

solutions and common ground do exist. Let me be clear. We can lower the cost of health care. But a new government-run bureaucracy is not the answer.

The President last week suggested reducing the growing number of frivolous lawsuits against doctors as one way to lower costs. Thus far, the congressional Democrats' plan still fails to mention medical liability reform. Right now, H.R. 3200 fails to meet the President's requirements, and it fails to meet the American people's requirements too.

If the President and congressional Democrats are serious about working together, we need to start over. We need to start over and scrap H.R. 3200. Working together, we can achieve real results to lower the cost of health care and increase access to a doctor for millions of Americans.

SMALL BUSINESSES PROVIDE JOB-CREATION ENGINE

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

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, small businesses are the backbone of our country, providing the job-creation engine that we need to lift us out of this recession. And yet, today, small businesses across our country are at a disadvantage to their larger corporate competitors because of the higher costs of providing health care for their employees, because of smaller risk pools and less purchasing power.

By creating public exchanges, which this health bill proposes, as well as by preventing pricing discrimination based on preexisting conditions, we give small businesses access to low-cost options to provide health care benefits to their employees, increasing the competitiveness of American companies to help lift us out of this recession.

By helping small businesses succeed at what they do best, focusing on their businesses, on innovation, on job growth, and helping to make them more competitive by reducing the cost of their health care insurance, we can lift America out of this recession and make America's small businesses more competitive.

ADMINISTRATION'S PROTECTIONISM

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, American dairy farmers are struggling, and expanding markets around the world could help them greatly. The President's placing of a 35 percent tariff on imports of Chinese tires last Friday is likely to start a trade war.

This time of recession is no time to shut down rural trade or spark wider trade wars. Instead, we should look for

opportunities to open up new markets for American products.

We have three free trade agreements currently sitting on the table, South Korea, Colombia and Panama, which the administration has virtually ignored since the President took office. Combined, these agreements represent more than 100 million new customers for American products. New markets could go a long way in increasing demand for American products and saving family farms that have operated for generations.

I believe American agriculture and industry can compete worldwide, but we need to break down barriers, not create new ones.

TIME FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM IS NOW

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, now is the time for Americans to rise up and speak truth to fear on health care reform. Now is not the time for silence, now is not the time for doubt, and now is not the time for fear.

Recent Census data shows that the average American family spends over \$13,000 a year for health care coverage. And if we don't change what we are doing right now, in 10 years the average American family will be spending over \$25,000 a year on health care coverage.

That's why the time to act is now, and H.R. 3200 does that by expanding access to quality, affordable, coverage and bringing true health care reform to the American people.

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

(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, the President of the United States came to this House last Wednesday night and talked about health care. At the end of his speech, he talked about how perhaps we could consider some, at least a look, at medical liability reform.

And I encouraged the President to do that. I encouraged him to look at my home State of Texas. Look what's happened in Texas since 2003. Texas has become a magnet for doctors.

Since the reforms passed in the State of Texas in 2003, charity care rendered by Texas hospitals has risen 24 percent. Texas has licensed almost 15,000 new physicians, which is a 36 percent increase from pre-reform. Thirty-three rural counties have seen a net gain in emergency room doctors, including 26 counties which previously had no emergency room doctors.

After years of decline, the ranks of medical specialists are growing in Texas. In my field of obstetrics, we had

seen a loss of obstetricians in the 2 years prior to reform.

Since the reform was passed, we have had a net gain of 192 obstetricians in the State of Texas, and 26 counties have added an obstetrician, including 10 counties where none was present before.

We have a great story to tell in Texas. I encourage the President to look at the sensible types of reforms that were enacted in Texas in 2003.

MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, health care reform in the Congress took a major step forward today with the announcement of the Senate Finance Committee proposal.

There may be differences between that proposal and the bills that we have passed in the House, but the bottom line is that we are moving forward in trying to pass crucial health care reform.

If you look at the Senate Finance proposal, it basically has the health exchange in an effort to provide choice and competition and provide affordability for those Americans who either do not have health insurance now or are afraid that they may lose their health insurance because their costs continue to go up.

The Kaiser Foundation came out yesterday with an analysis that showed that more and more employers now are passing off the cost of health insurance to their employees, either through higher costs that they have to pay or cost-sharing or deductibles or co-pays, so something has to be done. It's not just a question of those who are uninsured; it's also a question of those who have health insurance now who may lose it because their employer will not provide it or their costs continue to climb.

We need to move forward, and we are taking a major step today.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, during a time of high unemployment, Democrats in Washington propose a government takeover of health care that will lead to even more job losses in a weaker economy.

For months, the American people have looked to Washington for policies that will do no harm to our economy and help put workers back to work. Unfortunately, all we have seen from the President and Democrat-led Congress are record spending, record deficits and record debt.

The American people are looking for real solutions to the challenges we

face, not another excuse to spend money and increase the reach of Big Government. Republicans have real solutions, but the people in charge of Congress and the President are ignoring them. It's time for the President and the Democrat-controlled Congress to start over on health care, work to get our economy back on track and accept real solutions.

SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

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

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, last week we got the troubling news that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was joining Russia and Nicaragua in recognizing the Abkhazia and South Ossetia territories of Georgia as independent countries. This is very troubling. The international community recognizes the territorial integrity of Georgia, and now we have to wonder, with Chavez's move, what other countries might join him in this effort.

It is absolutely essential that we stand with our ally, Georgia, in doing everything that we can to strengthen democracy, the rule of law, and the institutions that exist there.

Senator KERRY and I have joined in introducing a resolution calling for the establishment of a U.S.-Georgia free trade agreement. The actions of Chavez make that even more important today than ever. We need to do all that we can to help strengthen and bolster our economy and their economy as well.

Let's pass this resolution and ensure that the free people of Georgia are able to succeed.

IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, we are just days away from President Obama's deadline to Iran that it accept his offer of meaningful talks about that country's nuclear program. Although the U.S. and other world powers will meet in Iran on October 1, Iran has said discussions of its nuclear program are finished. Any discussion that does not include Iran's nuclear program significantly dilutes any benefits of such talks.

For 8 months, Iran has had the opportunity to discuss its nuclear program. Now, moments before the deadline, it proposes talks but remains unwilling to engage on the most important issue.

The President needs to rally international support through the U.N. and G-20 summit this month for sanctions against Iran to ensure that they have great impact.

At the same time, Congress should move forward with legislation that has been introduced to put pressure on Iran. Specifically, we should pass H.R.

2194, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act.

The longer we wait to address Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons, the more difficult it becomes to deal with Iran, and the world becomes a more dangerous place. Hoping that Iran changes course is not a strategy we can live with.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3221, STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 746 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 746

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, 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. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor or his designee. The Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII).

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Dr. VIRGINIA FOXX. All time yielded for consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material into the record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 746 provides for a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009.

The rule makes in order 24 amendments, which are listed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. Each amendment is debatable for 10 minutes, except the manager's amendment and the Kline substitute, which are each debatable for 20 minutes.

The rule also provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 746 and the underlying bill, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which was passed by the House Education and Labor Committee with bipartisan support.

I thank Chairman MILLER, as well as my colleagues on the committee on both sides of the aisle for their leadership in this historic legislation that puts America's students and their families first. Education is the key to progress and prosperity, both for individuals as well as collectively as a Nation.

Every day we hear from our constituents about their inability to afford college or their excessive student loan debt that burdens their families. Just yesterday I talked to a young woman who attends a university in my district, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and she is graduating with \$50,000 in debt.

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This Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act tackles this problem head-on by making the single largest investment in higher education in history without costing taxpayers any more.

Following the unprecedented Federal support for education in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which increased Pell Grants and funding to K-12 schools through special ed and Title I, this landmark legislation will transform the way our student loan programs operate and generate \$87 billion in savings over the next 10 years