

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said the most terrifying words in the English language are, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help." This is exactly what Washington liberals are trying to tell the American people.

The scheme that the government can give everyone free health care is a fairy tale which defies history and reality. The reality is there are real and affordable ways to improve the health care financing system, and Republicans presented 70 such proposals. Proposals like H.R. 3400 will make health care accessible and affordable, covering pre-existing conditions, promoting employer-sponsored insurance, and offers insurance across State lines.

The Pelosi bill will kill 1.6 million jobs according to the National Federation of Independent Business.

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

Citizens can make a difference, like Chuck Stauck of Hilton Head Island, with Ann Bull, Brenda Maxwell, and Lynn Dempsey of Lexington, South Carolina.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my strong support for the health reform bill that we will be voting on this weekend.

This bill is not perfect, but it's a significant step forward. This bill will ensure that a wonderful little girl named Bridget from Marietta, Ohio, whom I met with last week, will never be denied health insurance due to a pre-existing condition even though she was stricken with cancer at the age of 3. It will guarantee that 9,300 other residents in Ohio's sixth district with pre-existing conditions can obtain coverage. This legislation will improve coverage for 365,000 residents in my district with health insurance and extend coverage to 40,000 people who are uninsured.

The bottom line is that we need this reform. Families like Bridget's need this reform. Our economy needs this reform. This is a historic vote, and I'm proud to cast my vote in favor of commonsense health care reform that finally benefits the people, not the insurance companies.

THE FIRST WORD WAS "HOUSTON"

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the United States is positioned to raise the white flag of surrender in space exploration. America is the leader in space technology, but yet there are plans afoot to turn our lead over to the Russians and the Chinese.

By foolishly canceling the Constellation Program and when the last NASA

shuttle flight occurs, we will have no means to transport our astronauts into space. We will have to hitch a ride with the Russians if we want that transportation. And if one of our security satellites needs repair, who's to say the Russians will even let us buy a coach ticket on their space aircraft.

Now even the Iranians have entered the space race. Last month they sent a rat, two turtles, and a worm into space.

Keeping our edge in spaceflight is a national security issue. We can not give that away to anybody. After all, when Neil Armstrong landed on the Moon, the first word was "Houston," not "Moscow" or "Beijing."

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the beginning of the debate of health care reform, my top priority has been clear: strengthen and protect Medicare for our seniors, like Bunny Steinman in my district.

I believe that the doctor-patient relationship is absolutely essential, especially for our seniors. No one, not the government or private insurance, should stand between a patient and the doctor of their choice.

When I talk to seniors in my district, many of them tell me that struggling to cover the costs of prescription drugs—especially if they have fallen into the part D drug doughnut hole—is a real problem for them, and that is why I took the lead in working with AARP to make sure health care reform, this bill, closes the doughnut hole for good. Seniors will see immediate relief on prescription drug prices—a \$250 rebate next year and thousands more in savings in the years ahead.

We have won this fight. This reform will close the doughnut hole and save seniors money. There will be other benefits for seniors such as preventative care, like cancer screenings will now be free—no copays, no deductible. We owe it to our seniors. They paid into the Medicare trust fund. Taking care of our seniors is one of our top priorities. Benefits like these are critical to our senior population in south Florida, my district, and around the country.

I urge support of the bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I know that I am just a country doctor from Tennessee, but the fact that we can't have a true up-or-down vote on one of the most important pieces of legislation this body will ever consider just flat out confounds me.

I decided to do a little research on the issue, and just since the time I've been here, the House has recorded votes on whether to congratulate two college football teams, a college basketball team. There was a vote on a college quarterback. We've even held votes on honoring 10 colleges and universities and named 30 post offices. The House held a recorded vote on whether to pay tribute to Homeland Security Department employees, and just this week, we actually voted on whether or not to congratulate Vancouver on hosting the Winter Olympics. Heck, we've even asked Members of Congress to go on record about the 2,560th birthday of Confucius.

We can vote on all of these matters, but we can't have a vote on health care. Madam Speaker, if anyone can explain this to me, my phone line is open.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, this morning on my way in to the Capitol I experienced a moment of karma. The first song that came on the radio, when I turned it on, was a song from the show "Les Mis" called "One Day More." In that Broadway show, "One Day More" is sung on the eve of an insurrection by French students, many of whom know they are going to die.

One day more today we will be passing an historic piece of legislation that will not take lives. It will save lives; the 18,000 lives that are lost every year because of a lack of health insurance. We will save lives, we will save money, we will save Medicare, and we will save jobs. One day more until we accomplish all of that for our economy, for our citizens, and for our country.

Tomorrow, indeed, will be a wonderful day.

AP FINDS PREMIUMS WILL GO UP UNDER HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, here is what the Associated Press has to say about the administration's health care plan: "Buyers, beware. President Barack Obama says his health care overhaul will lower premiums by double digits, but check the fine print."

"Premiums are likely to keep going up even if the health care bill passes, experts say."

"Listening to Obama pitch his plan, you might not realize that's how it works."

"The (Congressional) Budget Office concluded that premiums for people buying their own coverage would go up by an average of 10 to 13 percent."

The rest of the national media should report the facts about health care, not cover them up.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, for a long time I have started discussions about health care with the phrase, "Setting aside the moral dimension, let's talk about the costs and the need to bring down costs."

I want to come back to that moral dimension. I want to come back to the fact that at the core of that moral dimension is the belief that we look after our own; that if you were attacked by your enemies, we send the best military in the world for hundreds of billions of dollars. If your house catches fire, we will send men and equipment to put out that fire. If an assailant enters your home, we will send men and equipment to look after our own.

But if you're one of the tens of thousands of people diagnosed with breast cancer, coronary disease, leukemia, well, then we're not sure. We might look after you if you have a job, if you can keep that job, if you don't have preexisting conditions, if you haven't committed the sin of getting older.

Madam Speaker, if we are to be true to what is the value of this country, that we look after our own, we will finally join the company of civilized nations and say, Every American, we will look after you; you will not die needlessly, by passing health care reform.

□ 0915

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, I understand that we need health care reform. I have a younger brother who has a kidney disease that put him on dialysis at the young age of 30 and forced him to have a kidney transplant. I have a father who is also on dialysis and struggling to survive. I have a younger sister who has been fighting lupus for over a decade. I also saw how my sister struggled and fought the insurance companies for coverage.

I understand the crushing costs of health care. I understand that we have to fight the insurance companies. But I also understand that abortion is wrong. Last week, I called my brother and apologized to him and told him that I cannot support the Senate health care bill. He told me that he understands, and I thank him for it.

Tomorrow will be a sad day for me as I cast a "no" vote against something I believe we need to prevent: The expansion of abortion, an absolute moral evil.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1030

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas) at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.

PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS
ACT OF 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1192, I call up the bill (H.R. 1612) to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service-learning opportunities on public lands, help restore the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources, train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts, and promote the value of public service, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1192, the bill is considered read.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill is adopted.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1612

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Public Lands Service Corps Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. REFERENCE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or a repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.; title II of Public Law 91-378).

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC LANDS CORPS ACT OF 1993.

(a) NAME AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION CHANGES.—The Act is amended—

(1) by striking "Public Lands Corps" each place it appears and inserting "Public Lands Service Corps";

(2) in the title heading, by striking "PUBLIC LANDS CORPS" and inserting "PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS";

(3) in the section 204—

(A) in the section heading, by striking "PUBLIC LANDS CORPS" and inserting "PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS"; and

(B) in the heading of subsection (a), by striking "PUBLIC LANDS CORPS" and inserting "PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS";

(4) in the heading of paragraph (2) of section 210(a), by striking "PUBLIC LANDS CORPS" and inserting "PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS";

(5) by striking "conservation center" each place it appears and inserting "residential conservation center"; and

(6) by striking "appropriate conservation projects" each place it appears (except in paragraph (1) of section 204(e) as so redesignated

and inserting "appropriate natural and cultural resources conservation projects").

(b) FINDINGS.—Section 202(a) of the Act is amended as follows:

(1) In paragraph (1), by striking "the natural and cultural" and inserting "natural and cultural";

(2) By redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) Participants in conservation corps receive meaningful training and their experience with such corps provides preparation for careers in public service.

"(3) Young men and women who participate in the rehabilitation and restoration of our Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic treasures will gain an increased appreciation and understanding of our public lands and heritage, and of the value of public service, and are likely to become lifelong advocates for those values."

(3) In paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by inserting "cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic" after "Many facilities and natural";

(4) By adding at the end the following:

"(6) The work of conservation corps can benefit communities adjacent to public lands and facilities through renewed civic engagement and participation by corps participants and those they serve; improved student achievement; and restoration and rehabilitation of public assets."

(c) PURPOSE.—Section 202(b) of the Act is amended to read as follows:

"(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

"(1) introduce young men and women to public service while furthering their understanding and appreciation of the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources;

"(2) facilitate training and recruitment opportunities in which service is credited as qualifying experience for careers in public land management;

"(3) instill in a new generation of young men and women from across the Nation, including those from diverse backgrounds, the desire to seek careers in natural and cultural resource stewardship and public service by allowing them to work directly with professionals in agencies responsible for the management of the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources;

"(4) perform, in a cost-effective manner, appropriate natural and cultural resources conservation projects where such projects are not being performed by existing employees;

"(5) assist governments and Indian tribes in performing research and public education tasks associated with natural and cultural resources;

"(6) expand educational opportunities by rewarding individuals who participate in national service with an increased ability to pursue higher education or job training; and

"(7) promote public understanding and appreciation of the individual missions and natural and cultural resources conservation work of the Federal agencies through training opportunities, community service and outreach, and other appropriate means."

(d) DEFINITIONS.—Section 203 of the Act is amended as follows:

(1) By amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:

"(1) APPROPRIATE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROJECT.—The term 'appropriate natural and cultural resources conservation project' means any project for the conservation, restoration, construction, or rehabilitation of natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, or scenic resources.

"(2) CORPS AND PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS.—The terms 'Corps' and 'Public Lands Service Corps' mean the Public Lands Service Corps established under section 204 of this title."