

All too often, we found that companies that were selling policies illegally in California without the proper license were selling junk to the public.

I remember a case in San Diego, a woman who was working, a lawyer, had lost her employment with a law firm. She went out and purchased an individual policy. It was cheap. It was actually too good to believe. She got sick, and she wound up with an enormous expenditure, and she had to actually file bankruptcy in order to cover that cost.

So we know that if companies are simply selling across State lines without the proper underlying strength and without the proper regulation, it will not solve the problem. In fact, it will create a whole set of other problems. That is not the solution. What we need is a national program and, in fact, we have such a program in the proposal that will hopefully be before us next week. That proposal establishes a national benefit program. It establishes a mechanism for the pooling of risk and pooling of companies in what are called exchanges, either State, regional exchanges, or a national exchange. That is a procedure that is in the bill and does provide the kind of protections that every consumer needs and also provides some competition. Because one of those companies that will be operating in the exchange—at least the national exchange—will be a nonprofit company that will have a national reach and be able to have the actuarial strength of being able to spread the risk across the entire Nation and all parts of it.

So I'm looking forward to next week. It's going to be a terrific week. We will finally deal with something that the Nation has wrestled with for a century, and that is how to expand health insurance to the entire population. We're well on the road.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CONGRATULATING DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Division I State Champion wrestling team from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School. On February 27, 2007, the Catholic Central Shamrocks defeated Rockford 39-24 to hoist their first State championship trophy since 1988. Third-year Head Coach Mitch Hancock, an individual State final winner for the Shamrocks in 2000, saw all 14 of his wrestlers earn a berth to the

Individual State Finals. This is the first time in recent Division I history that an entire team has qualified for the Individual State meet. Three Shamrock grapplers brought home State titles to complement the team championship. Following in the remarkable tradition of legendary Catholic Central Coach Mike Rodriguez, who was both coach and mentor to current coach Mitch Hancock, the Shamrocks brought home their eighth State wrestling team title and earned Coach Hancock the Division I honors for Wrestling Coach of the Year.

Madam Speaker, with a season record of 27-4, the 2010 Catholic Central Shamrocks deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement, and spirit, and we are all very proud of their determination and effort.

Equally, Madam Speaker, I also rise today to acknowledge the Division I State Championship bowling team from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School. This has been a noteworthy year for the gentlemen at Catholic Central, as the championship marks the fourth State title for the school during the 2009-2010 year. The Michigan High School Athletic Association recognized bowling as an official sport in 2006. Thus, it is impressive how the Catholic Central team has risen to State prominence in a very short time.

Two members of the State championship bowling team qualified for the individual finals, and although they did not ultimately win, they represented C.C. High admirably and honorably. This year, after defeating Salem 1,856-1,824 pins in the quarterfinals, the Shamrock bowlers outdueled Flint Carman-Ainsworth 1,855-1,747 to earn a berth in the finals, setting them up to take on Macomb Dakota. On March 5, 2010, the Catholic Central Shamrocks rolled over Macomb Dakota 1,834-1,565 to earn their first State championship trophy.

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Coach Al Bridges saw his bowlers in seventh place after the morning qualifying round, yet in true Shamrock fashion the team kept fighting and refused to give up. As the day wore on, CC kept moving up in the standings, leading by 143 pins after the Baker games. From that point on, the Shamrocks never looked back.

Coach Al Bridges credits good conditioning and a lot of practice for the payoff of winning a championship. In earning their first bowling title, the 2010 Catholic Central Shamrocks deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement, and spirit.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the hard work and dedication of each of these State championship teams epitomizes what it means to be a Shamrock. By the teaching of our Basilian fathers, through goodness, discipline, and knowledge, the entire Catholic Central family, including this alumnus, share in their accomplishments.

In recognition of their effort, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks for achieving these State titles and for honoring their devotion to Mary, alma mater. Live and die for CC High.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARAMENDI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### NUCLEAR WASTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss an issue that I think very few people in America are aware of. It relates to the very important topic of nuclear waste and the impact that that has upon our Federal policy and its effect on our energy needs and our Federal debt.

Most Americans support nuclear power as a major source of our electricity. Today it provides 20 percent of all the electricity produced in America. Now, we know that over the next 15 or 20 years our demand for electricity is going to double what it is today. I might also remind everyone that coal is providing 51 percent of all the electricity produced in America. As I said, nuclear power provides about 20 percent.

The administration and many people are focused on alternative forms of energy, particularly solar and wind power. Now, all of the experts will tell you that while, yes, some energy can be produced from solar and wind power, it will never come close to meeting the demands of the American people in energy.

I might add on the nuclear power front, today in America we have 109 nuclear power plants located in 39 States across the country. At each one of those sites nuclear waste is being stored today. It does have a major impact on our environment, it has major concerns for security, and it has major costs for the American people.

The solution that Congress came up with many years ago was to build Yucca Mountain as a deep repository to store this waste indefinitely. Now, unfortunately last week President Obama withdrew the license application for a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. This application was before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to look at from a scientific standpoint of could this repository at Yucca Mountain safely take care of this waste for the American people for hundreds of years in the future? And I might also add that the American taxpayer has already spent billions of dollars trying to build this repository at Yucca Mountain.

Well, not only did President Obama jerk back the application so that it cannot be considered anymore, but now the Department of Energy is asking the Appropriations Committee for approval to reprogram all of the money that was going to Yucca Mountain in 2010, which in essence would stop all movement in the development of Yucca Mountain and the solution for storage of this high-level waste.

So the question that I would have for President Obama and his administration today is this. Very simply, what are we going to do with all of the waste currently being stored at the 109 nuclear sites around the Nation? Now, the President has appointed a blue panel commission to come up with a solution to this problem. As I said, we have already spent billions of dollars on Yucca Mountain. In fact, in the very near future it was getting ready to open.

Why is it important as to what are we going to do with this nuclear waste that is stored at these 109 sites around the country? It is important for this reason. Number one, in 1982 Congress passed the Nuclear Policy Waste Act. It in essence said that the Federal Government was going to be responsible for taking care of this. Well, as a result of the policies we have adopted so far today, here is our situation. The utility companies who are now depending upon the Federal Government to store this waste for them are now filing lawsuits against the Federal Government, and have already obtained judgments in excess of \$11 billion against the Federal Government. Experts are saying that additional lawsuits will cost the Federal Government \$56 billion.

I want to raise this issue with the American people and make them aware that this decision on Yucca Mountain not only is a security issue for America, but it also is a costly decision for the American taxpayer at a time when we already have a Federal debt of \$14 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very important topic facing our nation—Nuclear Waste and the impact our Federal Policy on this issue will have on our energy needs and our Federal Debt.

I support nuclear power as a major source of electricity for our nation, which currently accounts for twenty percent of our electricity supply.

In Kentucky, we do not have any nuclear power although some of my District receives electricity from the Tennessee Valley Authority, which does have nuclear power plants. Of course, Kentucky is not uninvolved with nuclear power because in Paducah, Kentucky the gaseous diffusion plant enriches all the uranium for reactors around the nation.

Today, we have 109 nuclear power plants in the United States in 39 states across the country. At each one of these sites, nuclear waste is being stored that creates a major environmental security and economic challenge for our nation.

Mr. Speaker, the solution that was being proposed was to build Yucca Mountain as a deep repository to store the waste indefinitely. However, last week President Obama withdrew the license application for a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain with prejudice.

Additionally, the Department of Energy asked the Appropriations Committee for approval to reprogram the money from the project for Fiscal Year 2010, essentially stopping all movement on the project.

I might also add that there was an article in Energy Daily today where the former chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the Obama Administration's decision to terminate the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository does not appear to be based on "factual findings" and its "unfortunate" handling of the issue will delay resolution of the nation's nuclear waste disposal problems for years.

Some have said that President Obama is pushing forward with Nuclear Power because of the loan guarantee money he has proposed for building nuclear plants.

My question to the President is—What do we do with all the waste currently being stored at the 109 nuclear sites around the nation? This blue label commission the President has created is going to take years to develop a process and a path forward, when we've already spent billions of dollars and many years developing a state of the art facility that could accept waste in the next few years.

Because the government's plan was to take care of the material after the Yucca Mountain facility was completed, the utility companies paid the federal government to care for this waste, but as a result of the government's failure to take the waste, the utilities have recently been filing lawsuits against the government to recoup costs associated with having to store the waste at their own plant sites.

Additionally, two attorney generals—Washington State and North Carolina—have filed lawsuits against the federal government.

A number of court cases have ruled that the Department of Energy is liable for the cost of keeping the waste because of a breach of contract. How much is at stake is anyone's guess, but the industry has put the number as high as \$56 billion.

Nuclear power is essential to our energy portfolio, which at this point in time is very important to Americans. We simply cannot afford to do without nuclear power.

I urge the House of Representatives to tell President Obama to stop playing politics with out nation's energy future and finish Yucca Mountain to ensure that Nuclear Power continues to create jobs and provide electricity.

#### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JACK MURTHA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero, my friend, the late Congressman John Murtha. During the time of his memorial services and the special order hour that was rendered on this floor, my statements were not able to be submitted because I wanted to speak directly on the floor in his honor.

John Murtha was of course a husband, a father, a loved one, a Marine, and a patriot. What we loved most about John Murtha was his love for the United States military, unwavering and always steadfast. He was a family man that loved his family, and a Congressperson that loved his people. Those he represented were so very important in his mind and in his heart.

He came to this floor and to this House tall and recently from battle, having served in the Vietnam war on several occasions, knowing what it is to have been shot at and to be in battle on behalf of your Nation. That true lesson gave him a cause for life, and the cause for life was to be able to fight for the men and women of the United States military.

But he did not stop there. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense on the Appropriations Committee, he fought for the families of the United States military, the wives and husbands and the children. He fought for a better quality of life in health care and housing. He fought for better standards, if you will. And yes, he recognized the importance of leave time, R & R coming out of battle. And there was no greater champion during the midst of the Iraq war, the most recent war, who fought to give relief to the soldiers on the battlefield who were doing tours of duty one after another.

He was a man of courage. He didn't step away from a fight. But he also was a friend. And if he gave you his word, he would fight on behalf of your constituents as he would fight on behalf of his. In fact, Mr. Speaker, he was an American's American, all-American. And if it had something to do with bettering the lives of Americans, you can be assured John Murtha was there.

He took a very tough stand just a few years ago. The eyes of those who knew him as a champion of the military fighting for their cause, standing alongside of them, wondered what happened when he stood up with his eloquent voice, steady voice, and spoke about the Iraq war, calling for the soldiers to come home. That is courage,