



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2009

No. 102

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 9, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Anthony L. Bennett, Mount Aery Baptist Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut, offered the following prayer:

Good morning, God, our Creator, Provider and Sustainer. It is to You, our refuge, strength, and one God who is known by many names. To You God, we give thanks for this day; a day in which we have another chance to manifest Your divine essence upon the Earth. You have given us another opportunity to demonstrate Your love for us in how we treat one another.

And so, on today, I lift the Members and staff of this, the United States House of Representatives. I pray Your wisdom and guidance will consume them so that they understand the individuals, families and, yes, even the nations that will be impacted by their decisions today. So teach them and all of us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

In the name of Jesus, I pray. 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. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND ANTHONY L. BENNETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to introduce today to the Congress of the United States, Pastor Anthony L. Bennett of the Mount Aery Baptist Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Pastor Bennett is accompanied today by his wife, First Lady Bennett, and their young and energetic son, Ahmad.

The Mount Aery Baptist Church draws its name from the biblical Mount Ararat where Noah's ark is believed to have come to rest after the cataclysmic floods. This is an apt metaphor because Mount Aery is a beacon, a refuge, a house of good works in a very troubled city, one of the poorest in Connecticut, in fact, one of the poorest in the Nation.

But under Pastor Bennett's leadership, the Mount Aery Church has sponsored ministries for children, for teenagers, for those at risk of dependency or recovering from dependency. He has fostered educational outreach programs that have made a difference in a very, very troubled location.

One of the most personally moving things I have experienced in the last several years was when the Mount Aery Baptist Church raised up recent

high school graduates of the city of Bridgeport at a time and in a place where half of the city's high school students do not graduate from high school.

Pastor Bennett is a leader, a minister, and a pastor; and I can't help but thinking this morning that if all of us strove to match his example, we would be a better country, indeed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PUBLIC OPTION IN HEALTH REFORM

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my support for a strong public option as part of our health reform bill. Health care is not a place for playing political games; it is simply too precious. That is why we need to pass a meaningful bill, one that actually achieves the goal of providing everyone with affordable access to quality care.

If private competition alone could have achieved this, it would have already. I am supporting comprehensive health reform for patients, for each one of us who has a loved one who has needed care but was denied by their insurance company and couldn't afford the out-of-pocket expenses. Let's give those companies a reason to provide us with better, more affordable coverage, and give patients greater choice in who will be their insurer.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the inclusion of a viable public option in our health reform legislation.

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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HEALTH CARE REFORM IS DISASTER

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, health care reform is a disaster. The cost of the Democrat health care bill is \$1.5 trillion, and we still don't know how they intend to pay for it. That is on top of the fact that the Democrats have spent nearly \$1 trillion on the stimulus to create jobs that we have yet to see, plus \$400 billion on a so-called emergency spending bill.

They doled out billions to the auto industry, billions to Wall Street, and a whopping \$182 billion to AIG. And that is on top of the \$700 billion housing rescue. And now they want a \$1.5 trillion health care plan.

The problem with our health care system isn't that we don't spend enough; it is that we spend it inefficiently. We can and we must do better for our children and our grandchildren.

America, let's stop the red ink now.

HELP WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, over 45 million people in America have no health insurance, and over 8 million of them are children. Millions more don't have enough health insurance; that is dramatic, but abstract.

Let me make it more real and tell you about two of these people I met in Hawaii last week. One woman told me that she is self-employed and pays all of her taxes. She works hard, but for her entire life she has taken care of herself because she can't afford health care. For years she self-treated a busted knee. It finally got to the point she had to see a doctor, but she couldn't afford it. She did something nobody should ever have to do: she used a friend's insurance card to get the care she needed.

Another man bravely told me he was homeless. He doesn't fit the stereotype. He has a college degree and works two jobs. One of his job provides him with health insurance, but he cannot afford the 20 percent copay. He needs that money to buy food for his wife and children, and to buy gasoline to drive his car to work. So he goes without regular doctor visits and hopes for the best.

These people aren't asking for a handout. They are asking for a little bit of help. It is time we provided it.

THE GREEN RELIGION SUPPRESSES FREE SPEECH

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the most toxic atmosphere today is the po-

litical climate. At the EPA, scientists are not allowed to disagree with the rabid dogma about climate change.

Recently, Alan Carlin, a 35-year veteran scientist at the EPA, issued a report that challenged the theory of global warming. Carlin pointed out serious problems with the science used to draw false EPA conclusions. He revealed new research that contradicts dire predictions that mankind is destroying the world. He pointed to evidence that the Earth is actually cooling. The EPA suppressed the report.

Carlin's boss warned him that he had better not talk about the report or disagree with the EPA's green agenda.

The suppression of speech and information undermines the very foundation of self-governance. Yet there is a systematic suppression of information that contradicts what has become a green religion at the EPA.

Thousands of scientists have challenged the claims of global warming. Science is supposed to be about the uncorrupted search for the truth and the facts. The EPA's actions are reminiscent of those who said the Earth was flat and persecuted the "heretics" who said it was round.

And that's just the way it is.

WELCOMING AMBASSADOR VASSILIS KASKARELIS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the new Ambassador from Greece to Washington. Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis has a long and distinguished diplomatic career having represented Greece at the U.N., NATO, and the E.U., among other posts. No doubt he will be an excellent partner as we move to strengthen Greek-American relations on issues like Cyprus and the ecumenical patriarch, for example, as well as on Greece's pivotal position in the geopolitics of the region and in the new global economy.

I also congratulate Greece on the recent opening of the spectacular Acropolis Museum. I was honored to represent President Obama and the United States at its inauguration. Built in stone from the region and bathed in natural light reflected from the nearby Aegean, it houses some of the world's greatest antiquities. Accordingly, it cries out for the return of the Parthenon Marbles from the British Museum.

USE WHAT YOU VOTE FOR

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, gradually the details of the Democrat health plan are leaking out to the American people. Call it whatever you like, this proposal is nothing more than a government-run health care plan if it has

a government-run option. Interestingly, it exempts Members of Congress from having to join a government-run health care system.

As a physician for many years, I am amazed at the number of Congressmen who have enjoined high-quality, personalized health care in this country but are now willing to force post office-style medicine on our people.

In response to this, I have offered a resolution that will give Members of Congress an opportunity to finally be accountable for the decisions we make and how they affect the lives of ordinary Americans. Most Americans feel that Congressmen who vote for legislation creating a government-run health care plan should lead by example and enroll themselves in the same public plan. I agree with them. As a result, I have introduced House Resolution 615 with a number of cosponsors that simply says that if you vote for a government-run health care option, you agree to choose government-run health care for yourself and your family.

I ask Members of both parties to vote for my resolution.

CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CREATES JOBS

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about how clean energy technology is creating jobs in my district and why we need the Senate to follow our lead and pass the American Clean Energy Security bill to create even more jobs in the Hudson Valley and throughout the country.

Mercury Solar in my district started 3 years ago with five employees and now employs 60 people, expecting to have 80 by year's end.

Spectra Watt, a solar cell manufacturer, will be employing 150 people in their new Dutchess County facility by next year.

Business is growing by leaps and bounds because of the market created by New York's renewable energy requirements, because of the Federal tax incentives that we passed here in Congress and because of the economic stimulus package. But more needs to be done, and that's why we need the Waxman-Markey bill, the Energy and Jobs bill, to be passed by the Senate.

It is time to invest in our future for America to reclaim first place in the field of energy technology and to create the middle class jobs of the 21st century.

I urge the Senate to quickly pass the Waxman-Markey Energy and Jobs bill.

AMERICANS DESERVE REAL PLAN, REAL RECOVERY

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