

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that millions of Americans are waiting desperately for Congress to act on health care reform and higher education reconciliation legislation. As Chair of the Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness Subcommittee, I call on my colleagues in the House to put the uninsured and our students and families first. The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, known as SAFRA, H.R. 3221, which we passed in the House last September, must be included as part of the final health care reconciliation legislation. SAFRA makes the single largest investment in college financial aid in history. It's bigger than the GI Bill. It expands accessibility and affordability in higher education by investing tens of billions of dollars in Pell grants, building a world-class community college system, strengthening early educational programs, and making landmark investments of \$2.55 billion in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, tribally controlled colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues in the Tri-Caucus in urging the House and Senate leadership to maintain the investments for Minority-Serving Institutions in the final reconciliation bill. This legislation is an investment in the "future of our country!"

Through the government's Direct Loan program, SAFRA will make college loans more affordable for students and families.

I urge my colleagues to make the right choice for millions of students, families, and uninsured residents who need our help to improve their lives. Vote for Health Care and Higher Education Reconciliation Legislation.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OWENS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

RIGHT OF PRIVACY WILL BE STOLEN

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. Mr. Speaker, we are told that we must immediately pass this government takeover of health care or there will be health care panic in the streets. Now, we know the real reason this bill is being rushed to passage, even though no one has had time to read it. According to the Speaker, as quoted, "We have to pass this bill so that you can find out what is in it." Let me repeat what the Speaker said: "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it."

After all, it's 2,700 pages long, and it's just too long to find out what's in

it before we vote on it. So now we know, it has to be voted on so it can be read. I guess if Members read the whole bill before they voted, they might actually vote it down.

But there's one thing that we do know that's in this bill, and it is that it steals the right of privacy for all Americans. It will invade people's legal right to medical privacy. The government gets control over everybody's health care information, and it's another reason why we should oppose the bill. The government has no business sticking its nose into people's medical records. It's none of the government's business. The bill creates a health care integrity data bank where the Feds have access to everybody's medical records. Health care information is supposed to be between the patient and the doctor, not the patient and some yet unnamed, anonymous, unaccountable Federal bureaucrat hiding somewhere in this building.

When the government has everybody's medical records, they are at risk for misuse. Giving government bureaucrats' access to people's most private and intimate health information means their health records become public property. People's most intimate private health care information, warts and all, becomes the property of the U.S. Government. The Federal Government grab of health care will eliminate any masquerade of medical privacy.

The 111 new Federal agencies in this bill, that we have yet to read, will be snooping through your records. Talk to your doctor, and the government will know what you said. You've got some type of illness or disease, well, the government's going to know about it. Feeling a bit depressed after a family death and need some medication? Well, the government will even know your mental health issues. Now, is this the kind of information that should be in the hands of Federal bureaucrats, a bunch of busybody bureaucrats bestowed with the task to go forth and do good to the people?

The famous author C.S. Lewis once said, "Of all the tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber barons' cruelty may sometimes sleep, but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end."

□ 1815

See, don't worry, the bureaucrats will boast. It's for your own good that we know this information. It won't hurt too much.

Once medical records are available to the Feds, every government agency will want to get their hands on those private medical records. That's just the way those bureaucrats work. And every American will be required to be a part of the Big Brother health care database.

People won't talk to their doctor anymore about their problems. They'll know somewhere in the deep, dark, dank dungeons of Washington, D.C., a Federal bureaucrat will be reading and perusing their medical records.

This is an invasion of privacy, and it violates the U.S. Constitution. The whole scheme denies individual liberty when the government takes over health care.

Thomas Jefferson even talked about universal health care once. He said: If the people let government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of those who live under tyranny.

When government takes over health care, it will equalize poor health for everybody. The government takeover of health care is not about health and it's sure not about care. It's about government control of our personal lives. And this legislation violates our U.S. Constitution because it steals the right of privacy right from underneath us, all in the name of taking care of us.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman 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 SENATE MUST PASS THE JOBS BILL

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the United States Senate to follow the House's lead and pass the jobs bill. The House passed the HIRE Act last week, and now the Senate needs to send it to the President for his signature. Americans need jobs and we need them now.

My constituents tell me they want Congress to quit the bickering and the partisan posturing and get to work and fix the economy. Wall Street may be doing well enough for the bankers to reward themselves with big bonuses, but folks on Main Street are still hurting.

North Carolina's unemployment rate has been above 11 percent for too long, and some counties in my congressional district are experiencing unemployment as high as 14.6 percent. More than half a million North Carolina workers are unemployed according to the new figures released by the Employment Security Commission.

I've said before and I'll say it again, my top priorities of what we need to be doing are jobs, jobs, jobs. The jobs bill will provide the incentive companies need to put people to work today, giving employers a tax credit for every new worker they hire.

I recently visited with local business leaders at the Erwin Chamber of Commerce as well as the Benson Chamber of Commerce, and they told me that this is the kind of Federal assistance that they need to help jump-start hiring in their communities. I think that's true not only in North Carolina, but across the country, and Congress needs to take action on jobs now.

The centerpiece of the jobs bill that the House passed last week is a hiring tax credit, similar to the one I proposed in my *HIRING Act of H.R. 4437*. The bill would encourage business to invest by putting labor on sale for a limited time, helping small businesses expand and grow.

The bill provides a payroll tax holiday to businesses that hire unemployed workers that is estimated to support roughly 300,000 jobs and encourage employers to keep those workers longer term so they will receive a tax credit of \$1,000 if they retain them.

The jobs bill we passed last week also included another proposal of mine—to support local school construction building by providing a tax credit for Qualified School Construction Bonds that were included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act last year. It will allow the issuers of Qualified School Construction Bonds to receive a direct payment from the Federal Government equal to the amount of the Federal tax credit.

This modification will help North Carolina schools access nearly \$500 million in school construction bonds to address our students' needs and support more than 15,000 jobs just in North Carolina. You can imagine what it would do for the rest of the country.

Last week I visited a school in Franklin County that was being built in my district from the first piece of these School Construction Bonds, and it's amazing to see what it does for a community and how it gives them an uplift.

This provision will create jobs now, building the schools of the future. It's a win-win that makes sense, and I urge the Senate to pass the *HIRE Act* now. It'll be like CPR for our economy, and I hope the Senate will join the House in getting it done.

CORPORAL DUSTIN LEE MEMORIAL ACT

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. Mr. Speaker, recently I introduced H.R. 4639, the Corporal Dustin Lee Memorial Act. What this bill would do is allow the adoption of military working dogs by the family of a deceased or seriously wounded member of the Armed Forces who was the dog's handler.

And, Mr. Speaker, beside me I have the poster of a family from Mississippi whose son was killed for this country, Dustin Lee. He was a dog handler in

Iraq. He was killed by a rocket-propelled grenade, and his dog, Lex, was wounded.

The Marine Corps very kindly, at the funeral of Dustin Lee, carried Lex to be there with his master, and the family, Jerome, the daddy, and the mom, Rachel, asked the Marine Corps to please let the dog stay with them. The dog had two more years of service.

This was brought to my attention. I called a very dear friend of mine, General Mike Regner, who's now in Afghanistan, told him the situation and said, Mike, is there anything we can do to help the Lee family adopt this dog, Lex?

And so, long story short, Mr. Speaker, the Marine Corps contacted the Air Force, and the adoption took place 2 years ago in Albany, Georgia.

I have beside me a photograph taken by the family. Lex, the dog, is looking at the headstone that's got an engraving of Dustin Lee and Lex, and it says, "In loving memory of Corporal Dustin Jerome Lee."

Mr. Speaker, what happened was as soon as they got the dog home, Lex, the German Shepherd, they allowed Lex to sniff the boots of their son, Dustin, who had been killed, and then they took Lex to the cemetery. I've seen photographs of the cemetery. It's a rather large cemetery. And they took the dog, Lex, away from the area, then they let him out and said, Find Dustin; find Dustin. And the dog ran up to the headstone and laid down.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in this effort to allow a family of a deceased soldier, marine, airman, whomever, that maybe was a dog handler who was killed for this country, or the seriously wounded soldier, marine or airman or seaman who was wounded be able to adopt the dog without going through a long process.

So, Mr. Speaker, I again will ask my colleagues to please join us in H.R. 4639.

And before I close, as I always do on the floor of the House, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God, in his loving arms, to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

And, Mr. Speaker, I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for this country. And I will ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama, that he will do what is right for the people of this country.

And three times I will say, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

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.)

HEALTH CARE REFORM IS NOT AN INVASION OF PRIVACY

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago, we heard one of the most outrageous charges I've seen in many, many days and heard in many days around here concerning the health care bill. The notion that somehow the health care bill overrides the HIPAA law that's more than a decade over is foolish nonsense.

The privacy remains for every individual in America under the HIPAA law, and in no way does the health reform bill invade or change in any way the HIPAA law, which provides privacy on all medical records, whether they are with your local doctor, the clinic, the hospital, the Federal Government. Whether you are on Medicare, Medicaid, or whatever program you are in, your privacy is assured by a decade-old law. And what will be before us in the days ahead is a change not in the HIPAA law, but in other sections of the laws pertaining to health care in America.

There is absolutely no truth whatsoever that the privacy of individuals are in any way changed by the bills that we will be taking up in the days ahead.

IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Iran's nuclear program is progressing at a rapid pace, and absent swift action, Iran could soon build a nuclear bomb, putting the United States, Israel, and the entire Middle East at risk. The need for Congress to pass strong and comprehensive sanctions against Iran is urgent.

Iran currently possesses enough low-enriched uranium to produce two nuclear weapons upon further enrichment. Last month, Iran began enriching the stockpile of low-enriched uranium to a level of 20 percent under the guise of needing more highly enriched uranium for medical purposes; yet the truth is that Iran lacks the technical know-how to turn 20 percent enriched uranium into fuel rods needed to produce medical isotopes.

Rather than meeting its medical needs, this step only puts Iran that much closer to having weapons-grade fuel that could be turned into a nuclear weapon. In fact, nuclear experts say this level of enrichment represents 85 to 90 percent of the work needed to produce weapons-grade fuel. Allowed to continue on this course, Iran could potentially complete the enrichment process in a few months at a small facility, according to former IAEA action team member and physicist David Albright.