaving church. In the past 10 years, 38 people have been murdered in their place of worship and 30 more have been wounded.

Dr. Tiller was a controversial figure. He was the target of threats and even a prior shooting because of his dedication to providing needed, if unpopular, services. He was murdered solely because of the work he did. The continued violence directed at abortion pro-

viders, including doctors and the people who staff their clinics, is well-known. Bombings, shootings, vandalism, and harassment all serve to warn women and their health care providers that they may pay a terrible price if they choose to avail themselves of their rights under the Constitution.

This was not the first time a health care provider was similarly targeted. I am sure every Member of this House and every decent American, however they may feel or whatever they may believe on the question of abortion, will insist that this and every other question must be decided by our legal, constitutional, and democratic processes and not by murderous violence. I am sure we all condemn those people or groups who espouse or excuse domestic terrorism.

But while violence has long been directed at the clinics and the people who work there, this time the killer chose, in addition, to invade the sanctity of the Sabbath. Murderous intolerance is never justified; even so, the idea of bringing death and mayhem to a house of worship strikes all people as particularly reprehensible. These acts include the murder of an Illinois pastor in the pulpit in March of this year; the murder of an Ohio minister in November of last year; the murder of an usher and a guest during a children's play in a Tennessee church in July of last year; the murder of four family members in a church in Louisiana in May 2006; and the shooting of a worshipper outside a synagogue in Florida in October 2005; not to mention the attempted bombings of two synagogues in Riverdale in the Bronx just a few weeks ago. Whether these acts of violence target one individual or an entire community of faith, we must all join together and speak out against them.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand up to those who would bring their reign of terror into a house of worship and those who would seek to change American law by violence and unconstitutional means to express their opprobrium of this conduct by supporting this resolution condemning the murder of George Tiller and extending the condolences of this House to the members of Dr. Tiller's family.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COBLE. I rise in support of the House Resolution 505, Mr. Speaker. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support House Resolution 505 which deplores the murder of Dr. George Tiller who was shot to death at his church, as has already been mentioned, on May 31. I join with the National Right to Life Committee, the Nation's largest pro-life group, in condemning the killing of Dr. Tiller. As that organization correctly said, Anyone who works to increase respect for human life must oppose any unlawful use of violence that is directly contrary to that goal.

Because I believe everyone who is the victim of unlawful violence should be