

and Medicaid but have not enrolled. Almost ten million uninsured are not citizens. Nine million have high incomes and can afford health insurance but choose not to purchase it. And millions more are without insurance for only a few months between jobs.

When you whittle down the 46 million figure, you get about 10 million people who truly need health insurance. We could buy all of these individuals a gold-plated health insurance policy for one-thirtieth of the cost of the President's health care plan.

The media should give Americans all of the facts on health care, not just give them part of the story.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE
CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR
OF H.R. 1283

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 1283, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, a bill originally introduced by Representative Ellen Tauscher of California, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a dangerous precedent that was set recently and another record that will be set this week.

Two weeks ago the Treasury Department auctioned off a record \$104 billion worth of U.S. debt in just one week. This week it is going to set the record for the number of auctions held in a given week.

More debt means a weaker dollar and rising interest rates, which will further stifle the housing market, hinder an economic recovery, and shackle future generations with debt. In fact, our debt has reached a level so high that the Federal Reserve has resorted to printing money to buy U.S. Treasuries, a practice that is both dangerous and counterproductive in the long term.

It's time for Congress to rein in reckless spending that's been the status quo here in Washington. Without drastic changes, our debt will continue to rise, and our children and grandchildren will pay the price.

PRESCRIPTION OF THE DAY:
MEDICAL JUSTICE REFORM

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, one of the problems today in health care is that too many doctors are forced to practice defensive medicine and face the constant threat of lawsuits and unsustainable medical liability insurance rates. This results in millions of dollars of unnecessary tests and procedures. Furthermore, seasoned medical professionals are retiring early because staying in practice is no longer financially feasible, further contributing to our Nation's physician workforce shortage. It's a growing crisis that is pushing affordable care beyond the reach and grasp of millions of Americans.

National across-the-board change in the medical justice system would lower the costs and improve care by lessening the threat of unnecessary lawsuits. The Medical Justice Act, H.R. 1468, does just that, modeled after the successful Texas reforms passed in 2003. The results are documented reductions in liability insurance rates, reported growth in the number of doctors licensed each year in the State of Texas, increased charity care, amongst others.

To learn more about this very important act and how it is affecting health care in Texas, please visit healthcaucus.org or my Web site, burgess.house.gov.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE BABIES ARE EXPENDABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, a critically ill baby was born in Canada just last month. Her name is Ava Isabella Stinson. She was born 13 weeks premature and weighed only 2 pounds. Unfortunately, Canada rations health care. And since the government must grant permission for one to have health care access, Ava was unable to get the treatment she needed to survive.

Shortages and rationing under a government system means waiting lists. There was no room at the government hospitals for special needs babies. Not in the entire province of Ontario, Canada. Little Ava had no time to be on a waiting list.

Fortunately for her, Ava's parents were able to quickly transport her to Buffalo, New York. Little Ava's life was saved by the best doctors in the world right here in America.

News reports say that the neonatal intensive care unit in Ontario, Canada, is closed to new patients half of the time. Half of the time, Madam Speaker. That doesn't happen in the United

States. A case like Ava's is not unusual in Canada. Babies with special needs, like being born early, are usually sent to America for care.

Autumn, Brooke, Calissa, and Dahlia Jepps were born in America to Canadian parents back in 2007. The girls are doing just fine now. They are an extremely rare set of identical quadruplets. There was no room for them in any neonatal facility in all of Canada. Their parents flew to Great Falls, Montana, from Calgary so they could be born safely in America. Think about that for a minute. Great Falls, Montana, a city of 56,000 people, offers better access to health care than Calgary, a city of over a million people. Why? Government rationing in Canada.

Government control of health care means less access to health care, unless you are on the government special favorites list. Anyone who has tried to find a doctor or a specialist who uses Medicare knows exactly what that's like.

Bureaucrats try to tell us that more babies survive under government-run health care. They cite higher infant mortality rates in other countries as proof. But these countries skew the statistics. Babies born in some countries are considered stillborn unless they survive longer than 24 hours. You see, they don't count. In Canada, if a baby weighs less than 500 grams when born, that's about a pound, and the baby doesn't survive, they don't count it as a baby. The government calls these babies "unsalvageable." Not able to be saved. "Unsalvageable." What a word.

There's a lot of truth in the use of that word because under a government-run health care system, these babies just aren't worth saving. They are expendable. But they are saved in America. At least for now.

Madam Speaker, the health care debate in America is literally a matter of life and death. It's not about improving quality. America's health care system offers the best quality in the world. That's why everybody comes here.

But when the government runs a health care system, it's all about how much it costs and who the special favorites of government are. Also, government-run health care doesn't pay the doctors or nurses enough to stay in business. That means health care is rationed because there aren't enough doctors to go around. Government then decides who gets treatment and who just loses out. Like the medical ethics expert in Britain I talked about earlier today. She is a government decision-maker, and she says some of the elderly just have a duty to die. In Canada the government lets special needs babies born early just die because they apparently aren't worth the cost of saving. So now the elderly and certain babies are not important enough to be saved under socialized medicine.

In a government-run system, the government decides who gets treatment in medicine and who doesn't. That means

the government decides who lives, who dies.

The government does not have the moral right to make those decisions. Not one of the politicians who want to force America into a government-run health care boondoggle is going to be denied treatment or medicine. Not one of them. Like the book "Animal Farm", which had the philosophy all are equal, but some are just more equal than others. That's not what America is all about. It's the age-old struggle of freedom over tyranny.

When government bureaucrat gatekeepers have control over who lives and who dies in America, freedom is the first casualty. Just ask the elderly and the babies of Canada and England.

And that's just the way it is.

WE MUST DO MORE TO HELP THE IRAQI REFUGEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, after more than 6 years of foreign occupation, occupation that never should have happened in the first place, American combat troops have been withdrawn from Iraqi cities. This has led some people to believe that the conflict is over. But our troops remain in danger so long as they continue to stay in Iraq. And the suffering of the Iraqi people, especially the refugees, hasn't ended either.

A report issued last month by the International Rescue Committee described the bleak lives of the Iraqi refugees who have come to the United States to escape the violence in their home country. We admitted over 13,800 Iraqi refugees in the year 2008. Many of them had to come here because they worked for the United States military or the United States Government in Iraq and they became targets for retaliation as a result.

A large number of the refugees are war widows with young children. They are grieving over the loss of their loved ones, and many are suffering war-related emotional distress or injuries. While the refugees are grateful to be in America, most are frustrated and even in despair. The International Rescue Committee says, A flawed U.S. refugee admissions program is resettling Iraqi refugees into poverty rather than helping them rebuild their lives.

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The committee says that the Federal program designed to help the refugees doesn't meet their basic needs. The resettlement program is badly underfunded and newly arriving refugees get a mere pittance. The United States State Department provides \$900 to each refugee. The refugees are also eligible for State assistance, which varies from State to State, but which averages about \$575 a month.

In addition, the refugees are eligible for Medicaid or a Federal medical as-

sistance program, but the program runs out after 8 months. With this tiny amount of assistance, the refugees are supposed to pay rent, utilities, food, clothes, transportation and all the other expenses of daily life.

Put yourself in their shoes. If you were a refugee, already suffering from trauma and injury, could you and your family make it in a country that is as high cost as the United States of America with so little help?

The refugees are searching for jobs to help pay the bills, but we know how hard that is. And in Atlanta, for example, only 25 percent of the Iraqi refugees have been able to find jobs when they were here for over 6 months. Resettlement agencies, which received State Department funding, are struggling to do as much as they can, and they are providing a number of very important services, but their resources are dwindling because of the recession.

As a result of all these problems, Madam Speaker, many of the refugees are destitute and facing eviction from their homes. Some are wondering if they should have stayed in Iraq, even though their lives would have been in danger.

Madam Speaker, the Iraqi refugee in our country deserves better. The International Rescue Committee has called for an increase in Federal assistance to help alleviate the situation. We must support them by doing more.

We had a hand in their upheaval. Now we must give them a hand in their new country. We have a moral obligation to act.

MADOFF VICTIMS ARE VICTIMIZED AGAIN, THIS TIME BY OUR OWN GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, my remarks are entitled "Madoff Victims Are Victimized Again, this Time by Our Own Government." Americans rely on the Security and Exchange Commission, the SEC, to safeguard their stock transactions through registered broker dealers.

The SEC, however, did not do that in the case of Bernard Madoff. Irrespective of his receiving 150 years in prison for life-damaging financial crimes, many Americans who lost their life savings, who were first victimized as a result of the SEC failures, are being today victimized a second time by our own judicial system and its court-appointed trustee.

The victims' plight is compelling. Think about this, Madam Speaker, irrespective of numerous warnings the SEC received dating back 17 years, all of our Federal agencies stood by and did nothing while thousands of investors deposited their money, usually their life savings, with Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities.

In fact, after a supposed investigation in 1992, the SEC issued a clear-cut

and definitive Statement of Innocence about Madoff's business. This was an unusual occurrence. Indeed, it may be the only time in history that the SEC went as far as issuing a Statement of Innocence to clear a business that it was investigating.

Then, starting in 2002, the SEC continued to ignore seven individual and specific fraud warnings by a credible, financial whistleblower. Again, in 2004, in another government failure, the IRS approved Madoff to be one of only 260 nonbank IRA custodians, the very place that people put their retirement money for safekeeping. Why would the IRS have approved Madoff when it had the legal right and, indeed, the fiduciary obligation to inspect the books and the records of all nonbank IRA custodians?

The approval process, which the IRS shirked, was specifically designed to prevent this exact type of fraud. As Madoff's downfall exposed, both the IRS and the SEC failed to inspect Madoff in even the most basic fundamental fashion. Unfortunately, two different U.S. Government agencies both seemed to have given their approval for Americans to invest with Madoff. They indicated that he had a financial clean bill of health.

Now that Madoff's scheme has imploded, the government seeks to convey the appearance of serving justice on behalf of those who were duped.

Through the Federal Bankruptcy Court, the government has hired a private sector attorney to act as a Madoff bankruptcy trustee and will pay the trustee a fee based on his hours extended to claw back money. Well, this is not what it appears to be. Justice is not being served.

While it is true that the trustee cannot ask for a specific percentage of the total clawed back, he can ask for any specific amount he desires, and it can be based on his own internal computation using a percentage.

Since the trustee won't have enough manpower to sue thousands of people at the same time, he will also hire associate firms to assist in this litigation. All the fees charged by the law firms who are handling this case will first be paid, and then the trustee will receive his fee.

The government should, instead, offer tax or financial relief to those who were victimized, not under an arcane net equity basis, but based on their statements as of November 30, 2008. The IRS should compute tax refunds so as to return 100 percent of each individual's first loss of \$2 million; then 90 percent of their loss between \$2 and \$4 million; 80 percent of their loss dollars between \$4 and \$6 million, and so forth, until a 20 percent return level has been reached, and at that point return should remain at 20 percent.

This would be most beneficial to smaller investors, who are most impacted by their losses.

If private citizens are required to reimburse other private citizens for harm