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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 10, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANTHONY D. WEINER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Alan N. Keiran, Office of the Senate Chaplain, offered the following prayer:

Father God, as the challenging winds of change blow across our beloved Nation, we ask You to empower and encourage our leaders. Release in them vibrant faith in Your word and grant them supernatural wisdom to solve the daunting problems facing our country and our world.

Lord God Almighty, only You can lead us out of darkness and into the wonderful light of Your redeeming love. Open our eyes that we may see and our ears that we may hear what Your Holy Spirit is saying in these trying times. Protect us from the spirit of fear and anoint us with power, love and sound minds. Establish within us the tenacious resolve needed to overcome any obstacles inspired by the enemy of our souls.

Father, please bless and encourage the Members of this House, their families and staff members. As they seek Your counsel, speak tender words of encouragement and direction into their hearts. As they study Your word, may they feel renewed and enlightened. And as they worship, let them experience Your transforming presence and abundant love.

All this I pray in the name of Him who is the light of the world. 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 Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRIGHT 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 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GUARANTEEING ALL AMERICANS HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, one of the tragic and laughable conceits of the entire health care debate is that people love their for-profit health insurance companies, so hands off the private insurers.

These are the same insurance companies whose premiums, copays and deductibles are forcing millions of Americans into poverty. Sixty percent of all U.S. bankruptcies are tied to people not being able to pay their hospital bills, and most of these people were in-

sured. But people love their insurance companies.

Now, everyone knows that insurance companies make money not providing health care. But people love their insurance companies, so we have to leave them in the game, right?

People love for-profit insurers, so government ought to give the insurance companies a bailout and subsidize private insurers, because people love their insurance companies, right?

Well, I don't think that people love for-profit insurance. I think people want a not-for-profit system that guarantees all Americans health care.

AMERICANS DESERVE A PROPER DEBATE

(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, Democrats are beholden to the failed policies of big government. That is why they refuse to acknowledge the commonsense proposals House Republicans have provided to make this Nation stronger, energy more affordable and Americans healthier.

Rather than have the reasonable debate that the American people deserve, Democrats want to spend their time presenting false choices. But despite the tired rhetoric we hear from the other side of the aisle, House Republicans continue to offer commonsense solutions to improve the economy and create jobs through relief for families and small businesses.

We are fighting for patient-first health care solutions that will help Americans afford insurance, protect the doctor-patient relationship and keep Washington out of your private health care decision. We are standing up for the middle-class families who cannot afford a massive national energy tax.

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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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The American people deserve a debate on the ideas, not more rhetoric and false choices from this administration and their allies.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING GREG GAMBRIL AND DARYL BAILEY

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

Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very talented law enforcement officials in my district. Last week, Greg Gambril and Daryl Bailey received the highest honors in their respective fields from the Alabama District Attorney's Association.

Greg received the Brad Morris Memorial DA of the Year Award. He has served in the Covington County DA's office since 1992 and elected as district attorney in 2004.

Daryl Bailey began in the Montgomery County DA's office in 1997 and has served as Chief Deputy District Attorney since 2002. He was named Assistant District Attorney of the Year and he has prosecuted capital murders as well as the domestic violence cases in his district.

Again, congratulations to Greg, along with his wife Julie and sons, Joseph and Charlie, and to Daryl Bailey and his wife, Tracy, and children, Laura and Jake, for their achievements and dedicated service to our communities.

PRESCRIPTION OF THE DAY: ENSURING A STRONG FUTURE PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, "Are we running out of doctors?" was a question posed by the Texas Medical Association last year. The United States population continues to grow and there is concern that there may not be enough physicians to care for Americans.

If we do nothing to assist the training of new physicians, waiting lines will grow longer, lapses in treatment will occur, and many of our smaller and rural communities will be at risk of not having physicians.

What is the prescription? Helping doctors as they enter training in medical school and continuing assistance throughout their residency in high-need specialties and medically-underserved areas to make certain that when you need help, your doctor is in.

Two bills, H.R. 914 and H.R. 916, bipartisan bills to help offer incentives for physicians to practice in rural and underserved areas of the country, will help to ensure that health care coverage actually equals access to a doctor for all Americans.

All of the recent discussion on health care reform has been on cost and cov-

erage, but it matters not if there are not enough doctors for America's patients. Ensuring that our Nation has a strong physician workforce is critical and must be part of this national health care debate.

For more information, please visit my Website, healthcaucus.org.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE PROGRESS AND IMPORTANCE OF GHANA

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to applaud the efforts of Ghana in promoting good governance and civic participation. President Obama will wrap up the third leg of his international trip in Ghana. He will be there today.

I am reminded of the important role this democratic nation plays in the international world. Ghana is an active participant in the United Nations and the African Union. In its region, it has been extremely active in international peacekeeping.

Ghana, the first state in Sub-Saharan Africa to gain its independence, has shown that it is a stable nation whose government and people are accountable to one another. These acts are a good first step in developing future relationships between our Nation and Ghana.

One of my constituents, five-time karate and kickboxing champion, Anthony "Amp" Elmore, fulfilled his lifelong dream by visiting Ghana in 1998. The champ visited Accra, and it has changed his life.

After returning to Memphis, Amp developed his vision of educating and enlightening people about the cultural and economic importance of Africa as a continent, as well as Ghana. At his home and throughout the city, he showcased African artifacts, fabrics and arts.

This weekend, on Friday and Saturday both, he will be honoring Africa at his home and inviting the public and having a fashion show and an African dinner. I will be there. Next year, I will visit Ghana and hope to develop trade between our city, Ghana and our Nation.

COMMENDING SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of intense policy debates, we must not forget that we are here for one reason, to serve. Thankfully I have constant reminders of that spirit of service throughout my district. During the past week, I visited two amazing service organizations where I had the great honor of joining their efforts.

Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners helps people who are facing a crisis, whether it be sudden job loss or dealing with serious health care issues.

Along with operating a local food shelf, they offer emergency financial assistance to those in need.

Feed My Starving Children provides hand-packed meals formulated specifically for children suffering from malnourishment and starvation. They ship those meals to over 60 countries, partnering with like-minded organizations worldwide. They have helped children regain their health.

The spirit of service embodied by these employees and volunteers at these organizations is something we should all be proud of and something we should strive for each day.

HEALTH CARE INNOVATION ZONE PROGRAM ACT

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, finding a uniquely American solution to our Nation's health care challenges means expanding access to high quality health coverage, containing health care costs, improving the quality of care and achieving better health outcomes. To achieve these goals, we have to think in new ways about how to bridge the current system's fragmentation, encourage coordination and promote collaboration by health care providers.

Meaningful health care reform requires that we expand delivery of care models that encourage teamwork among providers, improve efficiencies, and ensure that Americans get better value for their health dollars spent. This includes patient-centered medical homes and greater access to primary care. We should also expand opportunities for doctors and hospitals, including those based in community and academic medical centers, to design, implement and evaluate such models of care delivery.

I have introduced the Health Care Innovation Zone Program Act to create and expand these innovative models of care. When we provide incentives to payers and providers to work together to improve care to communities of patients, we will undoubtedly see better health care, better health care outcomes and lower costs for all of us.

REPUBLICANS OFFER A BETTER PLAN FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, at some point every American will see a doctor or require some form of emergency care. Whether it is the birth of a child or an aging parent sick with cancer, families are praying for the best health care possible for their loved ones. But right now, Democrats are pushing for a government takeover of health care that would severely limit many patients' access to life-saving treatment.