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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 19, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANA DEGETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, our God, be our helper and protector. This Nation was born out of the dreams of freedom and the enlightenment of human potential. Help us, in our day, to realize fulfillment of the hopes and expectations of Your people.

"Faith is the confident assurance concerning what we hope for and the conviction about things unseen. Through faith we perceive that the world was created by the Word of God, and what is now visible came into being through the invisible."

Lord, our Founders all died in faith. They did not obtain what was promised, but saw it from afar. They were always searching for a better and lasting homeland. Faith is therefore a hopeful pilgrimage to Your presence, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HERGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. There is one group of people we don't talk about enough with respect to the health insurance debate. That is young people. They're the most likely group of people in this country to go uninsured, but they get sick, and when they get sick, they often become saddled with debts that stay with them and their families for the rest of their lives.

With the health insurance reform bill this House will pass that all changes. We have included affordability credits that will help young adults who are at the beginning of their career and earning less income to get insurance. We aim to give people stability by guaranteeing affordable insurance marketplaces for those who switch their jobs, start their own businesses, or seek more education, as younger people are more likely to do.

And maybe most importantly, immediately on passage of the bill, we allow young people up to the age of 26 to stay on their parents' health insurance.

There is nothing more valuable in life than your health, but for far too many young people, protecting their health is simply too expensive.

Let's move forward on health insurance reform for them.

SLAUGHTER SOLUTION

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

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, the Democratic leadership has been pushing the Slaughter solution rule to send the Senate health care bill to the President's desk without a separate House vote.

A vote for this rule is a vote for the Cornhusker kickback, a vote for the Louisiana purchase, and a vote for every other backroom deal in the bill. It's a vote for taxpayer-funded abortion. It's a vote to force Americans to buy from the same health insurance companies that the President has been attacking but at even a higher price.

Madam Speaker, Congress needs to understand that the American people won't be fooled. A vote for the Slaughter solution rule is a vote for the Senate's disastrous government takeover of health care. Vote "no."

WOMEN AND HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Rising health care costs and inadequate coverage burden many Americans, women in particular. It's unfair and it's wrong.

Women can be denied and charged a higher insurance premium than men for just having what's called a preexisting condition. Let me give you an example of what that preexisting condition is.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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In 2006, attorney Jody Neal-Post tried to get health insurance but was rejected. Why? Because of treatment she received after a domestic abuse incident. Her insurer told her that her medical history made her a higher risk, more likely to end up in an emergency room and need care.

1.3 million American women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year, and 85 percent of domestic violence victims are women. We can help the one out of every four women who are victims of domestic violence by stopping them from being victimized again by their insurance companies.

We can protect our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters, and daughters by ending this abusive practice now. Pass health care reform now.

UNCERTAIN CBO SCORE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the preliminary cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office for the health care takeover is \$940 billion. It is bizarre. Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are spinning this number.

How many Americans today actually believe that the number will hold at \$940 billion and will decrease deficits? I doubt there are very few people out there who are willing to count on Congress to actually hold the line on spending. That defies history and reality.

The facts are that even the CBO says this is uncertain, and the CBO has not extrapolated estimates further into the future because the uncertainties surrounding them are magnified even more.

The bottom line is that only in Washington can you claim that Congress will borrow a trillion dollars and somehow save money. The only certainty is NFIB projects this bill will kill 1.6 million jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GUN SHOWS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, this week we learned that one of the handguns used by the Pentagon police shooter originated in a Las Vegas gun show. As this incident reveals, anyone wanting to attack us would best be advised to shop at a gun show. That is because gun shows don't require sellers to have licenses or maintain records. This loophole fosters a Wild West environment where criminals and terrorists can flaunt local, State, and Federal laws just to get their weapons just like the Pentagon shooter.

A recent gun show audit revealed that 74 percent of sellers approached by investigators completed sales to people who appeared to be criminals or straw purchasers. Gun shows will sell to people who are so dangerous we won't even let them board an airplane.

If we're serious about protecting our Nation, we have got to get serious about closing the gun show loophole.

HEALTH CARE POLICE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, if the health care bill passes, the IRS will "verify" that American citizens have "acceptable" health care insurance every month. I say "American citizens" because the bill bars imposing health care taxes and penalties on illegals who will receive health care under this bill.

The IRS will charge fines up to \$2,250, or 2 percent of your annual income—whichever is higher—for failure to buy that government-approved health insurance.

The IRS will need over 16,000 new health care police to snoop around in your bank account. That's more people than live in my home of Humble, Texas. The IRS health care police will have the power to confiscate tax refund checks. They can levy bank accounts, garnish wages, and could put you in jail for failure to pay the piper, for failure to buy those health care insurance premiums.

The health care bill costs too much, it taxes too much, and it invades people's privacy. Now we're going to have the health care police courtesy of the good old IRS.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SCHAUER. No one knows more than me the misleading information and outright lies presented by the health insurance industry to confuse the American people. They have spent over \$300,000 in slick TV ads in my district to do it.

Here's why on Sunday we must pass health care reform. To do nothing, to fail, will guarantee double-digit health insurance premium increases for middle class families and small businesses. I'm on the side of the people, not the powerful insurance companies.

In my district, this new law will enhance the insurance company coverage of over 400,000 people; extend coverage to over 30,000 uninsured people; improve Medicare for 109,000 beneficiaries, including closing the doughnut hole; give tax credits and assistance to up to 167,000 families and 12,000 small businesses to afford coverage. And get this, it will reduce the Federal budget deficit by \$138 billion in the first 10 years and \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years.

It's time to put the American people first.

AMERICAN TRAFFIC SAFETY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the American Traffic Safety Services Association upon its celebration of its 40th anniversary this past year. Headquartered in Fredericksburg, Virginia, ATSSA represents 1,600 member companies and individuals in the roadway safety infrastructure industry and has been the Nation's leading voice in roadway safety.

Recently, ATSSA has committed to reducing American roadway fatalities from the current average of 40,000 to zero through its reauthorization policy Toward Zero Deaths.

Since 2006, ATSSA has trained over 15,000 work zone workers in safety and proper setup and maintenance of work zones, helping to reduce the number of deaths for work zone workers and motorists. ATSSA members also help ensure that travel is as safe as possible.

For the past 40 years, ATSSA has been improving roadway safety, raising awareness of the importance of roadway safety, and training Americans on proper roadway safety. It is my hope that they will continue those efforts for the next 40 years and beyond.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, now is the time to address our health care crisis. Today, too many families are suffering. Too many cannot afford their medication, lack of access to essential care, or can't get coverage because of a preexisting condition. This bill eliminates these tragic situations.

For those who oppose this bill, you will have to return to your districts and explain why you didn't close the doughnut hole for seniors; expand Medicaid funding; reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicare; and increase physician reimbursements. You will have to explain why you voted against investing in community health and prohibiting annual and lifetime limits on plans.

In my district alone in Indianapolis, this bill will extend coverage to nearly 75,000 uninsured residents and will decrease costs for over 200,000 families. And it will provide tax incentives to over 15,500 small businesses to help them provide coverage for their employees.

Passing this bill is the right thing to do.

LISTEN TO YOUR CONSCIENCE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House