

without politics, is honoring our veterans. We are discussing a resolution honoring the veterans of Iwo Jima, and even that has been politicized, even that has been delayed, even that has been distracted.

Is there anything that you can agree to do with us? Can they not even agree, Madam Speaker, to pass without delay a resolution honoring our veterans without politicizing it and injecting partisanship into it and delay? We are here to honor our veterans. We are here to honor the memory of people who were at Iwo Jima. And instead we turn it into a political debate on an unrelated issue. And for that I am profoundly disappointed.

Mr. OWENS. I yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I have had a chance to listen to my colleague from Colorado take what should be really a glorious opportunity to honor our vets, to honor vets who served in one of the bloodiest battles World War II or this world has ever seen generally, and to start talking about abortion and about the health care bill. I can't believe that they are taking this approach, Madam Speaker.

I had the opportunity just within the last 2 weeks to work with 11 veterans who served in Iwo Jima who were flying there for the 65th anniversary, which we are honoring today. And to stand with those men, who they and so many others just gave everything they had to protect this Nation, was such a privilege, such an honor. The fact that I and our office could play any role in helping them get back there for the ceremony in which the flag was raised was a tremendous privilege for all of us.

To take the time to veer off into health care when we should be honoring these gentlemen for their service I think is a travesty, and I would say that to my friend from Colorado. This is something that is important. These people served us valiantly. Their service is just honored and is so celebrated in Colorado that I just wanted to get up here today, while I am in the midst of the health care debate, to honor them and to thank them for their service.

Mr. LAMBORN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I yield to my colleague from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. My good friend has raised a point. I don't know if he was able to be here at the beginning of this resolution, but we had a wonderful discussion about the tremendous valor shown in Iwo Jima. But this is a discussion also—

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Reclaiming my time from my friend, this hour should be dedicated to the veterans. That is what I say.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1099, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY AVIATORS WHO ESCAPED CAPTURE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 925) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the meritorious service performed by aviators in the United States Armed Forces who were shot down over, or otherwise forced to land in, hostile territory yet evaded enemy capture or were captured but subsequently escaped, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 925

Whereas aviators in the Armed Forces, including pilots, navigators, bombardiers, weapons control officers, and other aircraft crew members, have served the United States with great courage and distinction in every major conflict during the 20th and 21st centuries;

Whereas thousands of aviators in the Armed Forces have been forced down while performing their missions, as a result of hostile action, mechanical failures, or other problems;

Whereas many of these aviators overcame long odds and great hardships to return to their units and resume their service to the United States;

Whereas some of these aviators tried to evade enemy forces, but were captured, and some of these aviators were compelled to endure arduous confinement, retaliation, and even death as a result of their efforts to evade capture or escape;

Whereas these aviators faced the added responsibility of maintaining the secrecy of their escape and evasion methods in order to protect the lives of people who assisted them and other aviators; and

Whereas the need to maintain secrecy initially may have prevented these aviators from being publically recognized for their meritorious service in avoiding capture, in escaping from captivity, or for their efforts to escape: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) aviators in the United States Armed Forces who, as a result of hostile action, mechanical failures, or other problems, were forced to evade or escape enemy capture, were captured but subsequently escaped to return to their units and resume their service to the United States, or were compelled to endure arduous confinement, retaliation, and even death as a result of their efforts to evade capture or escape should be publically recognized for their extraordinary service; and

(2) the Secretaries of the military departments should consider these aviators for appropriate recognition within their branch of the Armed Forces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 925, which recognizes aviators in the United States Armed Forces who were forced to evade or escape enemy capture, were captured but subsequently escaped, or were compelled to endure arduous confinement, retaliation, and even death as a result of their efforts to evade capture or escape. I want to thank my colleague from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) for introducing this measure.

As a member of the House Committee on Armed Services, I am honored to recognize the aviators of the Armed Forces who have valiantly served the United States in every major conflict during the 20th and 21st century. Aviators, including pilots, navigators, bombardiers, weapons control officers, and other aircraft crew members, with fierce courage and distinction face the threat of being forced down each time they take to the skies.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 925 recognizes those downed aviators that have not only miraculously survived unexpected flight termination, but also have confronted additional dangers escaping or attempting to escape enemy capture on the ground. It also expresses the sense of the House that those downed aviators that were tortured or killed as a result of their efforts to evade capture or escape should be publicly recognized for their extraordinary service. So in honor of these men and women who have selflessly served our Nation, many without the encouragement of public recognition, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" to this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I too rise in support of House Resolution 925, which seeks recognition for aviators who, as a result of hostile action or other causes, were forced to escape and evade their potential captors. Every military aviator who begins a combat mission recognizes and prepares for the possibility that hostile actions or other events will compel the aviator to escape and evade capture.

Thousands of American aviators have faced that daunting task. Some overcame long odds and great hardships to return to their units to resume their service. Others tried to evade enemy forces but were captured, suffering arduous confinement, torture, and even death. Except for a few, the specific identities of those thousands have mostly faded from American memory, and many were not recognized for their determined efforts to escape and evade. That is why this resolution is important. These aviators deserve recognition. That is why I call on all Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend and colleague, and the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman.

The previous resolution had to do with the anniversary of Iwo Jima. This is something that would actually go to a number of wars and conflicts that the U.S. Armed Forces have been involved in, but I will focus a bit on a veteran of World War II in terms of the need for this recognition and resolution.

Oddly enough somehow, the Defense Department has overlooked the valiant service of many who were previously in the Army Air Corps, now in the United States Air Force, or in the flying arms of the United States Army or the Marines and Navy and their sacrifice when they have been shot down behind enemy lines and not captured and imprisoned, but actually managed to evade escape, sometimes allying themselves with resistance movements, other times just depriving the enemy of the victory of capturing a downed U.S. pilot, bombardier, airman of any sort.

This first came to my attention when I was approached by a gentleman I have known a number of years in Eugene, Oregon, Don Fisher. And he came to me with a request I hear from a lot of vets, which is, "Hey, could you help me get my service records?" We had the infamous fire in St. Louis which burned up so many veterans' records. And we are often asked to help reconstitute their records, generally for benefit purposes, but sometimes for other purposes. And I said, "Sure, Don." I mean that's really pretty routine. "We can help you with that." He said, "This one isn't quite so routine." And I said, "Well, how is that?" And he said, "Well, I was shot down over occupied France in a B-17. I came down behind enemy lines, and I was harbored by French families who were friendly to the allies. I cooperated and worked with the resistance and evaded escape until D-day." And on D-day he revealed himself to British forces and was first allowed to send a message home. But then when turned over to the U.S. forces, they had questions about whether he really was a U.S. aviator, and he was rather extensively interrogated.

So what he wanted was to get his interrogation files. He said, "I really don't remember everything that happened to me when I was behind enemy lines." He said, "I'm sure when I was a young man I had a better memory. And I would like to have that for my family and myself." I said, "Well, sure. We'll help." It's either still in the depths of some classification system somewhere or it was declassified, so we could never find that file.

But that brought me an interest in him and his organization. There is an organization of what they call evaders. In this case they are World War II. Many of them are becoming quite elderly. They are going to have a reunion in the not too distant future out at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

I took on the task to try to get them some recognition. So this is actually two parts. One is expressing the sense of Congress for admiration for their extraordinary service. And again, this does not just extend to World War II. It would be Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq, Afghanistan, other conflicts and other involvements by U.S. forces. Anybody who has been in this situation.

Secondly, I am recommending strongly to the Secretary of Defense that a special ribbon, award, or medal be developed to recognize these activities and encourage these activities, because there will be future U.S. aviators who will be in the same position. And we want them to know that we honored their forebears, those who came before them who for years hid and operated behind enemy lines and then came back to freedom with our victories.

It is almost exactly 47 years since he was shot down. It's a story that is not totally extraordinary. I know other World War II veterans. But I just recount it briefly. His plane was shot down. They bailed out. He doesn't remember much because they were at a pretty high altitude. He blacked out. The next thing he knew he was hanging from a tree, and the German fighter pilot circled him. And he thought for sure he was going to be strafed. Instead, the German fighter pilot saluted him and flew off.

He then managed to get extricated from his harness, and after that was sheltered by the French, and ultimately became associated with French resistance, and as I say, met the liberators in Paris when we liberated Paris. So this is one of thousands of extraordinary stories and acts of valor by our soldiers.

I just hope strongly that we can get unanimous agreement on this resolution and restrict the debate to the subject of this resolution to honor these people for their extraordinary service, and move on.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, the service performed by aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces is indeed meritorious. They have fought bravely and risked much to take care of our country. Indeed, they deserve the recognition and care for their sacrifice that

this resolution embodies. As members of the military, their health care falls under the TRICARE system, which as Representative SKELTON mentioned earlier in this day, must be addressed in any health care bill before Congress.

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We must make sure that any bill we pass in this area gives them the benefits that they deserve.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY).

Mr. POSEY. I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the sponsors, cosponsors, and everyone in the body who is taking the time to support the heroes that we're discussing today. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind the body, as my colleague just has, that we must keep the TRICARE promised them for life as well. And while we're on the TRICARE/health care subject, I'd like to stress my strong objections to the health care legislation, the unprecedented abuses, and perhaps unconstitutional process through which it's being considered.

The American people are telling us, either in letters or calls, in every poll that they don't want it. Besides the fact of Social Security is unsustainable, Medicare is unsustainable, and only a few doctors even accept Medicaid as it is now. There are other top 10 reasons to reject it.

It raises taxes by over \$550 billion. It adds over a trillion more dollars to the national debt, kills over 2 million more jobs, and drives up the cost of medical insurance; gives the IRS unprecedented power over the lives of the American people; replaces your doctor with Federal bureaucrats to make critical decisions about your medical care; cuts Medicare by more than a half a trillion dollars, and of course Congress is exempt; provides for the largest expansion of abortion coverage since Roe v. Wade, including taxpayer-funded abortions. It will bankrupt States through billions in unfunded mandates; force American citizens to foot the bill for health care for illegal aliens, inasmuch as it fails to include strict enforcement; is the result of a flawed process, having been written in secret out of the view of C-SPAN cameras and filled with backroom deals and vote buying.

We're a Nation of laws. Laws are not supposed to be ignored when they are inconvenient or simply pose a hurdle to achieving certain agendas. We teach our children to play by the rules, but this Congress is teaching them something very different.

How can we expect the American people to obey the laws Congress passes when Congress won't obey its own rules? It is respect for the rule of law that has distinguished the United

States from the banana republics and authoritarian regimes.

Indeed, millions of Americans, including those we're honoring today, have fought and even have died for this country; yet this bill, this process grossly compromises that principle. Clearly, Congress isn't listening to the American people and is once again ignoring their voices.

There is an old political axiom that says any time you promise to take from Peter to pay Paul, one thing usually happens—Paul votes for you. And that is where we are right here, right now today in Congress. This is exactly what ultimately leads democracies to fail, and this bill, if enacted into law, will greatly undermine the future of our Republic, the greatest Nation in the history of the world that these men and women fought and died for.

It has been said democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government; it can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority usually votes for the candidates promising them the most benefits. Therefore, the average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been about 200 years.

These nations have progressed through this sequence: from bondage to spiritual faith, from spiritual faith to great courage, from courage to liberty, from liberty to abundance, from abundance to selfishness, from selfishness to apathy, from apathy to dependence, and from dependency back into bondage.

It is not difficult to see where we are right now on that scale, but what is true is it's frightening. It's frightening that some people think our government is some kind of cosmic Santa Claus who cannot fail. It isn't—and it can fail if we are not good stewards of the gift our Forefathers gave to us. We must not allow the American experiment at representative self-government to fail on our watch.

If our Founders wanted to live like Europeans, they would not have come here in the first place or they would have turned the ships around and headed home. But they didn't. They wanted a land of opportunity, not a land of government-administered, cradle-to-the-grave entitlements.

Americans don't want to go down this path toward future socialism, increasingly losing power to government. Vice President BIDEN said it best yesterday when he said, if this bill is passed, government will "control" health care in America. His words not mine.

No one believes the status quo in our Nation's health care system is acceptable. There are many areas where we can find agreement, and we must move forward to fix those problems. The American people deserve better. Let them know that we know we don't work for Congress. Congress works for them by defeating this bill.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I would like to inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Guam has 12½ minutes. The gentleman from Colorado has 14 minutes.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. I grew up in the forties and fifties, and I remember the men and women that came back from the war, some gravely wounded, carrying those wounds the rest of their lives, and some having survived but survived behind enemy lines. This resolution honors those that fought in so many different ways, and particularly those behind enemy lines and were unable to really be recognized for the extraordinary contributions they made to the war effort. And it's perfectly appropriate.

What is not appropriate is what our colleagues on the Republican side have done with this debate and with the previous debate. We're honoring our soldiers. We're honoring our men and women that have fought. We will soon be debating the health care issue, and in the appropriate time, we should be taking that up. But to somehow demean, to somehow demean the courage, the resolution, and the extraordinary sacrifice made by these people is just plain wrong.

I would ask our colleagues to set it aside. In a few moments we will pick up the health care debate, and then I would be delighted to join you in that debate. But now let's focus on those who have served this country in time of war.

Mr. LAMBORN. I would say that it's always the proper time to talk about issues that impact our freedom, and we have momentous issues here in Congress at times that deal directly upon our freedom.

With that in mind, I would like to yield 3½ minutes to my colleague and friend who is an Army veteran from the State of Michigan (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I commend MADELEINE BORDALLO on the work on this bill, and it does sadden many of us that we have to come here today and talk about an issue that is so pressing, an issue that affects 310 million Americans. And it's hard to find that time to get out and talk about that issue that will take away health care from millions, that will tax health care for millions, that will raid the Social Security trust fund, that will actually cut a half a trillion dollars out of the Medicare budget. But there are things in this bill that I think the other side does not want to talk about that is in here, and that is exactly why we feel compelled to come here to offer amendments at the Rules Committee to get this thing at least where the American people can have some faith that you're going to have an honest debate.

The number of sweetheart and sleazy deals in this bill, the bill that this

Chamber will vote on tomorrow, is sickening. It pits one American against another American. It pits one neighbor against another neighbor, and it happens time and time and time again in your legislation.

If you're a retired UAW worker living next door to a retired tool and die machinist, guess what? There is a special provision where you get offsets for the increase in your premiums for a UAW worker but the tool and die machinists get nothing except a higher tax bill. It's wrong. It was a special provision tucked in this bill.

If you're a senior citizen in Florida, there is a special provision that says your Medicare Advantage stays intact, but if you're a senior citizen living in Ohio or New York or Michigan, guess what? Not for you. You get treated differently. You lose your Medicare Advantage. It's wrong. It's sleazy. It's un-American.

If you're a UAW worker in Michigan, you're going to get a higher tax on your insurance plan. If you're a longshoreman in New York City, you don't pay the higher tax on your insurance plan. It's unseemly, sleazy, and it's wrong.

These are provisions tucked into this bill we can only assume to get to the magic number to pass on this floor.

You know, if you're a banker in Michigan, you no longer, after this bill is passed, will be able to make a private student loan. That is right. But if you're a banker from North Dakota, guess what? You will get to make a private student loan. It's un-American. And each and every one of these sleazy deals ought to be brought to this floor and eliminated from this bill.

We will have that opportunity in Rules Committee. We will see the commitment of this Chamber to be honest and transparent, not to mention the fact that we will stop the Social Security raid to pay for a bill that adds a trillion dollars to the deficit.

And do you realize, Madam Speaker, why the impact of this is so important? Because this administration has had more deficit spending than every other President of the United States combined. It is shocking and it's breathtaking, and the arrogance of this Chamber to bring such an un-American bill with special sweetheart, sleazy deals tucked in and arm-twisting to make it happen is wrong.

I know that the soldiers I served with fought for a unified country, a country that believed in liberty and personal responsibility and limited government. I know that today we ought to stand for that, too, and we ought to ask all of this to come to light and put those amendments as a part of the bill and clean up our act in Congress.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Again, I wish that the Republican side had been able to wait until later this evening during their 2

hours to raise their concerns about health care, but there are some things that merit response in the interest of truth and the American way.

The gentleman before me is extraordinary. This President has deficits totaled larger than every other President combined? No. Actually, yes, we do have a record deficit this last year. Most of it is inherited from George Bush. But it's true, now, that that's a very high year.

But George Bush is the one who doubled the national debt and did accumulate more debt than every other President before him, before the collapse of Wall Street because of the deregulatory agenda of the Bush administration and the Republican Party—every ounce of which I fought on the floor of this House—which brought America to its knees, which dissolved people's savings and 401(k)s and everything else for greedy bankers and investors and others. And the Republicans put that agenda in place when they controlled the House, the Senate, and the White House with their deregulatory approach.

So it's not even factually true. Yes, I'm very concerned about the astounding deficits, and we've got to deal with that, but George Bush doubled the debt. There is a record 1-year increase. It does not exceed even the amount of debt George Bush accumulated. He may be looking into the future, but it's not factually true.

To the gentleman before him who talked about bankrupting people because we're going to give them access to quality, affordable health care, I wish he would tell that to the woman from my district who I talked to who got cancer, had an individual policy, and guess what? She paid her premiums, and when it became time for renewal, the company said, Sorry. We don't renew policies of people who have cancer. Thank you very much for your premiums.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

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Ms. BORDALLO. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Or the gentleman I met in the unemployment office. Yeah, he had rights to purchase his health care under COBRA. But the cost of his health care was three-quarters of his unemployment benefit. His wife was deathly ill. This is a tough guy. He cried in public in that office. That won't happen again if we pass this legislation tomorrow. That gentleman will not be forced to choose between keeping his home, feeding his family, and getting his wife needed health care. Under your plan, that continues, status quo. You guys are the pets of the insurance industry, and you know it.

And then the woman that needed a double mastectomy and they had a special team from her insurance company. That was great. But their job was to

find a way to get her off the plan. They reviewed her history. They found she had been to a dermatologist for acne. They said she hadn't reported it. They rescinded her policy. And a gentleman from your side of the aisle had to threaten that insurance company publicly to get her reinstated. This law will prohibit that in the future.

We need to take on the health insurance industry in America and prevent these abuses, and you guys did nothing about that under your charge, and your proposals for the future will do nothing about that.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded to address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Finally, some spirited debate on an issue that will impact 310 million Americans. The problem with your anecdotal stories is, you are going to say that 85 percent of the system that is working right and having insurance are going to be punished and rationed in health care to fix the 15 percent. That's the travesty. You won't have one tough guy crying; you will have millions and millions of Americans crying for losing their health care.

And on the deficit, to set it straight, the year prior to the Democrats taking over control of this Congress it was a \$270 billion deficit. The year leading up to their takeover of this Chamber, \$160 billion. And guess what? The very next year, \$1.4 trillion. That's your problem. That's your plan. You need to deal with the facts.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. The purpose of this resolution is to honor the aviators who have done such courageous duty for this country. And they have. And I think one of the things they have done because of their sacrifices is that they have always given America a chance to become a more perfect union. And I think the language in our founding documents of working towards a more perfect union suggests that we're a country that's always looking for an opportunity to get just a little bit better. And we now have a bill we will be voting on tomorrow that does give America a chance, not to solve all our problems, but to get a little bit better when it comes to health care.

And I just want to, in the context of an aviator, suggest what that may mean. Let's take an aviator that goes to France, serves in a B-17 like so many courageous aviators did, is shot down, rescued, prisoner-of-war, returns, starts a little business, raises a family back home, survives World War II, raises let's say his daughter, she grows up to maturity, maybe has a kid. He is a proud grandfather like many of these aviators are.

What could happen to his daughter right now in the current situation of the law? What could happen is she could have insurance, she could have a good job, she could be taking care of her family, and then she can develop cancer. And do you know what this side of the aisle wants to allow to continue to be the law of the United States of America? They want to let the aviator's daughter to be able to be canceled in her insurance policy because she develops cancer.

Let's assume the grandchild of the aviator develops diabetes and gets to maturity and wants to go out and buy an insurance policy. Guess what this side of the aisle wants to allow to be continued practiced in America? They, who are going to be voting en masse, en masse, against health care reform, against this step forward tomorrow, they will be voting tomorrow to allow the aviator's grandchild to be denied insurance because she developed diabetes.

Now I question whether American aviators who fight wars proudly think it's really up to American standards to allow the children and grandchildren of aviators to be denied coverage because they developed illness. We don't think that is good enough for America. We think we deserve better. And what we will be doing tomorrow is voting for a provision that will give the families of aviators the right, in fact, to be treated fairly in America.

Now I know many people, they have argued this is somehow a government takeover of health care. I've thought about that, and I can understand people don't want a government takeover of health care. But it is fundamental. What this does is it changes the relationship between Americans and the insurance industry. And that's a relationship, and the rules of that relationship do need to change because we need to give Americans more choice. We need to give them more freedom. We need to give them more protection against some of the practices of the insurance companies. And that's what we will be voting to do tomorrow.

So I say let's honor some aviators. Let's honor their families by giving their families the right to have health care even though they have asthma, even though they have diabetes, even though they have Parkinson's. Whether they are Republicans or Democrats, or red and blue States, all Americans deserve to be able to have insurance in this country. That's what we're going to do tomorrow.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, there are some important, vital, and principled reasons why those of us on this side of the aisle will be opposing the health care plan should it come to a vote tomorrow. And just briefly let me recap these. It raises taxes by \$570 billion over 10 years. It will cost the taxpayers \$1.2 trillion, not to mention the so-called doc fix of about \$371 billion, a massive increase of government spending. It's also a takeover by the

government, a dramatic step away from personal, private coverage and choice to a government-run system that will end up rationing care. It's unconstitutional. There is nowhere in the Constitution that says the government has the power to require every single person to go out and buy insurance whether they want to or not. It fails to adequately address illegal immigrants through no enforceable means of citizen verification. It funds abortion. There's lack of tort reform. It forces Americans out of their current plans. It increases premiums. It will increase personal health expenditures whether people can afford it or not. It bends the curve of government spending in the future in the wrong direction. It constitutes a massive permanent government takeover of the private student loan industry. That's 30,000 jobs right there. It is chock-full of special deals, from the Bismarck bank job to the Louisiana purchase and others. It does not factor in market risks regarding defaults on student loans.

So for all those reasons, Madam Speaker, we should be opposing that bill when it comes, if it comes, to a vote tomorrow.

At this point, I would like to yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague from the State of Ohio who is also a member of the Armed Services Committee that I serve on with him, Representative TURNER.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, while we are debating this bill, Americans are concerned about the pending health care legislation. Americans know that advances in medical research are a strength of the American health care system and should be encouraged instead of restricted by additional layers of redtape.

Unfortunately, this misguided health care legislation would reduce Medicare payments to CAT scan and MRI providers. It also creates a 2.9 percent excise tax on medical device manufacturers. The lowered payments and increased taxes can reduce the availability of new and advancing medical imaging technology. This will inhibit future innovation in medical research and will delay or deny patient access to new and valuable technologies.

Continued innovation that improves patient-centered medicine is vital to the long-term availability of health care services in America. This is just one example of the number of provisions buried in this pending health care bill.

The unintended consequences of lowering payments and increasing taxes will constrain future research and development and hinder our doctors' ability to deliver the best quality care to our patients. This pending health care legislation will end up restricting the innovation and invention which is at the heart of the American economy. And for that reason, I strongly oppose the bill, and we should be debating that bill today.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, could I inquire about how much time we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Guam has 5 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Colorado has 6½ minutes remaining.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. A moment ago, I asked, Madam Speaker, if we could focus on the issue before us, which is certainly a meritorious issue. But apparently our colleagues from the Republican Party want to debate health care so, okay, guys, let's debate health care. A moment ago, the speaker from wherever you were from spoke about somehow limiting the MRIs. You are absolutely right. The legislation does limit MRIs that are ordered by a doctor that owns the MRI machine. There is blatant fraud going on, and there's blatant overuse and payments by the taxpayers to the Medicare and Medicaid program as a result of physician-owned practices, pharmaceuticals, pharmacies, as well as the MRIs and hospitals, and this legislation does limit it. You're quite right. We must limit that kind of overuse.

I've been at this a long time. I was the chairman of the health committee in California in the 1980s when we limited it. I was the insurance commissioner. I've seen these pernicious practices over and over.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague from Alabama, Representative ADERHOLT.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I want to rise today to voice my strong opposition to the massive health care bill that is scheduled to come before the U.S. House of Representatives in the next 24 hours.

Backdoor deals to coerce Members to support the government takeover of health care is something the American people completely disagree with, and they're making their voice known loud and clear. However, the President and the Democrat leadership of this body are forcing us to vote on this bill.

In many countries, people have no free speech. But in America we do. So on behalf of all the families in north Alabama that I represent, I say to my colleagues in Congress, reject this massive takeover of health care that we are to vote on in the next 24 hours.

To make this legislation even worse, no amendment is being allowed to stop abortions from being federally funded. Members of the majority are not even being allowed to bring up a vote on abortion, one of the issues that means most to Americans. Businesses will be crippled with new taxes, and they won't be able to hire out-of-work Americans.

America has never gone down this road, Madam Speaker, the road for government-controlled health care. And never in our history have we forced individuals to actually purchase insurance. As I was walking into the Chamber this afternoon to cast my votes, there were literally thousands of people outside the Capitol. They were shouting their opposition to this bill, and it was loud and clear.

Madam Speaker, these people are still out there, and the message is still the same. And it is loud and clear: No government-controlled health care. Kill this bill.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank my very good friend.

I want every veteran in America who is watching this debate who has at one time or another tried to figure out why it takes so long to get an overdue medal, why they have to wait so long to get a retroactive payment for a disability or PTSD, I want them to remember that tonight, when we try to pass a resolution on Iwo Jima, the Republicans delayed it. When we tried to pass a resolution honoring aviators, the Republicans delayed it. When we are going to try to pass a resolution honoring Cold War veterans, the Republicans delayed it.

How can you expect as veterans to have your medical care taken care of promptly when the other side won't even allow us to pass resolutions honoring veterans expeditiously?

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague from Texas, Representative BRADY.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I thank and commend the gentlelady from Guam for her resolution. We have so many heroes, aviators who have been shot down in foreign countries, defending our freedom and enduring tremendous hardship, even death.

One of those who was shot down over Vietnam, the longest-serving POW in America, Congressman SAM JOHNSON of Plano, Texas, is a friend and a true hero to many of us. He opposes this health care bill because he is worried about the impact it will have on veterans. He believes by taking on a huge new entitlement we can never hope to pay for, at the end of the day we will end up robbing Peter to pay Paul, and we will rob from veterans' health care, which we don't even fully fund today as a Nation. It's embarrassing. And yet we are going to launch a brand new health care bill we can never afford to pay for. He is worried about rationing.

He has seen what happens when Congress has the greatest intentions. They passed this wonderful new GI Bill and updated one, yet never even bothered to put in place a mechanism today. Most of the veterans waiting in our offices are just trying to get the fair benefits this Congress promised them, but

this administration, this government can't deliver. He is worried about the fact that we can't fund health care under this bill.

And I think what frustrates people is we already have a Medicare program that is going bankrupt. We have Social Security not far behind. We don't fully fund veterans for military care, yet we are going to add this new entitlement. Americans, I don't think, are very easily fooled. They know the Democrats in Washington aren't really blameless when it comes to who is responsible for driving health care through the roof. Fueled by labor and lawyer contributions, millions and millions of dollars from them in their pockets, Democrats have for decades successfully killed lawsuit reform and efforts to allow small businesses to join together to buy health care at the same discount the big companies get. As champions of government mandates have driven up health care premiums and union contracts have demanded unsustainable health benefits, Democrats have fought voraciously against reasonable efforts to keep health care costs down. Yet today Democrats in Washington wield this sword of a massive government takeover in order to slay the health care beast that they have been feeding for decades and decades.

So tomorrow, even if the powerful combination of threats, union paybacks, and backroom deals ultimately produce 216 votes, the fight isn't over, and nor are the consequences. The images of Democrats in Washington running from town halls, hiding from C-SPAN cameras, slipping in sweetheart deals and arrogantly ignoring the voices of constituents is also indelibly etched in the public's mind. It is a disturbing picture the American people won't easily forget.

I object to that bill. I will fight it with all my might. It is not the right solution for America.

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Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I would inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Guam has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Colorado has 1½ minutes.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, let me point out that there is a big flaw in the process that we have been following here recently. We have these massive groups of bills that we are supposed to absorb in a 72-hour period which finishes tomorrow, and then we culminate potentially with a vote on a massive piece of legislation reforming one-sixth of our Nation's economy.

And if you look at this bill right here, this is the reconciliation bill, H.R. 4872, the bill reported from the House Budget Committee, 2,310 pages; the two plain-language reports from the Budget Committee totaling about 1,300 pages; and, the amendment in the

nature of a substitute of 150 pages. You add all that together, that is 3,800 pages that we have been given in the last 3 days. I dare say there is not a single Member of this House that has read these 3,800 pages, and that is on top of the original bill of a couple thousand pages.

So we have a process here where we are not really given enough time to absorb and go through these bills, and the American people really deserve better than that. This system has not been followed like we should be doing, and I just regret that. I think that is a flaw in this process.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 925, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COLD WAR VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 900) supporting the goals and ideals of a Cold War Veterans Recognition Day to honor the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the Armed Forces during the Cold War and encouraging the people of the United States to participate in local and national activities honoring the sacrifices and contributions of those individuals, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 900

Whereas the Cold War involved hundreds of military exercises and operations that occurred between September 2, 1945, and December 26, 1991;

Whereas millions of Americans valiantly stood watch as members of the Armed Forces during the Cold War; and

Whereas many Americans sacrificed their lives during the Cold War in the cause of defeating communism and promoting world peace and stability; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the Armed Forces during the Cold War; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to participate in local and national activities honoring the sacrifices and contributions of those individuals.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 900, honoring the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the Armed Forces during the Cold War. I would like to thank my friend from New York, Mr. STEVE ISRAEL, for bringing this resolution to the House floor.

In an age where fear dictated the world's stage, the Armed Forces of the United States of America bravely stood guard to ensure that communism, one of democracy's greatest adversaries, would not prevail. The Cold War Certificate Program recognizes the service of veterans during the period of the Cold War from September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991 in promoting peace and stability for America.

For nearly five decades the United States stood the test of time and proved its powerful convictions in defending itself and the ideals of freedom from the threat of communism.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help the achievements and sacrifice of the Armed Forces during the Cold War be recognized by passing a resolution that encourages the people of our Nation to participate in local and national activities honoring our veterans. I am proud to stand here today to honor the men and the women who stood on the brink of devastating global war in order to bring peace and stability to the world, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of House Resolution 900.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise also in support of House Resolution 900, as amended, supporting the goals and ideals of a Cold War Veterans Recognition Day, and encouraging the people of the United States to participate in activities honoring the sacrifices and contributions of Cold War veterans.

The Cold War was a war between the freedoms of democracy and the totalitarian ideology of communism. It was fought around the world, often in places that were on the brink of slipping into the harsh realities of communism. It was fought by millions of Americans who, as members of the Armed Forces, were at the point of the spear defending democracy whenever it was in peril. Many Americans sacrificed their lives in the long struggle against communism.