

Make no mistake: Israel is our ally and friend. The administration needs to confirm that fact with its words and deeds.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Congress is on the brink of passing comprehensive health care reform to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable and high quality care, health care that protects consumers and not just insurance companies. We need reform to rein in these companies and to hold them accountable for discriminatory and inhumane practices, policies like gender rating that force women to pay higher premiums than men just because we are women, and denials for preexisting conditions that can even include a history of domestic violence.

We need reform to change the practice of insurance companies denying children with preexisting conditions or dropping someone's coverage if that person falls ill. We can't put it off. We can't wait. If we do nothing, in 30 years, one out of every \$3 will be spent on health care. If we fail, families will see spending on premiums and out-of-pocket costs jump 34 percent in 5 years and 79 percent in 10.

The American people not only want reform, they need reform. They are asking for reform. We made a promise to the American people to pass health care reform. It's time to keep our promise. It's time to get this done, and it's time to pass health care reform.

NO TRUER FRIEND THAN ISRAEL

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

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, America has no truer friend than Israel. We stand together on freedom, on democracy, and on security. More importantly, America and Israel share the unique ability to trace our roots back to the hopes and dreams of our ancestors. Even before the days of King David and King Solomon, Israel has been the center of the Jewish tradition. Israel is a sovereign nation surrounded by sworn enemies determined to wipe it off the map. Yet Israel remains committed to freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned about the recent counterproductive statements made by the administration that threaten to undermine America's 60-year relationship with Israel. Criticizing Israel for developing its land in Jerusalem is just plain wrong. Directing public demands and unilateral deadlines with Israel while Iran continues its pursuit of nuclear weapons is beyond wrong. It is dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, if America is to be a superpower, we must remain steadfast

when the political winds blow. If America is to lead the world, we must act as a true friend to our ally, the nation of Israel.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a physician out of concern for my Republican colleagues, many of whom seem to be suffering from chronic amnesia or chronic ignorance. When we started talking about the possibility of using this "deem and pass" procedure to finish the job on health care reform, Republicans couldn't run fast enough to find a television camera to complain. Fact check: This procedure has been widely used since the 1930s and was, in fact, used no fewer than 202 times under Speakers Gingrich and Hastert, amounting to 30 percent of the rules put forth by the committees under their leadership.

All this hypocrisy is kind of galling. I hope my Republicans can recover from this amnesia in time to watch the Congress pass a bill that the American people need and want. They do not like the health care system that is in this country. They want reform, and we are going to give it to them.

PATH TO CONFLICT

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my great concern over the recent statements by administration officials regarding Israeli housing construction in that nation's capital city. History warns us that appeasement of mutual enemies is the surest way to destroy alliances and to invite aggression. And yet the rhetoric of this administration is taking us down this dangerous road. Israel has every right to allow construction in its capital city and throughout the West Bank, over which it exercises rightful sovereignty.

The administration seems to have forgotten that Jordan attacked Israel in 1967, not the other way around, and the result was the Israeli acquisition of this land. The Israelis haven't forgotten that, nor have they forgotten the folly of unilaterally giving up the Gaza Strip from which rockets are now routinely launched against Israeli citizens. Imagine the danger to Israel's capital by repeating that mistake in east Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, appeasement all but guarantees an escalation of conflict.

AIDS/HIV

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the HIV-

AIDS epidemic in African-American communities. While African Americans are 12 percent of the United States population, approximately 50 percent of HIV-AIDS patients nationwide are black. Just over the last 6 months, 452 new cases of HIV were reported in Los Angeles County alone. Our prevention strategy is clearly not working for many of our constituents. That is why I support H.R. 1964, the National Black Clergy for the Elimination of HIV-AIDS Act. They sit up on our right in our gallery, and I welcome them here.

This bill seeks to expand and increase programs for HIV education, prevention, testing, care, and treatment in ways that are responsive to the needs of African-American communities. Moreover, this bill recognizes how important faith-based outreach is.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker reminds Members that it is against the rules to refer to guests in the gallery.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, over months of debate over the government takeover of health care, a growing list of terms created by the Democrats have been added to the American lexicon, terms such as "Cornhusker kickback," "Louisiana purchase," "Gator aid," the "doc fix," "reconciliation," "nuclear option," "taxpayer-funded abortions," and now worst of all, "deeming a bill passed," "self-executing" and the "Slaughter solution."

The Democrat House members carp that the American people don't care about the process. After speaking to thousands of Americans about this—not only do they absolutely hate this bill 3 to 1 and feel it will damage America forever, they feel the Democrat Party's arrogance of power is unprecedented in American history.

Mr. Speaker, process does matter, especially when Members of Congress and a President get themselves elected to power on the promise of transparency and ethics, and then stoop to a system of bribes and creative parliamentary procedures to ram through a government takeover of one-sixth of the economy, health care, merely to advance their ideology of incremental socialism, which is strongly opposed by the American people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, it's March. That means March madness. Normally it means hoops and basketball, but, no,

in this United States Congress it means more and more false statements made about health care. The other side of the aisle continues in March madness, talking about socialism, comparing our system to England and Canada. Nothing like it at all. What our system proposes is subsidizing people who don't have health care and small businesses to make sure they get health care and can live truly: life, health, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

They talk about abortion. It doesn't change the Hyde amendment, which has been on the books forever. They talk about procedure, procedure they used. They talk about creeping socialism. There is nothing about socialism. The fact is this country is the last industrialized country in the world to provide health care for its citizens. It's the right thing to do. We will be proud of this Congress when we pass it. I wish it was bipartisan.

SPECIAL DEALS STILL IN OBAMACARE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard about the Cornhusker kickback and the Louisiana purchase. But there are other special deals in the Senate health care bill that are on the verge of becoming law.

In Connecticut, there is \$100 million for a university hospital inserted by Senator Dodd. There is \$500 million in Medicaid to bail out the health care program in Massachusetts. The small State of Vermont gets \$600 million for their Medicaid program. This bill will subsidize New Jersey pharmaceutical companies and will give \$5 billion to union health care plans in Massachusetts and Michigan. It will slash Medicare Advantage programs for every State except Florida. It will exempt Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan and Nebraska from the new annual fee on health insurers. This bill will provide higher Medicare payments in North Dakota and exempt hospitals in Hawaii from cuts.

All of these will become law the moment this House arrogantly "deems this bill passed" to the President. Is it any wonder the American people don't like this bill being crammed through, forced through, and bribed through?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, this week we are closer than we have ever been to passing real, comprehensive health insurance reform for the American people.

Reform is simple. It gives consumers, working families, and small businesses

more control and forces insurance companies to do what is right. With respect to Medicare, it extends the life of the Medicare trust fund and improves benefits for our seniors, including improving the prescription drug benefit.

My friends on the other side of the aisle are not interested in passing real reform for the American people. They want to maintain the status quo in which we see health care spending growing exponentially, more and more families losing coverage, and health insurance companies continuing to raise rates free of any restrictions. And they are okay with allowing tens of millions of taxpaying, hardworking Americans to go on without needed health insurance, the same coverage they enjoy as Members of Congress.

They also want to eliminate Medicare as we know it today. They want to privatize Medicare and give seniors a coupon to go out and shop for private insurance plans from the same companies that have been raising rates and dropping customers.

Health insurance reform is not just about insuring the uninsured. It's about also protecting and improving Medicare. Mr. Speaker, I encourage these reforms.

THE RELEASE OF FATHER LY

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the State Department for finally securing the release of Father Nguyen van Ly. I have advocated and pushed hard for Father Ly's release in the past year, and I'm glad that my hard work has come to fruition.

Father Ly is one of the many Vietnamese citizens who have been harassed for religious and democracy advocacy. He was placed on trial without defense and was imprisoned for almost 17 years for promoting human rights and religious freedom. As a Roman Catholic priest and prominent Vietnamese dissident, Father Ly has become a powerful icon in the ongoing fight for democracy in Vietnam. He is a hero for many Vietnamese worldwide.

While the release of Father Ly is a good start, we still have a long way to go. We as a country must uphold our values and must continue to challenge countries like Vietnam and China on their human rights and religious freedom violations. One day, maybe, my dream then will come true: A free and democratic Vietnam.

□ 1030

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to SPEAKER 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas

and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

HONORING SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1141) honoring the accomplishments of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1141

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor was born on March 26, 1930, in El Paso, Texas and spent most of her childhood on her family's ranch, the Lazy B, located in the high deserts outside of Duncan, Arizona;

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor graduated magna cum laude from Stanford University in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics, and graduated in the top three of her class at Stanford University Law School in 1952;

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor married John J. O'Connor III, a fellow Stanford Law student, in December 1952 on the Lazy B Ranch and raised three children with him in Paradise Valley, Arizona;

Whereas after practicing law in Frankfurt, Germany, and Phoenix, Arizona, Sandra Day O'Connor began her career in public service as the Arizona Assistant Attorney General in 1965;

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Arizona State Senate in 1969 and was subsequently re-elected;

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor rose to many leadership positions during her 6 years in the legislature, including as the first woman State Senate majority leader in the United States;

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor was elected judge for Maricopa County Superior Court in 1975;

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals, the State's second-highest court, by Governor Bruce Babbitt in 1979;

Whereas Ronald Reagan nominated Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981 to serve as the first woman on the United States Supreme Court, which was swiftly approved by the Senate by unanimous consent, with the strong support of Arizona Senators Barry Goldwater and Dennis DeConcini;

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as a United States Supreme Court Justice by Chief Justice Warren Burger on September 25, 1981, commencing her 24 terms on the Supreme Court, a career distinguished by her centrist role and commitment to uphold the law and the Constitution;

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor's support for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment further strengthened her role as a mentor and leader for women of all generations;

Whereas, on August 12, 2009, President Barack Obama awarded Sandra Day O'Connor the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor given to a civilian;

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor has become a nationally recognized leader in the effort to preserve judicial independence through her strong support of selecting judges by nonpartisan commissions;