

I hope we do more to recognize these young men and women. I thank that family. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

□ 1015

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking. Too many American families still don't have access to health care. We are at the goal line and we need to take the ball across the line on behalf of the American people. A step-by-step approach is not the answer, especially when families in my district face 14 percent unemployment and many are without health coverage.

In my home State of California, Anthem Blue Cross raised our premiums up to 39 percent. This must stop.

We must pass health care reform that ends discrimination based on pre-existing conditions; that makes health insurance affordable; that creates greater accountability on health insurance companies; that cuts the deficit by \$100 billion over the next 10 years; that allows doctors and patients, not insurance companies, to make important health care decisions; that does not break the bank for small businesses.

I urge my colleagues to stop partisan politics and deliver health care reform. We need it now and for generations to come.

FEDERAL LAND GRAB

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, where will it all end? First the EPA decides to regulate breathing, and now we learn that the Department of the Interior is planning a land grab that is so brazen that it is difficult to believe.

By misusing the Antiquities Act, the White House is planning to lock up more than 13 million acres of land in 11 Western States, including more than 2.5 million in Montana alone, much of which is privately owned. And they can do it without so much as one single public hearing or a vote in Congress.

Some of that land belongs to private citizens who have no idea that the Federal Government is planning to kick them off their ranches. If the government can do this to them, what can it do to you?

When policies like cap-and-trade, government-run health care, and establishment of new Federal lands are unpopular, you don't merely bypass Congress or change the rule to ram it through. Americans are sick of secret bureaucratic overreach and Washington, D.C., tricks.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, Monday marked the kickoff of Women's History Month, and in celebration, every day of this month the House will be opened by a woman Member. As co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, I am honored to be a part of the largest number of women ever to serve in the House of Representatives. It is 76; still too few.

It is a testament to the women's rights movement that my female colleagues represent the full political spectrum, bringing a diversity of thoughts, ideas, and opinions to the House.

Women have made great strides in the last decade. Fifty years ago, high school and college students across the country were not given support for their sports activities; and yet last week, women of Team USA, our Olympiads, brought home 13 medals from Vancouver.

It was not long ago that girls were discouraged from obtaining a degree in higher education. Today, 57 percent of graduating undergraduates in this country are women; and according to the Center for American Women in Politics, the number of women serving in State legislatures has more than quintupled since 1971. And this is not just a trend in the United States. Women across the globe are breaking barriers.

We have a long way to go, but we need to celebrate how far we have come.

NO GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, as most people know, Warren Buffett was an early adviser to President Obama. Just this week, Buffett said the President should scrap the health care bill and start over. He noted the American people are not behind this bill. He said the goal is to lower cost. I completely agree with Mr. Buffett. The American people don't want a trillion dollar government takeover of health care. Also, people don't want to raise taxes, cut Medicare, and giveaways to Washington special interests.

We need to reduce costs by taking a few simple steps: one, medical malpractice reform; two, increase competition; three, sell insurance across State lines; four, expand health savings accounts. That is a prescription the American people will support.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, my mother, Nancy Kanchelian, was born in 1915

in Fresno, California, the same year the Ottoman Empire began its systematic killing and deportation of millions of her fellow Armenians and members of her own family.

A year ago this week, my mother passed away at the age of 93. And for her entire life on Earth, her country, the United States of America, refused to officially acknowledge what we know to be true. Our own Ambassador to Armenia at the time, Henry Morgenthau, informed the Secretary of State: "... excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing, and it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress."

Mr. Speaker, the facts here are not in dispute. The one thing left to question is not whether the Armenian genocide took place but, rather, if we in this Chamber have the moral and political backbone to stand for truth. The House Foreign Affairs Committee will have the opportunity this week to pass H. Res. 252 and stand up for truth.

FEEDING NEW ORLEANS' SOUL

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History Month to recognize Ms. Leah Chase. Known as the "Queen of Creole Cuisine," Ms. Chase is a chef, a television host, a cultural ambassador, and the owner of the famous Louisiana landmark Dooky Chase restaurant. Dooky Chase is located in the historic Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans and was immortalized in the television show "Frank's Place." But, it was established as a spiritual, cultural, and historical landmark long before television producers came knocking.

During the 1960s, Dooky Chase was a meeting place for civil rights activists and NAACP members coming from all around the region. And during segregation, notable African American artists such as Ella Fitzgerald and Lena Horne dined there.

When Hurricane Katrina flooded the restaurant, forcing it to close its doors for the first time since 1941, Ms. Chase could have left, leaving behind all of the history and prominence of this historic spot. But she returned, rebuilt, and reopened to serve, nourish, and inspire the bodies and souls of future generations.

Today, I am proud to recognize Leah Chase for her unwavering commitment to the recovery of Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

ENERGY EDUCATION LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week I introduced the Energy Education Loan Forgiveness Act, a bill to provide student loan forgiveness to

skilled workers in advanced energy industries.

The United States is already facing a critical shortage of trained workers for jobs that focus on energy efficiency, and studies show that demand for such workers will only grow. We need more workers, but we have to educate them properly, and the cost of such an education is an obstacle to many.

My legislation would help ease this burden by establishing a student loan forgiveness program for energy students who go to work in the advanced energy field. This program would start at \$2,000 in forgiveness in the first year and go up to \$5,000 with 5 years.

If we want our country to lead the way in advanced energy technologies, we have to be willing to invest in that workforce through education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today we will hear again from the President about health care reform. However, moving forward on another version of these massive health care bills is not progress. Raising hundreds of millions of dollars in new taxes is not progress. Cutting half a trillion dollars from Medicare is not progress. Putting the government in charge of health care in this country is not progress.

We all know how flawed the Senate health care bill is, how it is full of backroom deals like the Cornhusker Kickback and the Louisiana Purchase and many others. Some say the American people will appreciate this bill after it becomes law.

Let's not pretend that the American people just don't know enough about this bill to make an informed decision. They are informed, and they reject it. Let's scrap this massive bill and start over, just like the American people would like us to.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Women's History Month. This month we will be celebrating not only the accomplishments of women, but will also be raising the awareness of the various challenges that still exist and face women today.

Today, women make up about 12 percent of our 1.2 million active U.S. servicemembers.

Today, women like Tran Khai Thanh Thy are sacrificing their rights to fight for democracy and freedom in Vietnam.

Today, the United States Government is led by more women leaders than ever before.

But unfortunately, women today also continue to be challenged by discrimination, sexual assault, and violence. Despite all of the progress we have made, women and girls continue to be trafficked across international borders on a daily basis.

This month, I encourage all of my colleagues to not only recognize the progress women have made, but also to take action to expand the rights of women today and for future generations.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS FINANCIALLY STRAPPED

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, recently during my district work period, I met with officials from Matthews County Public Schools. Matthews County is representative of many of the communities in my district and around the Commonwealth that are dealing with difficult budget challenges.

The Matthews County school system is projected to lose \$1.2 million in the 2010-2011 budget year. For a small school district, this is a significant number. Unfortunately, in these cases, usually the only place left to trim the budget is personnel. This would mean less services and programs for children.

Over the years, the Federal Government has expanded its involvement in funding and has added requirements on public education. In some cases, Federal requirements leave school districts strapped for funding. The Federal requirements and mandates are not joined with Federal assistance. In my district, I have formed an Education Advisory Council to look at these tough issues.

Congress should carefully review these important programs and implement commonsense reforms to ensure that we are helping, not hurting, the education of our children. There are many counties like Matthews across Virginia's First Congressional District. We must be mindful of the impacts we have on their budgets.

RECOVERY ACT WORKING

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to share some success stories from the 20th Congressional District in Florida that show that the evidence is clear that the Recovery Act is working to cushion the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression and lay a new foundation for economic growth.

In my State of Florida, we are creating jobs and investing in the infrastructure of our community. Indeed, in my district alone, there have been 130 Recovery Act grants that have been

awarded. Even more importantly, in my congressional district, 61 small businesses have received more than \$21 million in loans. These loans to small businesses have allowed companies to stay open, keep people employed, and prevented an even deeper economic downturn.

Experts agree that the Recovery Act is already responsible for saving or creating 2 million jobs, and we remain on track to create and save at least an additional 3½ million jobs by the end of the year.

The Recovery Act, to be clear, was never meant to replace dollar for dollar or job for job what we have lost. But 1 year in, experts ranging from private forecasters to Governors on both sides of the aisle say the Recovery Act has helped pull us back from the brink of economic disaster and is helping us lay a firm foundation for our economic recovery.

□ 1030

SCRAP CURRENT HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last year, I introduced House Resolution 615, a resolution that simply says, if you vote for a government-run health care system, you should be willing to be subject to it. As of today, over 3 million Americans have gone to fleming.house.gov in support of this resolution.

This message continues to resonate across America for one simple reason: The people of this country are sick and tired of being the victims of bad laws while their elected representatives exempt themselves from the very same laws. If Congress feels increased taxes, higher premiums, and government-run health care are good enough for American families, then it should be good enough for them as well.

I urge the President and Democrat leadership to listen to this overwhelming uproar from the American public. Scrap the current legislation and go back to the drawing board to craft a true bipartisan bill that increases access and quality of health care while driving down costs for American families.

LEGISLATION TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce new legislation I'm introducing to help small businesses grow and make it easier for them to put people to work. New jobs mean less government spending on unemployment and health care. New employees spend much of what they earn, also boosting our local economies.