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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 20, 2009, at 1 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2009

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 17, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON-LEE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, source of light and love for each of us, we approach You with grateful humility because we are aware of Your many blessings upon our Nation, our families, and upon us personally.

We stand before You in a poverty of spirit because the demands upon Congress are so great and the desire of this institution to respond to the many needs of Your people is deeply felt.

Prayer at such moments can be a crucible in which expectations and experience are crushed by grinding truth.

Yet mixed with faith in You and faith in the free people of this great Nation, this institution is confirmed, Lord, in its trust to make decisions born out of compromise. Thereupon, high hopes for the Nation can be sus-

tained, and at the same time, specific steps can be taken to achieve a final goal.

As a people, we live with trust now and forever.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHAFFETZ 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 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE PLAN

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, this week, after consultation with leaders in the business community, organized labor, health care providers, patient groups, insurers, pharmaceutical makers, and small business owners, Democratic leaders introduced America's Affordable Health Choice Act, which will expand access to health care, protect consumer choices, provide a public option, and enable over \$500 billion in Medicare savings.

And what is the Republicans' answer to the health care crisis in America? A color-coded chart of the Democratic plan. Here is the chart of their plan. Absolutely nothing.

Our bill addresses the needs of all Americans, including the nearly 46 million without health insurance, by maintaining the freedom to choose individual health providers, improving care, and increasing choice and competition with the new public option.

It's time for our Republican colleagues to join us in getting serious about health care coverage.

SAY IT ISN'T SO, JOE

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Say it isn't so, Joe. Yesterday, with all due respect to our Vice President, we heard him say, We have to spend money to keep from going bankrupt. An amazing, amazing philosophy that gives you great pause.

It's no wonder why this country is nearly \$12 trillion in debt. We are now

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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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spending nearly \$600 million per day just in interest payments. This credit card Congress can no longer continue. We cannot spend our way out of our challenges. We have to be fiscally responsible in this country. We cannot spend our way out of these challenges. You don't do it in your family, but this Congress does. Every time we hear a challenge, all we hear about is the need for more spending.

Today we will consider a bill, a horse and burro bill, that will be nearly \$700 million in new spending—\$700 million in new spending to tackle horses and burros that are exploding their population in the West.

Please, Madam Speaker, I implore my colleagues, we have to stop. We have to cut our spending.

NEW GI BILL

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this past week my office held a seminar to help our Nation's veterans access the full range of benefits they have earned, including a 4-year college education. We invited local education and workforce experts to help our veterans determine their eligibility, fill out paperwork, and receive benefits under the new GI Bill for the 21st century.

Along with many others in the House, I was proud to cosponsor this new GI Bill when it passed last year. This critical bill will ensure that our returning servicemembers are part of our economic recovery. This bill covers everything from tuition to housing to books. And it is available to military veterans who have served since September 11, 2001.

In just a few weeks, the very first veterans to enroll in college under the new GI Bill will begin their first classes.

This is truly a landmark moment, and I wish the best of luck to all of our veterans who, through this program, will become scholars as well as heroes.

NATIONALIZED HEALTH CARE AND ILLEGALS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the nationalized health care bill will continue to allow illegals to get free medical services. Foreigners who are not authorized to be in the United States flood over our wide-open borders by the millions to get free universal health care. That bankrupts Federal and State health care safety nets set up for Americans.

It's very simple to understand to most people: our citizens are forced to pay medical bills for citizens of countries all around the world. These people in our country illegally use our hospital emergency rooms like it's their

primary care, and it doesn't cost them anything. And what our government doesn't pay, the hospitals are forced to pay. That drives up the cost of medical care and the cost of insurance for citizens and legal immigrants. Now those problems will just get worse under the new proposal.

The nationalized health care bill will force our citizens who cannot even pay for their own health care to pay billions of dollars a year for health care for millions of illegals. That's just wrong. Citizens and legal immigrants shouldn't be forced to pay for the health care of people illegally in the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

IMPACT OF HEALTH CARE CRISIS

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam Speaker, during our last work period, I conducted a health care listening tour across my district to learn firsthand how the health care crisis is impacting working families.

I talked to Chris Davis, a single father who makes too much as an electrician to qualify for assistance but too little to afford coverage for his 7-year-old son. I listened to Bernice Romero, a fixed-income retiree who simply can't afford the rising premiums and out-of-pocket expenses to treat her debilitating carpal tunnel and knee problems.

Stories like these drive home the fact that we must do all we can to both extend coverage and contain costs in our health care system. This means preventing fraud, waste, and abuse within the system, utilizing prevention and wellness programs that save money, and promoting more efficient delivery of health care so that all regions of the country—rich, poor, urban, and rural—are on an even playing field.

We must address this issue head on, and the time to act is now.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, during the worst recession in a generation, Democrats propose a government takeover of health care that will lead to fewer jobs, higher taxes, and less health coverage.

Since the recession began, 6 million jobs have been lost, yet the Democrats' health care plan includes hundreds of billions of dollars in new tax hikes on small businesses, the engine of job creation in this country. Democrats propose more than \$800 billion in new tax hikes. According to economic modeling by the President's own chief economic adviser, the business tax hikes alone would destroy up to 4.7 million jobs.

Despite their claims of reform that it will reduce health care costs, CBO Director Elmendorf told Congress that the Democrats' proposed reform will only increase future Federal spending on health care.

House Republicans will oppose any plan that puts Washington bureaucrats between patients and the care they need. House Republicans have a plan for reform that expands access to affordable health care and gives families the freedom to choose the health care that fits their needs without imposing a job-killing tax hike on small businesses and working families.

NEW HEALTH CARE PLAN BENEFICIAL FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I am glad to report that two of our committees have already reported out the health care reform bill. CBO indicated that 97 percent of the non-elderly, in other words, those who are not on Medicare now, would be covered by the health reform plan that our committees are now considering. Small businesses would benefit greatly. There is a 50 percent tax credit for premiums that are paid by employers of small businesses.

So this legislation has the opportunity to allow small businesses to benefit significantly, to cover their employees, to cover 97 percent of Americans who are not covered currently by Medicare. And it is moving. We expect it will be out of committee by next week and on the House floor by the end of this month. And, finally, Americans will know that their guaranteed health coverage, reduced costs, and 97 percent of Americans not in Medicare will achieve health care coverage.

I am very happy about the fact that we're proceeding with this along the promise of President Obama.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1018, RESTORE OUR AMERICAN MUSTANGS ACT

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 653 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 653

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1018) to amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to improve the management and long-term health of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The