

the support that Congress has shown over the years for this important work. Specific programs at Penn State that I proudly support include agricultural entrepreneurial alternatives, sustainable agriculture, dairy farm profitability, improved dairy management practices, and milk safety.

Dr. Steele is stepping down as dean and returning to the classroom.

Thank you, Dr. Steele, for your many years of service and your dedication to agriculture and higher education. I thank you, Dr. Steele, for your service and leadership. Pennsylvania agriculture is stronger for it.

ENSURING THERE ARE ENOUGH MEDICAID DOCTORS

(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, you know we have a problem today in that many patients who are enrolled in Medicaid really face a tough time finding a doctor who will accept their coverage. A recent article in my hometown paper, The Dallas Morning News, highlighted the troubles of a young girl in north Texas covered by Medicaid. She couldn't find a doctor to treat her, stating that because of the lack of Medicaid doctors, "Medicaid patients often grow sicker while hunting for a doctor."

We have an obligation to ensure that Americans covered under Medicaid, who also happen to be some of our poorest and neediest patients, children and American pregnant women, can see the doctor they need to see when they need to see them. Expanding the number of Americans who qualify for Medicaid without first making certain that there are enough doctors to see those Medicaid patients is irresponsible and is a disservice to these individuals.

To avoid this crisis, I propose that the Federal Government undertake the changes necessary to address the barriers of access to a doctor for any government program. Throwing more Americans onto the rolls of government-run health care without first ensuring that there will be a doctor to see them is wrong. Coverage should equal access to a doctor and must be part of the national health care debate.

I encourage the people to go to my Web site, www.healthcaucus.org.

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

(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, the cost of defensive medicine is a major factor for skyrocketing health care prices for American families. Studies reveal some alarming facts: defensive medicine costs the United States \$170 billion per year; a third of orthopedists, obstetricians, trauma

surgeons, emergency room doctors, and plastic surgeons can expect to be sued in a given year; liability concerns have driven 7 to 8 percent of all OB/GYNs to stop practicing altogether; and data for 2006 show that 71 percent of all cases are either dropped or dismissed and only 1 percent result in a verdict for the plaintiff; and yet it still costs an average of \$25,000 just to defend a lawsuit even if no payment is awarded. The results are higher premiums, less access to treatments, and physician shortages in certain specialties.

Any real health care plan must include long-overdue medical liability reform. Without it, patients and doctors alike will suffer, and the cost of health care for all Americans will continue to go up.

AMERICA'S 33 CZARS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, czarist Russia, 18 czars over a 300-year period of time. Czarist Obama Nation, America, 33 czars in 7 months, 33 czars who are running policy from Guantanamo Bay, to energy, to a \$790 billion stimulus package, to a myriad of other things and yet none of them have gone before the United States Senate for confirmation even though article II, section 2 of the Constitution says that the President should seek consent and advice from the U.S. Senate before appointing important policy people to his Cabinet.

Now, we do appoint and have the Senate confirm sub-Cabinet members, deputy Cabinet members, a myriad of judges—indeed hundreds if not thousands of people—but 33 people at a salary of \$172,000 each are running a parallel government without consent and approval. We need to stop this.

LAUS DEO

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, of course we have heard our President say we are not a Christian Nation. People can decide for themselves. But I thought it was worth pointing out that when the Washington Monument, right down the Mall from us, was dedicated, they put an aluminum-capped stone on it, four sides, there's writing on all four sides, but on the side that faced the Capitol were the Latin words "Laus Deo," Praise be to God.

Now, the reason they put that facing the Capitol was so that every day when the first rays of God's sun hit the very first thing in this Nation's Capitol, it was the words "Praise be to God." Every morning, the first rays of God's sun hit the first thing in the Capitol is "Praise be to God."

Just thought you ought to know.

REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today because we had a very important step in the history of America today. The House leadership announced a major initiative on health care reform: the 47 million-plus and growing number of uninsured Americans, the small businesses who get up every day and create the economic engine, the hardworking laborers who work every day, the children of America, just plain America is looking forward to a health reform package that gives a robust and vigorous public option without decreasing quality that says to hardworking Americans, No pre-existing disease or ailment in your family will ever break you again.

That allows for the strength of the integrity of the Federal Government to be a partner in working with those who wish to choose their own insurance which they already have. It is a fair balance, and it is paid for.

And so as we begin this debate, I'm excited to be able to announce that there will be savings, elimination of fraud and abuse, the opportunity for real health care reform.

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OUR FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, this is a historic day but not for the reasons my colleague has just specified.

Today is the first day in American history the national deficit has reached \$1 trillion. We in this Congress have an obligation to do everything we can to preserve the financial integrity of this Nation for future generations, and as a Texan, I know the solution is very simple. It's one that is embodied in these wonderful stars which were worn by soldiers in the Army of the Republic of Texas.

This is a star worn by a young man who served in the Marine Corps of the Republic of Texas, and the lone star symbolizes for Texans that the solution is, to our problem as a Nation, just leave us alone. Let Texans run Texas. Stick to the Constitution.

The Federal Government needs to stick to the very limited powers set out in the Constitution and otherwise leave us alone. Stay away from my bank accounts, stay out of my pocket, get off my back, out of my way. Stay away from my home, my family, my kids, my job, my church, my synagogue.

Let Texans run Texas. Let Ohio run Ohio. That's what these young men were fighting for in the Army of the Republic of Texas, and that's what we,

as fiscal conservatives, are fighting for here today.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KOSMAS). 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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, President Obama has said that our Nation's policy in Afghanistan rests on a three-legged stool. The three legs are: One, security, which means more troops; two, economic development; and three, helping the Afghan Government to do a better job of serving the needs of the Afghan people.

Last week, National Security Adviser James L. Jones gave a frank assessment about the strategy. He made it clear that the most important leg of the strategy is economic development. This is what he said, and I quote him: "This war will not be won by the military alone. We tried that for years. The piece of our strategy that has to work in the next year is economic development. If that is not done right, there are not enough troops in the world to succeed."

Madam Speaker, I welcome Jones' comments and agree with him completely about the importance of economic development. The administration must commit more to the economic strategy.

Look at the supplemental funding bill for Afghanistan which Congress passed last month and which I voted against and you will see that we have our priorities wrong. Ninety percent of the bill's funding goes toward purely military operations, while only 10 percent goes to support smart power, which includes economic development, humanitarian aid, and diplomacy. Madam Speaker, a 90/10 split favoring a military option is a doomed strategy that has virtually no chance of succeeding.

To win the battle for Afghanistan, we must show the Afghan people that the United States is helping build better lives for themselves. But after 7 years of occupation, the Afghan people don't see enough evidence that their lives are better now than they were before we arrived. In fact, in some ways, their lives have worsened. That's because we relied almost exclusively on the military leg of the stool and ignored economic development and the other elements of smart power. As a result, some Afghans now join the Taliban out of a sense of resentment and frustration. Some support the Taliban simply

because they are poor and the Taliban will pay them.

Mariam Nawabi, a former senior adviser to the Afghan American Chamber of Commerce and an activist for Afghan women, recently was asked what advice she would give President Obama, and here's what she said: "I would tell him to direct more money into economic development and the creation of jobs. To end the violence, the money needs to reach the villages. If the money doesn't get to the village itself, there is no change and the young men are left without support and become fodder for the Taliban."

Madam Speaker, we must redirect our mission in Afghanistan. We must shift our resources towards a civilian surge, a surge of experts and workers who can help the Afghan people to develop their economy, and our military forces actually could be redirected to support these efforts. We must also have a diplomatic surge, a surge that engages all of Afghanistan's neighbors in an effort to assist the Afghan people and shore up the central government.

In addition, we must develop a series of rigorous metrics to evaluate the progress of these efforts and report the results to the Congress of the United States and to the American people which will then send the message that our involvement in Afghanistan is not open-ended. We can also use this process to develop a timeline for the full redeployment of our troops and military contractors out of Afghanistan.

And finally, Madam Speaker, the government of Kabul must eliminate corruption. They must respect the rule of law and show that it is working on behalf of the Afghan people.

Madam Speaker, the previous administration failed in Afghanistan because it did not understand the importance of smart power. President Obama does. That's an important step forward. But our next step is to put smart power to work, which will bring peace to Afghanistan, and it will strengthen America's national security.

TAXES ARE THE ROOT OF ALL FEDERAL MISCHIEF

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, the taxacrats are at it again, cooking up new taxes to try to pay for the government takeover of health care. This time they want to raise taxes on small businesses. The so-called rich the taxacrats are targeting are America's entrepreneurs, the engine of the American economy.

Madam Speaker, taxes are the root of all Federal mischief. Businesses with less than 500 employees produce half of America's gross national product and account for the majority of our jobs. The taxacrats want to force these small businesses to buy health insurance for all of their employees, wheth-

er they can afford it or not. And if they don't, they will have to pay stiff fines, and of course, that will kill jobs.

The taxacrats also want to take \$540 billion in taxes out of budgets of small businesses to pay for their nationalized health care boondoggle. Small businesses need a tax break, not a tax hike.

Madam Speaker, it has always been the American entrepreneurial spirit creating new small businesses that have made this country work. There is an ebb and flow of businesses closing and new ones opening up. But these days, more are closing than opening. By the end of May, commercial bankruptcies were up 52 percent this year compared to the first five months of last year.

Eva Christian owns a popular European-style restaurant called Cafe Boulevard in Dayton, Ohio. She is one of the 8,300 businesses that have already filed for bankruptcy protection this year. Eva is trying to keep her cafe open and her workers employed while she tries to work things out with creditors. She says that the rising cost of food and energy combined with local unemployment have made it tough because her regular customers don't come around anymore. She cannot afford to be forced to give health care coverage to her employees, and her ability to bounce back will be smothered by the taxacrat not only health care proposals but new taxes on small businesses. So she will just close up.

Making matters worse, the high cost of energy is making everything cost more. The taxacrats refuse to expand the drilling for oil and natural gas here at home that would bring not only prices down but create millions of American jobs and not send them to Saudi Arabia. They want to kill the coal industry that supplies most of our electricity. They don't want to build more nuclear power plants that provide limitless clean energy. Their solution is to tax energy consumption on all Americans. All that will do is decrease the energy supply and cause energy costs to go up. There is no transition fuel and no energy source to transition to for at least 10 more years. That's not going to power our industries or fill anybody's gas tank so they can even get to work.

When the government took over General Motors and put it into bankruptcy, the small businesses nationwide that supplied the auto industry took a big hit. Seat belt manufacturers, floor mats, rearview mirrors, spark plugs, windshield wiper blades and electrical wires and washers, including hoses, belts and gaskets, all of the parts and pieces that come together to make automobiles, were losing jobs.

When big business files for bankruptcy, it affects the small businesses that supply them—small businesses, as you may recall, Madam Speaker, that got no bailout. They weren't important enough to keep from failing or politically influential with this administration, so they just went out of business.