

under the flight path an Iranian missile would take if shot at the American people.

The U.N. reports that Iran has accelerated its production of uranium. And last February, Iran became the first new nation to orbit a satellite when its newest and most powerful missile worked. Iran, a state sponsor of terror, now makes the longest range missile of the terrorist world.

The administration's decision is particularly ironic because Poland just announced it would be sending more troops to serve alongside Americans in Afghanistan. America is going to let Poland down, sending a message of weakness to our Polish allies and the people building Iran's new missile arsenal.

CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, today marks the 222nd anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America, one of the most important documents ever written. This historic day coincides with the historic debate now taking place in this Chamber and in communities across the Nation over how we can solve our health care crisis.

So I thought it might be useful to reference the sections of our Nation's foundational document that empower this legislature and this government to act in the best interests of the Nation rather than sit idly by while our health care system spirals out of control.

From the preamble in which "We the people of the United States" established the Constitution to, among other purposes, "promote the general welfare," to article I, which gives Congress all of the legislative powers granted in the Constitution, the legislators—rightly elected by the people of the Republic—have the ability to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying out our enumerated powers. Among those are providing for the common defense and general welfare, the promotion of the progress of science and the arts, and the regulation of commerce, each of these directly pertaining to our health care crisis.

It is time for us to act pursuant to the Constitution.

HEALTH CARE POLLS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, following President Obama's address to a joint session of Congress about health care, the national media touted polls showing a bump in public approval of the President's health care plan, but the media failed to point out that the polls vastly oversampled

Democrats. For example, a CBS poll last week trumpeted "a 12-point improvement" in the President's approval rating on health care following his speech. CBS failed to mention that Democrats outnumbered Republicans in the poll sample by 15 percentage points, far greater than the actual party identification gap.

Worse, a CNN poll touted a "double-digit post-speech jump" for the President, but the poll oversampled Democrats by more than a 2-1 margin.

When questioning far more Democrats than Republicans, it should come as no surprise that poll results favor a liberal Democratic agenda. The media should be objective and not intentionally slant their polling data.

NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, there was a lot of bloviating on the Republican side yesterday about the government takeover of the student loan business. What nonsense. I mean, what we are going to do is stop subsidizing the banks. That's what the Republicans are really upset about here.

Today, for every dollar in student loans, the taxpayers are dinged 15 cents—subsidies to the banks. If we convert to a National Direct Student Loan Program—the minority of the loans today go through that—for every dollar we lend to a student we will get back \$1.03.

Now, they want to run government like a business, but their idea of a business is shoveling subsidies to the private sector. I want to run government like a business. I want to give more loans to students, more effectively, at lower cost to the taxpayers. That's the National Direct Student Loan Program. This is a reform that's long overdue. Stop crying about the subsidies to the banks.

□ 1015

MANDATES ARE NOT THE ANSWER TO HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PENCE. Yesterday, Democrats in the Senate unveiled a much anticipated new compromise on health care reform, and as my late father used to say, "Here comes the new guy. He looks a lot like the old guy."

The compromise for government-run insurance is more government-run insurance, but I rise this morning to draw particular attention to a proposal in the compromise that would force Americans who don't have health insurance to buy it. Under the proposal, everybody would be forced to buy government-approved policies, and if you

don't, families could face tax penalties of \$3,800 per year and, individuals, \$950 if they don't comply. Well, none other than candidate for President, now President, Barack Obama opposed such mandates.

He said in a primary debate in January of '08 that you can mandate it, but there are still going to be people who can't afford it, and if they can't afford it, the question is: What are you going to do about it?

More memorably, the President said on CNN's American Morning in February of '08 that if a mandate were the solution, we could try to solve homelessness by mandating everybody to buy a house.

Mr. President, I couldn't have said it better myself. The President was right. Mandates are not the answer. Let's scrap this government-run insurance plan and work in a bipartisan way to lower costs without more government, more mandates and more taxes.

THE STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT WILL HELP AMERICA MOVE FORWARD

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

Mr. COHEN. Today, the House will vote on the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. It's an important bill to help education in our country.

It will give higher Pell Grant amounts to students who need more money to make it through college. It will put moneys in the community colleges for fiscal improvements and also into K-12s for fiscal improvements. It will help Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which are suffering a great deal at this time and need that help.

There is so much that this bill will do to help us move forward and save \$10 billion towards the deficit. It will take moneys from the private sector, which has been making money off of student loans, and it will provide opportunities for students and education. It will repeal a draconian provision that particularly hurts minorities and others who can't get student loans because of Federal laws for simple possession violations of criminal laws. That shouldn't happen, and those students should have the opportunity to get college grants and loans and to go on and improve themselves and to make more of themselves.

I look forward to voting for this bill which will help America move forward.

CZARS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, since being sworn in, the President has appointed 34 czars—the health czar, the car czar, an urban czar, a Great Lakes czar. These are just to

name a few. In 300 years, czarist Russia just had 18 czars. Why do we need 34? We have an energy czar and a Secretary of Energy. We have a health czar and a Secretary of Health. Worse, 27 of the 34 czars have not even been confirmed by the Senate despite a constitutional requirement. These czars make \$172,000 yearly, and that doesn't include expensive, unchecked staff with zero accountability.

I backed legislation that would withhold funding from any czar not confirmed by the Senate. Americans want, need and deserve transparency and accountability. Let's rein in the czars.

THE STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT WILL KEEP AMERICA ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will vote to save taxpayers nearly \$90 billion in making the Federal college loan system more efficient. This action, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, is the greatest investment in higher education ever.

This bill increases Pell Grants for students; it enables States to improve their early education system, and it reduces the Federal deficit by \$10 billion. It improves our Nation's education system for all children.

The Early Learning Challenge Fund supports safe efforts to invest in high-quality, integrated early education and to care for children birth through 5. Early education pays huge fiscal and social dividends in the long run, and this is an important step forward.

The College Access and Completion Innovation Fund promotes innovative strategies to improve student success in college, and this bill provides funding for much-needed school modernization and repair, which will be done in an environmentally energy-efficient manner by including legislation we approved earlier this year.

The Democratic majority is committed to stabilizing the economy, to lowering our deficit and to ensuring that America is economically competitive in the future. This plan helps us achieve these key goals.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, over the recent district work period I traveled to each county in my district, listening to constituents' ideas and concerns and answering questions. I heard overwhelmingly that a government-run public option was not a viable answer to the problems Americans are facing.

The President gave a well-delivered speech last week, but left many ques-

tions in the minds of the American people: How do we pay for such a bill? How can you cut funding for Medicare without impacting the millions of seniors who receive the benefits? How will individuals who are happy with their coverage get to keep the care they have?

Everyone agrees on the need for improvement. However, we must move toward changes that make health care more affordable, more accessible and of higher quality. We have an opportunity to work together to improve the lives of all Americans by crafting a bipartisan, commonsense solution that our country can afford.

PERMISSION TO REDUCE TIME FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING DURING PROCEEDINGS TODAY

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during the proceedings today in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, the Chair be authorized to reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any question that otherwise could be subjected to 5-minute voting under clause 8 or 9 of rule XX or under clause 6 of rule XVIII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COHEN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 746 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3221.

□ 1021

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, with Ms. DEGETTE (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 7, printed in House Report 111-256, offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOX), had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. REYES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 111-256.

Mr. REYES. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 8 offered by Mr. REYES:

Page 191, line 15, after "students" insert "including students who are veterans or members of the National Guard or Reserves."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 746, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. REYES. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. REYES asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYES. Madam Chair, the men and women who have made enormous sacrifices to serve our country deserve every opportunity to get a good education, and my amendment will help them do just that.

My amendment will encourage community colleges to use the funding provided through the new grant program to increase the level of training for our veterans and for our members of the National Guard and Reserves. This amendment will help community colleges do outreach to our veterans and to our National Guardsmen and Reservists who may be looking to obtain new skills and training in these difficult economic times.

This funding is also now intended to help our veterans realize the benefits of the post-9/11 GI Bill that Congress passed last year. The post-9/11 GI Bill was created by landmark legislation that makes good on America's promise to take care of those who have proudly served our Nation. It offers unprecedented benefits that will make college affordable to our Nation's veterans.

However, the legislation will not meet its full potential if eligible veterans are not aware or if they do not take advantage of the opportunities available in their communities. This amendment will help to promote a more veteran-friendly environment at our Nation's community colleges by encouraging this generation of American heroes to use the benefits that they have so rightly earned.

Community colleges provide the first postsecondary experience for many students, and are critical in providing them with the education and training that is required for the high-demand jobs that are needed to keep the United States competitive.

I am pleased that my colleague, Representative ADLER, has a similar amendment that will assist veterans who are seeking to attend 4-year colleges or universities. Making sure that veterans want to pursue an advanced degree and that they are able to do so is the right thing to do for our local economies and for our competitive future. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for offering this amendment.