

So as we debate health care over the next week, over the next few months, let's remember that it is more than about money, it is more than about government agencies, it is more than about process, this is about American human beings and their only simple desire to have quality, affordable care. That is what we are about, and that is what we intend to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: How deep are the mysteries and the wisdom of Your presence, O Lord God. How inscrutable are Your judgments and how unsearchable Your ways.

For who knows the mind of the Lord? Or who has ever been Your counselor? Who has ever offered You anything that was not already a gift given by Your creation?

For all is from You, all is because of You, and all is destined for You. To You be all glory, honor and power both 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona 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.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

Immigrants take this question to heart. Not only do they ask what they can do for their country, but they also ask what they can do for their communities and for their families as well. Simply put, immigrants are one of the hardest working groups in America, regardless of legal status. Their willingness to work and to gain assimilation into American society and culture greatly benefits our country.

This month in Iraq, 237 foreign-born U.S. servicemembers became citizens of this country. This is a key example of the level of dedication—I state "dedication"—and service that immigrants give to America.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work with President Obama and with CHC to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats in Congress don't want the American people to see this chart. This is the chart that outlines the Democrat proposal, which is moving through the House of Representatives, that contains as many as 53 new Federal programs, agencies and commissions. That's right. They're trying to restrict Members of Congress from showing this to their constituents. They say it's misleading. Well, there's nothing misleading about it. They just don't want anyone to see it.

Well, here it is. I'm using it. Are they going to turn out the lights? Are they going to turn off the cameras? Why don't they want the American people to see this?

Well, I think the American people deserve the truth about the Democrats' \$1.6 trillion takeover of our health care system—more bureaucracy and more taxes, more mandates and more government involvement in your life. Guess what? It also means less jobs for Americans.

According to a model developed by the President's own Council of Economic Advisers' chairperson, this proposal will cost Americans some 5.5 million jobs over the next 10 years. The National Federation of Independent Business says that at least 1 million small business jobs will be lost. Over the weekend, even the Congressional Budget Office made it clear that this will cost low-wage workers an opportunity to get a job.

Listen, after the stimulus hasn't worked, most of my constituents are continuing to ask the question: Where are the jobs? We have a stimulus bill that's not working. We have a national energy tax bill that came through here last month that will cost millions of Americans their jobs. While this will ruin the health care system that we enjoy in America, let's not forget that it will cost us millions of American jobs when most Americans continue to want to know: Where are the jobs?

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BAN THE BURNING OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 47. This is the House joint resolution for the constitutional amendment to ban the burning of the American flag.

For 232 years, the Stars and Stripes have been a unique symbol of freedom and democracy across the world. It is the embodiment of all we are and of all we stand for as a Nation. Millions of our young men and women, including my father and uncles, bravely and selflessly defended their country under that flag. Every day, our servicemembers risk their lives in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe to protect the ideals it represents.

To burn or to desecrate our flag, even in political protest, is an affront to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and to the many others who have served.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution. I urge all of my colleagues, regardless of party, to join me.

JOBS FIRST

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

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, in these desperate economic times, Congress must undertake all of its actions with a watchful eye toward the effects on job creation; yet this, unmistakably, has not been the case.

From the stimulus bill that just did not get it right, to the cap-and-trade legislation, to now the ongoing effort to pass a health care bill on the backs of small business, the majority has put jobs on the back burner to muscle through an agenda, frankly, that is anathema to the American people. Slapping an additional 8 percent payroll tax on struggling small businesses that can't afford to pay for insurance doesn't create jobs; it kills them. Imposing a 5 percent surtax on small businesses, on America's producers, doesn't hasten our recovery; it prolongs it.

The American people deserve an agenda that puts jobs first. That is why we ask the majority to work with us. Republicans do have a plan that can expand affordable coverage in health care. It will allow you to keep what you have and not do it by squeezing small business.

I urge the majority to begin this with us. Let's start over. Let's get it right for the American people.

CRAFTING BIPARTISAN HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that our Republican colleagues are refusing to work with us in crafting health care reform legislation.

Yes, you are.

Instead of working with us, you have cranked up your message machine. You have labeled our legislation with every label except ones that are accurate. Most disappointing, Republicans are frightening our seniors with false statements that they will experience a reduction in Medicare benefits. Wrong.

The truth is this legislation would not only maintain important Medicare benefits, but it will enhance them. We cannot afford to continue to do nothing about health care reform. There are 45 million who are uninsured. There are 14,000 Americans who are losing their benefits every day. Employer-sponsored group plans are getting more expensive. They have high deductibles and high copays, and they simply don't provide the security that families need. The cost of family health insurance will continue to rise five times faster than wages.

We must have reform and we must have it now. I urge my Republican colleagues to reconsider their strategy to block this legislation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

THE TRUE COST OF GOVERNMENT- RUN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans do support reasonable health care reform that will lower the cost of health care and health insurance for every American family and for every American business, but the Democrat plan for health care reform amounts to a government takeover of health care in this country, paid for with nearly \$1 trillion in higher taxes.

The American people know what government-run health care will mean: higher cost, bigger deficits, less coverage, less quality, less choice, and more bureaucracy.

House Republicans have led the fight against this government takeover of health care, and now House Republicans and a handful of Democrats are on the verge of a historic victory for the American people and for our American health care economy, but we need your help.

If you oppose government-run health care, call your Congressman today. If you oppose higher costs, bigger deficits, less coverage, and more bureaucracy, call your Congressman today. If you want real bipartisan health care reform that lowers the cost and that

addresses the real needs of our health care economy with American solutions, call your Congressman today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to dispel misinformation that has been propagated about the health care system. I've heard many of my colleagues across the aisle claim that the Democrats' health care proposal will result in rationing. Let's address it.

How many millions of people have put off getting checkups, have avoided doing necessary followups, have delayed needed care or have failed to get the prescriptions their doctors have ordered for them?

Why? Because we ration care every day in this country now. If you want to talk about rationing, listen to these numbers:

Forty-five percent of Americans went without needed care because of costs in this country in 2007. That's rationing. Fifty-three percent of Americans cut back on their health care in the last year because of costs. That's rationing. Between 2000 and 2008, 5 million families filed for bankruptcy because of medical bills. That's rationing. About one-third of the uninsured have a chronic disease. They are six times less likely to receive care for a health problem than are the insured. That's rationing.

As many as 22,000 Americans die each year because they don't have health insurance. My brothers and sisters, that's rationing.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR TRUE HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, we were told time was of the essence when we were considering the economic stimulus package. We were told we didn't have time to waste in passing the President's budget. Yet, despite the hundreds of billions of dollars in additional spending and despite the trillions of dollars in additional debt, we must ask: Where are the jobs?

Now we're told we must rush to pass health care reform, which will cost you more jobs, which will increase taxes and which will put a Federal bureaucrat between you and your doctor.

House Republicans believe in true health care reform that will reduce

skyrocketing health care costs while protecting that very special doctor-patient relationship. True reform must make health care more affordable by reducing costs by rooting out waste, fraud and abuse and by reining in frivolous lawsuits that cost families millions of dollars each year in higher premiums—true health care reform that challenges Americans to be healthy and to invest in health information technology.

Let's take the time, and let's work together to get the right prescription for health care reform.

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT IS STABILIZING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, the Dow is back over 9,000, and new housing starts have seen their largest monthly increase in 9 years. While, overall, the Nation's financial indicators remain mixed, there is a growing body of evidence that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has helped stabilize our economy. Because of the stimulus, more than 95 percent of American families have seen their taxes cut, and 51 million seniors and veterans have received their \$250 relief payments in the mail. More than 38,000 stimulus-funded projects are already under way, many of which have come in under budget.

The American people can visit recovery.org to see how every penny has been spent. Only 4 months into the 2-year recovery package, already we are seeing results. While the road to recovery is long, we have clearly taken the first steps, and we are finally headed in the right direction.

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HEALTH CARE AND NEW JOBS

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House got up and said, jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs. That was when we were dealing with what they call the National Energy Tax. We called it cap-and-tax. But what was the reality? That particular bill passed by the Congress will result in job losses of 2.3 million to 2.7 million. It's predicted by 2035, 1.38 million manufacturing jobs will go overseas.

The number of job growths created by the Democrats thus far? Zero. None. What jobs was she talking about? Her job? We don't know. But we haven't seen the jobs. Where are the jobs?

And now we're looking at a health care plan which experts tell us between 4 million and 6 million more jobs will be lost and there will be no reduction in the cost to the American people. Let's get a health care plan that works and let's ask again, and again, and