



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009

No. 117

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 30, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EARL BLUMENAUER 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 God Almighty, You lead Your people, guide them, and help them in their every need. You respond to their faith in many ways. You may use anyone or anything to come to the aid of Your people.

At times You bring government or charitable organizations to assist Your people. At other times, family members or neighbors help as they are able. At other times, You empower a person from within with greater imagination or intuition, with more education, or the ability to change direction. Sometimes all anyone can do is to pray.

So today we pray for all those who are overwhelmed by personal or social difficulties. We pray for those drowning in debt, those threatened by firestorms or foreclosure on their homes, by illness, by depression, unemployment or lack of faith. Be faithful, Lord, to Your people, even when they are unfaithful and help those most in need. 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 Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois 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 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, Daniel Webster reminds us on a daily basis in a plaque, a stone engraved above the Speaker's rostrum, that in our time here in Congress we're supposed to do something that's worth being remembered, something valuable. Forty-four years ago today Medicare was signed into law. That Congress did something worthwhile. The Congress that produced Medicaid did something worthwhile. Both those Congresses were vilified, and people said both of those programs were socialism.

Well, they were wrong; they were American. They were caring programs that have helped with people in sickness and getting them healthy in an affordable manner. This Congress can do

something worthy of being remembered by passing national health care and taking care of people and extending Medicare and Medicaid to another group of Americans and making sure that we're no longer the only civilized industrialized country in the world that doesn't have health care for all of its citizens.

It's time that we act and we do what Daniel Webster charges us to, and that's to do something worthy of being remembered. Nothing is more important than health care.

PUT VIETNAM BACK ON THE CPC LIST NOW

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, how much longer must we tolerate Vietnam's outrageous and continuous violations of its people's religious freedom and human rights? Just over a week ago, the Vietnamese government assaulted, arrested and imprisoned dozens of Catholics in the Diocese of Vinh for erecting a temporary place of worship on Tam Toa Parish Church that was destroyed during the Vietnam War. If this is not sufficiently egregious and reprehensible to draw our attention and condemnation, I do not know what is. However, the sad reality is that this is just one of the many audacious and concerning violations perpetrated by the Vietnamese government since it was removed from the list of Countries of Particular Concern in 2006.

Arrests of religious leaders and political activists, intimidation of worshippers, and collusion in labor trafficking have become a common practice by the Vietnamese government. We cannot continue to tolerate unjust, inhumane and illegal practices. Vietnam must be put back on the CPC list, and I urge the State Department to do so expeditiously.

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H9059

H.R. 3326

JUST DON'T GET SICK

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

Mr. NYE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our troops and our military families and in support of a provision in the manager's amendment to the Defense appropriations bill which will help our military families.

Mr. Speaker, injured military personnel and veterans, including many who live in my district, often have to travel far from home to receive specialized medical treatment, taking them away from their families during a difficult time. The Fisher House Foundation is a public-private partnership which provides housing to allow military family members to be close to their loved ones during hospitalizations or medical treatment. Each year the Fisher House program serves about 10,000 families at no charge, enabling them to focus on their husbands and wives, parents, sons and daughters.

This amendment includes a provision which I offered to give more support to the Fisher House Foundation to provide housing to more military families. Mr. Speaker, the troops I worked with in Iraq and Afghanistan were willing to put their lives on the line for our country, and we should do everything in our power to ease the burden on our wounded warriors and their families. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this valuable program and in supporting our military families.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

(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, here are a few thoughts on the Democrat health tax bill by Democrats:

"This bill . . . does not strike the balance between preserving what works in our current system and fixing what does not work."

Another: "To try to pay for health care reform on the backs of small businesses, I can't support that."

Finally: "The (House) bill being presented, with a poorly defined public option, is a Trojan horse leading to government-controlled health care, and it is not in the best interests of the public."

These are the words and concerns of some of our Democrat colleagues. The Democrat plan raises taxes and mandates on small businesses, killing jobs. It creates a government takeover of health care that will knock millions of Americans, including senior citizens on Medicare, off their current plans.

There is a better way to help Americans afford health care, and it starts with empowering the people, not Big Government.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, here's the problems Americans are facing today: no money, no insurance, get sick, disaster; preexisting condition, no insurance, get sick, disaster; laid off, no insurance, get sick, disaster; employer drops coverage, no insurance, get sick, disaster.

This is what the Democrats are trying to fix. This is what the public option and the exchange will fix. It allows people who like their insurance to keep it, and it will cover those who do not have insurance. The Republican health plan very simply is: just don't get sick.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, reforming our Nation's health care system is an urgent national priority. Ensuring high-quality, affordable, access to health care for all Americans is our task here in Congress. Yet, opponents of reform are working to kill the bill and to do nothing about exploiting health care costs other than help insurance companies profit.

Democrats are working for real reform that empowers patients and their doctors to make the right choices for you. Democrats want health insurance for all Americans with a focus on saving and in investing and prevention for our children. Democrats want to make prescription drugs affordable and guarantee that preexisting conditions will be treated and not denied by insurance company bean counters. Democrats want a system that ensures all patients will receive evidence-based, quality care that's the standard.

My State of Minnesota has proven that high-quality, low-cost health care is a possibility here in the United States, and it should be the standard for all Americans. The time for action is now. We need to pass real health care reform.

YOU'RE JUST TOO OLD

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when government runs health care, senior citizens sometimes are refused treatment because of their age. In Sweden, an 83-year-old woman was refused medical surgery by the government-run hospital. They said she was just too old for treatment. Marianne Skogh had pain and numbness in her legs for 5 years. She waited more than a year trying to get approval for back surgery to cure the problem. She was rejected by the government. Without the oper-

ation, she would be living in incredible turmoil. She said, "What kind of life is that?"

Despite her long wait, Marianne was told her ailment was treatable but she was just too old for surgery. The government-run hospital said since she had previous heart surgery, they were denying her the back surgery. They told her just to take some pain pills. When the pain pills didn't help, the government still wouldn't let her have the surgery. Marianne ended up paying for the operation herself with some private funds and funds she received from friends. She's now pain-free.

Government-run health care lets bureaucrats decide who receives rationed care and who doesn't, who lives and who just dies. And that's just the way it is.

AMERICA NEEDS QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, America faces a vital decision to improve health care for all, both its quality and affordability. But follow the money. Ask yourself, Who's making the big bucks off the current arrangement? Aren't you tired of all those expensive medicine ads on TV? If you weren't sick before you watch them you're sick afterwards.

Pharmaceutical companies are the third most profitable industry in our country. They don't even manufacture most of those medicines here anymore. They outsourced them long ago. And their CEOs grab millions of dollars a year in salaries and bonuses from our middle class that's struggling more each year just to pay for insurance. And the insurance companies? They're raking in your health insurance dollars too. They don't deliver an ounce of care, but they've become the ninth most profitable industry in our country. Go to any state capital. Who owns the highest buildings in those towns? Insurance companies. That says it all. America needs quality, affordable health care, not insurance and pharmaceutical kingdoms.

□ 1015

LISTEN TO THE SENIORS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have a lot of friends on the Democrat side of the aisle, and we, as Republicans, really care about your future, so I'd like for you to know that one of the largest voting blocs in the country is that of the senior citizens. When they read this and find out about it—and we are going to make sure they do—they're going to really hold you accountable.