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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, 2009, at 1:45 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 12, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JASON ALTMIRE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord of the Sabbath, ever attentive to our prayers, may this weekend provide the Members of Congress, their families and their friends the joy of Your presence in their midst. May they find the respite they need for both their bodies and their souls.

So renewed in energy and spirit, may they safely return to serve You and the people of their districts with greater vigor and determination. Then blessed by You, may they accomplish great deeds for this Nation, calling upon Your Holy Name, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FUNDING FOR STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protest the 25 percent cut proposed this week to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, otherwise known as SCAAP. SCAAP reimburses States and localities for the arrest, incarceration and transportation of undocumented immigrants who commit crimes in our communities. When State and local governments are forced

to step in and do the Federal Government's job, it is only fair that they be reimbursed.

Last year, the Arizona Department of Corrections received \$12.8 million from the Federal Government to house up to 5,600 criminal illegal immigrants in State prisons, only 10 percent of what Arizona spent to house illegal inmates that year. This cut is wrong, and as this legislation moves to the floor next week, I urge my colleagues to help me fight this cut.

If we are serious about immigration enforcement, we must restore SCAAP funding and reimburse Arizona for keeping criminal alien immigrants behind bars.

CONCERNS ABOUT CAP-AND-TRADE

(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 rise with deep concern about the so-called cap-and-trade. If the Democrats and President Obama get their way, we will have one of the single largest tax increases in the history of the United States imposed upon the American people at a time when we are struggling for jobs. We need to remember in this country that manufacturing is good. It is good.

Now the administration will tell you that rebates will come for those that are in the middle class, but the bill cuts off assistance for families making

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more than \$42,000 or individuals making as little as \$23,000. The Congressional Budget Office expects major increases in bureaucracy, adding some \$800 million in administration costs annually for just the first 10 years.

Let us remember that the cap-and-trade is one of the largest tax increases in the history of the United States, this despite the President's promise that 95 percent of Americans would not see one dime in new taxes.

HELPING AMERICANS ACQUIRE AND RETAIN HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the House in the next few weeks is about to unveil a health reform plan that will seek to cover all Americans, reduce costs and basically improve the quality of our health care system. When I talk to my constituents, they tell me how it is increasingly difficult for them to find affordable health insurance either because their employer will not provide it or they go on the individual market, and it's simply too expensive. The current system is simply unsustainable. We want people to be able to keep their health insurance if they like it and if they can afford it, but we must provide alternatives for people that can't find health insurance or find it increasingly difficult to afford the health insurance that they want. I think this is a real priority for the American people, and it will be a priority for this Congress because we understand that the average American increasingly sees health insurance as an economic issue, something that's making it increasingly difficult for them to get through the day if they can't find an affordable plan. So I'm looking forward to this. I think it's going to be a major achievement for this Congress.

HEALTH CARE RATIONING COULD RESULT IN DEATH PENALTY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, do we really want to nationalize health care and let it be run by the government? Well, here's what's going on in England with their nationalized system. Recently, a British medical ethics expert proclaimed that people who suffer from dementia have a patriotic duty to die. Baroness Warnock, the government medical adviser, says that "the care dementia requires is very expensive and drains the government resources for health care." This government decision-maker says that people will "soon be licensed to put others down if they are unable to look after themselves." She goes on, "If you're demented, you're wasting people's lives, your family's lives, and you're wasting government resources."

Mr. Speaker, when the government controls health care, it's expensive, inefficient and ultimately provides poor care. In Britain, it results in the government's rationing of services. The government picks winners and losers in the United Kingdom, and the government picks who lives and who dies. That doesn't seem to be a healthy solution for health care.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCING THE RECIDIVISM REDUCTION ACT

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the Recidivism Reduction Act, a bill that will quickly restore Federal disability and health benefits to eligible individuals after they are released from incarceration.

As a former law enforcement officer, I have seen firsthand how critical these benefits can be to successful reentry into the community. Currently, however, these benefits are regularly suspended or terminated upon incarceration and take considerable time to be reinstated after an individual is released. Without the health coverage they so desperately need, many newly released individuals cannot fully focus on securing gainful employment and developing a supportive home life. My colleagues should rest assured that this legislation will not provide new benefits to recently released individuals. Rather, it ensures that individuals receive the timely benefits they need to begin breaking the cycle of recidivism.

Join me, please, in supporting the Recidivism Reduction Act.

MIRANDA RIGHTS ON THE BATTLEFIELD

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, "You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say may be used against you. You have the right to an attorney." Those are things that are said when arresting officers make an arrest in the United States. But now we understand that under the Obama administration, we now have something known as the concept of global justice in which we are now giving Miranda warnings to those that we have found on the battlefield whose only connection to the United States is that they wish to kill Americans.

Isn't that nonsensical? What are we going to do now? Are we going to train our enlisted men and women in the Armed Forces that when they're on the battlefield, instead of shooting, they should pull out their card with the Miranda warnings to make sure that if the person they're encountering is cap-

tured, they have to give them those rights? How about preserving the crime scene? This is nonsense.

RENEWABLE ENERGY WILL HELP THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. I had the opportunity to visit a factory 2 weeks ago in my district. They're hiring 400 people to make solar panels. They're exporting some of those solar panels to China. When we talk about an economic recovery and getting our economy going, renewable energy is going to be one of the most important growth sectors to do that.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act will save families money. A new study shows that the average family will save \$750 a year within 10 years on their power bills monthly and almost \$4,000 over 20 years. The incentives and help that this bill puts in place to help families conserve energy and reduce their energy needs in their own home will not only improve our national security by ending our reliance on foreign oil, will not only address global warming and climate change but will also mean money back in the pockets of American families.

One of the most important things that we can do to recover from this recession and to grow good jobs for the middle class and for the American people is to ensure that we have continued growth in the renewable energy sector. This bill is critical. That is why hundreds of companies support this bill.

ATTACHING IRRELEVANT SPENDING TO THE IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, the current debate over the Iraq and Afghanistan supplemental is a perfect example of what frustrates Americans about Washington. The folks in my district and across the country want Congress to pass a clean funding bill for the troops, plain and simple. They certainly don't want us playing politics with a bill to fund men and women currently in harm's way. Yet that is exactly what some in Congress are trying to do, using the oldest trick in the book by attaching billions of dollars in barely relevant spending to an emergency war funding bill. But it's not just the American people that we're frustrating with these political games. How must Congress look in the eyes of those that we have sent to fight on our behalf? This body should not attempt to tie troop funding to controversial programs. Furthermore, we must refrain from the temptation to squander