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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

Rev. Alberto Delgado, Alpha and Omega Church, Miami, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Father, we worship Your holy name.

In the Bible You command the church to always pray and give thanks for those who are in authority.

The United States and the whole world are now experiencing difficult times; because of it, confusion and fear reign in the hearts of many.

Father, we have total confidence that You will stretch forth Your hand upon America. This great country of ours will defeat the present crisis, will enter a new level of prosperity, and will continue to be the example and the strength of the free world.

Father, right now I decree a blessing upon the Congress of the United States. I pray that Your Holy Spirit may fall upon each man and each woman present, that they may be illuminated with Godly wisdom as they enter legislation. May Your blessings be also upon their personal lives and their families.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the

point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN 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.

WELCOMING REV. ALBERTO M. DELGADO

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure and privilege to be able to welcome Pastor Alberto Delgado to the House of Representatives. Pastor Delgado and his wife, Mariam, also a wonderful religious leader, are pillars of strength, faith, and good works in south Florida.

Their church, Alpha and Omega Church with more than 5,000 members, is a sanctuary which opens its doors to over 2,000 worshipers per service, with services in both English and Spanish. It is a place of miracles, where, as Pastor Delgado always reminds the faithful, everything is possible with faith and where the family and the word of God are revered.

The ministries of Alpha and Omega Church have already spread to other States in this great and generous land,

and to other countries as well, including Cuba, Guatemala, Argentina, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Belize. And the work of Pastor Delgado never stops.

Welcome to the United States Congress, Alberto and Mariam. It is an honor to have you here. Thank you for all that you do.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAS-TOR of Arizona). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, we in this body will deliver a health care reform package and fulfill our and the President's promise to America. That makes this a special time to be in the Congress, and it is a great privilege to be a member of one of the main committees that has responsibility for this product.

Although there is still a need to improve on some measurements, because of the public plan and exchange, the improvements in Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP, the mandates for coverage, a robust benefits package, accountability care organizations and medical homes, and the provisions already included to reduce health disparities, our Nation will be a fairer and more just country and we will not only save money, but we will be a more productive and competitive nation as well.

We must not let the cost today stand in the way of our destined and future greatness. A significant investment in health care will reap savings in the not-too-distant future. Let's make sure that quality, comprehensive, and culturally and linguistically appropriate

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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health care is available and accessible to every person living in this country, in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all of the offshore areas or territories. Let's make sure that universal health care is universal health care.

REPUBLICANS ADVOCATE QUALITY HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are offering positive solutions to our Nation's health care system. We are standing up for individual choice, preserving the all-important doctor-patient relationship, and giving families more resources and more of their own money to afford quality health care.

Our Democrat colleagues have abandoned any sense of bipartisan cooperation. That is why their health care proposals currently amount to a \$1 trillion big government takeover. Republicans are proposing tax relief for families and small businesses who are struggling to afford health care. We want to empower States and small businesses to band together for affordable insurance options. Rather than copy a failed central planning big government system, we are committed to weeding out waste, fraud and abuse.

Republicans are hard at work developing a set of patient-first health care reforms. We encourage our Democrat colleagues to join us in defending patient choice and quality care against the rationed care of a big government health care takeover.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

COST CONTAINMENT FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, in our health care reform, our aspiration ought to be to give Americans the health care that people get at the Mayo Clinic, and nothing less. We can do this even though this sounds like a high bar because at the Mayo Clinic they provide cost-effective health care. Medicare spends about \$6,700 a year in Rochester, Minnesota. In other places in the country, it is over twice that. In one town in Texas, it is \$14,000 a year.

We need in our health care plan to provide quality medical care, choice of medical care, and cost-effective medical care. That's why in our bill we are going to need to insist on measures of peer profiling for physicians, critical protocols to make sure that quality happens, and reward for physicians for high quality. When we do this, patients will have the same quality as the Mayo Clinic and the same cost as the Mayo

Clinic to the American taxpayer. That is a good deal. We have to make sure that cost containment is part of our health care plan.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS PETER CROSS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Private First Class Peter Kyle Cross wanted to be a missionary, but he decided he needed to mature a little bit first, so he joined the United States Army in August, 2008. He was born in Texas, but he and his family later moved to New York.

Private First Class Cross was deployed to Afghanistan in February with the 10th Mountain Division of New York. Private First Class Cross and his unit were out on patrol, and he went to get supplies for his fellow soldiers. Returning to platoon, driving on a narrow mountain pass, he saw a group of Afghan children herding sheep on the road. Peter swerved his Humvee to avoid hitting the kids and went off the side of the mountain. Peter Cross was 20 years of age.

This young American soldier's first instinct was to sacrifice his life for a group of children he did not know in a land far from home. Peter's father said of his son's sacrifice: "His last act in life showed what kind of man he was, selflessly thinking of others."

Last week, the governor of New York ordered all flags flown at half staff in honor of this Texan and New Yorker, Peter Cross. Amazing breed these young bucks of the United States Army.

And that's just the way it is.

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PRIMARY CARE

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I rise today to address the importance of primary care and comprehensive health care reform. As we move towards creating a uniquely American solution in which all Americans have access to affordable, meaningful, stable health coverage, we must remember that insurance alone means little if patients do not have adequate access to health care providers and services.

Primary care providers are on the front line of the health care system treating acute and chronic problems, preventing diseases, and keeping costly conditions from worsening. And yet, despite this essential role, it is primary care where we face the most acute provider shortages.

Fewer and fewer medical students are choosing primary care. Since 1998, the percentage of internal medicine residents declined from 50 percent to 20

percent. By 2025, America will have a shortage of 46,000 primary care providers.

I have introduced the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act. My proposal takes a comprehensive approach to addressing this problem, bolstering our primary care workforce and improving primary care services, providing scholarships and loan repayments, increasing payments for doctors, and eliminating copayments for Medicare beneficiaries seeking preventive care.

I encourage all these provisions to be included in health care reform.

NO SECOND STIMULUS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I join the majority of Americans who found themselves in utter disbelief yesterday when they heard the majority leader say that this Congress might need to consider a second stimulus package. After the first stimulus package has proved to be a failure in stabilizing the economy and mitigating unemployment, the best solution the liberal leadership in the House can propose is to continue on this reckless spending spree.

At present, we are spending \$100 million a day on interest on the first stimulus, and yet unemployment has now reached 9.5 percent. This first stimulus has proved to be nothing more than a tool to fund a broad-sweeping social agenda that has been on the shelf for years. The Vice President said we misread the economy. Well, Mr. BIDEN, not one Republican in this House misread it because none of us voted for it.

If we really want to stimulate the economy, we should immediately cut marginal tax rates for all and provide emergency tax relief to the very entities that employ 70 percent of those employed—small businesses.

The American people have had enough of the tax-and-spend mentality of Congress.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Every week my office in San Bernardino, California, receives phone calls from constituents seeking assistance for their health care needs.

The cost of health care is flying through the roof. American families are struggling to pay premiums that are going up three times faster than the wages. The health care system is broken. This is not just disturbing, this is inhumane and un-American when you're being denied health care or can't get the health care coverage you need.

In my district, local small businesses are faced with choosing between offering health care coverage to employees