

URGING A MOMENT OF SILENCE
FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1119) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all people in the United States should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1119

Whereas it was through the brave and noble efforts of the Nation's forefathers that the United States first gained freedom and became a sovereign nation;

Whereas there are more than 1,471,000 active component and more than 1,111,200 reserve component members of the Armed Forces serving the Nation in support and defense of the freedom that all Americans cherish;

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces deserve the utmost respect and admiration of their fellow Americans for putting their lives in danger for the sake of the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces make sacrifices commensurate with the men and women of the Armed Forces;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces are defending freedom and democracy around the globe and are playing a vital role in protecting the safety and security of all Americans;

Whereas the Nation officially celebrates and honors the accomplishments and sacrifices of veterans, patriots, and leaders who fought for freedom, this resolution pays tribute to those who currently serve in the Armed Forces;

Whereas all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to support our troops and their families; and

Whereas March 26, 2010, is designated as "National Support Our Troops Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad, and their families.

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. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1119, which honors the service and the sacrifice of

the members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad. I would like to thank my colleague from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) for authoring this thoughtful measure.

The men and women of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard are true patriots, not only because they have heard but because they answered the call of duty, the duty to defend our great Nation from threats both foreign and domestic, the duty to protect our immutable freedoms, and the duty to uphold the values that make the United States both a guardian and a herald of peace and justice.

□ 1900

They come from all around us: from big cities and small towns; from the heartland to the coasts; from jobs in farming, industry and technology; from high schools and colleges and universities; and from Wall Street and Main Street. They come from all different backgrounds, from all classes, races, and denominations. They are diverse, yet they share the same sense of duty and purpose. They possess the same courage and fortitude to go and do what others cannot.

They courageously grasp the mantle passed on by those before them, those who gave their lives so others may live free. They understand the consequences and the risks, yet they keep their heads held high in honor and in pride, knowing that the rewards are great, but so are the costs.

They are often asked to sacrifice that which many of us take for granted: a home-cooked meal; a comfortable bed; the embrace of a friend or a relative; and most importantly, safety. They leave behind spouses, children, and other family members, the people that they love the most, so that other Americans, complete strangers, can enjoy the same freedom.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1119 also acknowledges the critical sacrifice families of servicemembers make: the uncertainties and the inconveniences incurred from permanent changes of station, the anxiety and the stress induced by a deployed servicemember, the grief experienced by families and loved members of those servicemembers wounded or killed in action. These families and loved ones also deserve our most sincere thanks.

The moment of silence that will take place on March 26, 2010, on National Support Our Troops Day to honor the men and women in uniform is an undemanding effort, but their service and sacrifice demand our contemplation and our gratitude. So I implore that everyone use the time to recall the sacrifice that they make each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1119.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1119, as amended, which asks that all people in

the United States participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces who are currently serving both at home and abroad.

Service in the Armed Forces during peacetime is a difficult enough proposition; but during an extended period of war, like we have had since 9/11, the courage and sacrifices required of our all-volunteer military are especially challenging. These men and women are working for us all over the globe: on land; on and under the sea; and in the skies above. They are on duty around the clock, every day, 7 days a week, in every month of every year, in all seasons and climates.

This Nation owes the members of the Armed Forces and their families the respect and thanks for their willingness to serve and sacrifice. This resolution asks us to do that by taking a moment out of our own busy lives to pause and in a moment of silence honor our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who are currently serving. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1119 calling for a moment of silence in support of our troops and designation of March 26, 2010, as the National Support Our Troops Day.

As a Nation, we celebrate and honor our veterans and patriots, yet we don't have an official day celebrating our servicemen and -women who are currently protecting our country at home and overseas.

As the son of a World War II veteran and as a former officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, I have the utmost respect for the sacrifices made by our active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines.

Recently, I had the honor of visiting our troops in Afghanistan where I was able to observe first hand the dedication with which they are serving our Nation. I was truly humbled by the sacrifices they are making each and every day.

This resolution honors those troops, and I am proud to have introduced it, continuing a bipartisan tradition in the 9th Congressional District in Michigan. One of my constituents, Alexandra McGregor, contacted my predecessor, Congressman Joe Knollenberg, with her idea of a day to honor our heroes currently fighting on the front lines. Alexandra was a student at Waterford Kettering High School in Waterford, Michigan. She, along with her fellow students, as well as the faculty of Waterford Kettering High School, have observed a moment of silence for the last several years on March 26 in support of our troops.

Alexandra brought this idea to her Congressman and asked him to pass a resolution calling for March 26 to be recognized as a day for all Americans to observe a moment of silence in recognition of our troops. And during the 110th Congress, the body passed such a resolution.

Today, I am honored to keep this tradition alive by bringing this resolution before the House for consideration. I would like to thank the leaders of the Interact Club at Kettering High School, Melina Lopez and Connor Newton, for coordinating the event and for bringing this tradition to my attention. I would also like to thank Chairman SKELTON for his support of the resolution, as well as Zach Steacy and Joe Hicken of the House Armed Services Committee staff for their work in bringing House Resolution 1119 to the floor today.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues for supporting this resolution.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, the service performed by Cold War veterans is indeed honorable and meritorious. We should encourage the people of the United States to participate in activities to honor these brave men and women in uniform. We must give them the recognition and benefits they rightly deserve. As members of the military, their health care falls under the TRICARE system which Representative SKELTON worked on earlier today and which must be protected in any health care bill before Congress. We must make sure that any bill gives them the health care benefits they deserve. However, what happens to them and their families tomorrow? We are going to be voting on a massive health care bill that will affect the health care of our veterans and their families and, indeed, of all Americans.

Something I would like to briefly address is that we have many doctors and physicians in the United States who are opposed to this health care plan. Yes, there is one large organization of about 245,000 members which supports the plan, the American Medical Association; but we have a number of medical plans, including the State associations of Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas, which are opposing the health care plan. And we have many medical national societies which are opposing this plan such as the American Academy of Dermatology, American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Academy of Otolaryngology, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Surgeons, American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics, American Pediatric

Surgical Association, American Society of Breast Surgeons, American Society of Anesthesiologists, and it goes on and on and on. General surgeons, colon and rectal surgeons, plastic surgeons, neurological surgeons, on and on and on. Twice as many doctors in this country are formally opposed to this health care plan as have supported it through the American Medical Association. Twice as many are in opposition, and I think that speaks importantly for what we should consider the medical community's response really to be to this legislation.

At this time I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, every Member of the United States House of Representatives is privileged to serve the people of their districts. I am honored to work for the people of Kansas, the place that has been my home my entire life. Tomorrow it is expected that we will be called to vote on health care reform legislation. While most of the focus here in Washington has been on the politics surrounding this vote, back home they care about what this legislation will mean to them, their families, the businesses they work in or own and, importantly, what it will mean to their children and grandchildren.

For a long time, well before the Obama administration began talking about health care, I have been arguing that we need to make improvements to our health care delivery system. Many folks can't afford the escalating medical costs associated with illness and old age. Folks with preexisting conditions can't change jobs without losing their health insurance, and small business owners struggle to provide health coverage to their employees. I would have welcomed the chance to work to see that these problems were addressed.

I co-chair the Rural Health Care Coalition, a group of more than 100 Members of the House, Republicans and Democrats, who work continually to see that patients in States like Kansas have access to affordable, quality health care. I am extremely disappointed that President Obama and Speaker PELOSI have chosen to go their own way on this issue with no input from those of us who disagree with them on what is best for America.

Many times in this Chamber, I have outlined commonsense things that we could and should do: medical liability reform to eliminate lawsuit abuse that forces the practice of expensive defensive medicine; allowing the purchase of insurance policies across State lines; creating State high-risk pools to address preexisting conditions and provide uninsured Americans access to insurance; encouraging better fitness, diet, nutrition; implementing health information technology that upgrades our outdated health records system and streamlines costs, reduces medical errors and eliminates redundant med-

ical tests; allowing small businesses to pool together to negotiate and purchase health insurance. These and many more could and should be done.

While I know there is much to do, almost none of these ideas are contained in the bill that my colleagues and I will be voting on tomorrow.

I now strongly object to the plan Speaker PELOSI is forcing upon the House. This bill is too big and tries to change too much at once. Instead of working to improve our current system, which the majority of Americans like, this plan will create a massive expansion of government. History demonstrates that government programs are significantly more expensive than estimated. This plan would raise taxes and increase the deficit. It is propped up with budget gimmicks that will greatly expand our deficit.

The bill requires 10 years of tax increases and 10 years of Medicare cuts to pay for only 6 years of so-called benefits.

This plan is the Senate-passed health care bill. It is the same bill that America cried out against in December because it was pieced together through vote peddling and backroom deals. Members who think this plan is good, they should vote "yes." Members who don't think this plan is good, they should vote "no." But this is much too important an issue for the usual deal of politics and cutting deals with backroom promises.

This plan reduces the chance that all Americans will have access to quality care. In rural America, our health care delivery system is fragile as medical professions are caring for an aging population across a wide geographic area. Medicare reimbursement rates determine whether doors stay open and whether doctors and nurses remain in communities. With Medicare cuts, it is likely that more hospital doors will close and fewer doctors will remain in Kansas. The government method of control is through price fixing, which leads to scarcity of doctors, nurses and medical innovation and the advancement of medical research.

Tomorrow's vote will be one of the most important cast during my time in Congress. If the bill should pass, I will work hard in an open and public way to repeal what Speaker PELOSI has done in darkness. Some have said we need to pass a bill because we have to do something, but what I think they really mean is that we have to pass a bill to do something right.

□ 1915

We can overcome the "Washington knows best" attitude. Americans rightly are opposing the Washington, D.C. approach to changing health care, an approach that tramples upon our Constitution, diminishes personal responsibility, and reduces freedom of our children and the prosperity of our Nation.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES).

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a certain amount of outrage tonight because we are debating a resolution that, just to remind this House, expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that all people of the United States should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad. A noble thing, a good thing that we would honor our veterans who day in and day out put their lives on the line for the freedom and safety of every single American. And the minority stands here tonight and brings their politics into this resolution.

Mr. KINGSTON. Will my friend yield?

Mr. HIMES. I will not yield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHAUER). The gentleman from Connecticut controls the time.

Mr. HIMES. I will yield to the gentleman when I have completed my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am appalled that at this moment when we are here to honor our veterans the minority would bring their politics and their misinformation. And though I am appalled, while we are talking about veterans I will not stand here while that misinformation is peddled.

A bill made in darkness, if I might quote my friend on the other side of the aisle. This bill has been discussed for months, for years. For decades this debate has raged. One hundred twenty Republican amendments included in this. This thing posted in the House and in the Senate and now for the requisite 72 hours, and they call that darkness.

Increasing the deficit. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, respected by both sides, has indicated clearly down to many significant figures that this will be the largest reduction in the deficit ever engineered by this House: in excess of \$100 billion in the first years, in excess of \$1 trillion in the second 10 years.

We are hearing the same misinformation about 6 years of benefits for 10 years of taxation. How is this? Shortly after this bill's enactment children will no longer be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions. Shortly after this bill's passage how is this for 6 years of benefits? Our seniors will experience immediately a reduction in the doughnut hole that has forced them in instances to choose between food and drugs. Shortly after passage of this bill, shortly after the passage of this bill young people up to the age of 26 will be able to go on their parents' insurance. Six years of benefits with 10 years of taxation. This is outrageous misinformation made all the worse by the fact that the minority chooses to bring this up at this moment when we are here to honor the sacrifice of our proud veterans.

I yield to my friend on the other side.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Although we haven't worked together on any committees, I know you

by reputation, and I know that your reputation is good and that you are known to be a fair Representative. So one of my concerns I just have to tell you, as somebody who has served in the minority and the majority and oftentimes in the majority felt that we ran roughshod over the minority and that it was the wrong thing to do, but I have also known that when you are in the minority and you don't get to offer, for example, a single amendment on the largest piece of legislation that we've faced maybe since the income tax debate, I would appeal to your sense of understanding why you and I have this discussion going on. Because I support this bill, and I certainly think a moment of silence is the fit and proper thing to do.

I look forward to traveling with the gentleman not just to Iraq and Afghanistan, but actually some of the places where we have World War II soldiers buried in foreign lands. I can tell you they absolutely love Americans as they look at the graves of Americans that are all over the world protecting not just our freedom but their freedom.

So I certainly understand why you are appalled that we are using this as a vehicle to discuss health care. I agree with you. There is a good sense of indignation. Yet I find myself in a few minutes one of these people who will be talking about health care because it is my only opportunity. Because as I understand it, we are going to have 1 hour of debate on two different pieces of legislation, 30 minutes per side. And if you are not directly on the health care committee, you won't have an opportunity to speak tomorrow. That is why, while I support this legislation—

Mr. HIMES. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for bringing the discussion back to its proper topic of the honoring that this House and that the people of America can do for our veterans. I thank the gentleman for that, and would like to note to this gentleman that I spent this morning fighting to make sure that we would vote on the bill in an up and down fashion. And in fact that is what we will do.

I will note to the gentleman that he has had ample opportunity to discuss this over many, many months. But again I thank him for bringing this discussion back to where it should be, which is debating whether and how we honor our veterans.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I take exception to the suggestion that this process has been conducted in an open way. We have 3,800 pages of materials right here that we have been given in the last 3 days. Who on earth is able to go through 3,800 pages? That consists of the bill itself, H.R. 4872, 2,300 pages; House Report volumes 1 and 2 from the Budget Committee report explaining the bill, that adds up to 1,300 pages; and the amendment in the nature of a substitute to the Reconciliation Act, 150 pages. That is a total of 3,800 pages that we have been given in the last 72 hours. What kind of process is this?

I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

Mr. SOUDER. In an earlier bill where I was talking about the veterans health care parts of this bill as we paid tribute to Cold War veterans, Chairman ANDREWS and I had a follow-up discussion about two of the details which shows the difficulty of this bill. He believes that the partial fix that was done this afternoon on TRICARE was not needed and that it was duplicative. We believed it was absolutely needed. Members who read the same bill can come to different conclusions. Now, my friend from New Jersey actually wrote much of the bill, he is a very detailed guy, and I appreciate his knowledge. But we feel that we needed the TRICARE fix.

On the question of the second home, I said \$30,000 and used an example of \$200,000. By not going to \$230,000, I have missed the tax portion. And he also agrees that it depends on what your income is. If it is \$80,000 or above, the example I gave of somebody who had a mobile home whose lot is now worth \$230,000 and if they have a job as a teacher and work at a gas station they will have \$80,000 in income, which means they will now have taxes on a home that they never thought were taxes. So there were disagreements. You can look at the same question, but clearly it is a tax increase on veterans.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the Chair how much time we have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Guam has 8½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Colorado has 9 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. I have the great privilege and honor of representing Travis Air Force Base and the more than 20,000 active service men and women on that base. Their mission is one of supplying the necessary equipment and armaments and food and other materials to men and women that are in the front zone of fighting. They also provide extraordinary support for humanitarian efforts, most recently those in Guam. And they may very well be heading to Chile on missions there. So I honor them and call our attention to their work.

Again, I remain really saddened that my colleagues on the Republican side have used this time, and instead of honoring the work of our active duty men and women in the Armed Forces, they are using it to debate a bill of which there is plenty of time.

Most recently the discussion about the availability. The Senate bill has been available to all of us since Christmas Eve. Three months to read the Senate bill. And that is a large portion of those documents that you have there on your table. The House bill has been available since November 6. So those two bills have been available to

be read all that time. There are about 156 or 160 pages of corrections to the Senate bill that are before us. There are explanations, to be sure. And I suppose all of us would like to see the explanations from the committee. That has been available to us also.

This was not done in the dark of night. This has been done over a long period of time. And that big stack of material before you has been available. And perhaps you have not had or taken the time to read it, but if you had, much of the misinformation that has been presented this evening you surely would not have put before this House because it simply is not reflected in the bill. Specifically, the issue of the veterans. The veterans are fully protected in the legislation. TRICARE is fully protected.

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

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. By the way, there are about a million and a half veterans out there that will be able to get medical insurance through the various programs that are created by this legislation. They presently are not in the Veterans Administration process for many, many reasons. They will have access to it.

So on the whole, A, we have had time to read these bills; B, the corrections that are in the reconciliation process, which will be voted on along with the Senate bill, have been around for some time, for 72 hours minimum, and in many cases over 3 and 4 months. So read the bill.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, let me highlight several sweetheart deals in the health care legislation that I think are a real problem to me, many of my colleagues, and many Americans. We have the Rocky Top Vote Swap. Tennessee is quite familiar with the runaway costs associated with government-run health care as seen with TennCare. Payoffs from Washington, though, have a way of smoothing things over. So the bill includes tens of millions of extra Medicaid dollars for the State of Tennessee.

The Big Sky Buy-Off. A special provision was inserted in the Senate bill recently that provided taxpayer-funded health care to only certain Montana residents.

U Conn. As part of the original health care bill, a mysterious provision was inserted providing a whopping \$100 million in a cryptically worded provision for a new medical facility. After some investigation, it was discovered that Connecticut was the lucky recipient of this taxpayer dollar giveaway.

The Bismarck Bank Job. A helpful provision was inserted in the reconciliation package. While most American banks will be cut off from subsidies for private student loans when the government takes over the student loan industry, which is part of the bill we will vote on tomorrow, banks in North Da-

kota will still see the cash rolling into their banks.

PhRMA'ing for Favors. As has been reported, Democratic staffers were huddled behind closed doors over the last few weeks with PhRMA lobbyists as they crafted the final bill. Coincidentally, PhRMA has now decided it will run expensive TV ads in the districts of 38 wavering Democrats.

Cowboy Cash. North Dakota and Montana, along with Wyoming and South Dakota stand to get extra Federal cash for their States' Medicare rolls.

And the Louisiana Purchase that we have all heard about. Three hundred million dollars extra for Medicaid payments to one State is still in the bill. That is just yet one more reason we should reject the health care bill tomorrow.

At this time I will yield 3 minutes to my colleague and friend from the State of Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As a member of the defense committee who represents four military installations, someone who has gone to Afghanistan and Iraq five times, and never without going to Ramstein to visit our logistics crew over there, at Landstuhl Hospital to visit people in the hospital, as well as to go to Walter Reed Hospital here in Washington, I feel very strongly that this resolution is a good resolution and should be debated and voted on.

I have to tell you that at only 20 minutes per side, that sort of gives a signal to veterans also what the majority thinks about veterans. This is a good bill and I'm going to support it, but it saddens me that this is the vehicle in which we're going to be allowed to talk about health care.

But as I talk to the veterans of my four military installations back home and the ones who are retired in those areas, they're saying this is a horrible health care bill. I did not go to Iraq, I did not go to Vietnam, I did not fight in World War II for you to take away my freedom in one piece of legislation.

I've got to remind my friends of what the Speaker said just a week or two ago. I quote directly Speaker NANCY PELOSI: "We need to pass this bill so you can find out what's in it."

□ 1930

Does anyone deny that is a direct quote from the Speaker? That is exactly what Speaker PELOSI said.

So when my veterans back home are concerned, along with the middle class taxpayers, of what's in this bill, I think they have that right to have some apprehension. We do need full debate. Keep in mind that health care is one-sixth of the economy, \$2.4 trillion.

This is a major government intrusion into it, not that the government should not be in it at all. But we are totally changing the balance of it, and yet we're not having a full debate. Why not have just several hours but weeks? Can

you say to me with a straight face that would be unreasonable? We need to have hours and hours of debates.

The Republican Party has offered 99 amendments, and how many will be accepted? Zero. No ideas from the Republican Party. And shutting out the Republican Party might be great Democrat politics, but you're shutting out the people that we represent.

And I will point out, as you know, you don't need one single Republican vote. If this bill is so good, why did you not pass it in August? You didn't pass it because you didn't have the Democrat votes. The reason we're here on a weekend is because you don't have the Democrat votes. Now, I don't know what the President was here today doing. I don't know what he gave away. We know about the Louisiana purchase. We know about the hospital in Connecticut. We know about the Gator aid for Florida. We know about the Cornhusker kickback in Nebraska. And we found out now that student loans are being put in the health care bill. How did that get in there? The federalization of student loans is now in the health care bill. That doesn't make sense at all, and it doesn't make sense that in North Dakota they're exempted from the law.

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

Mr. LAMBORN. I will yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. I've got to say this on behalf of veterans; they're not comfortable with this TRICARE wording. In the dark of the night or in the light of the day, unintentionally or intentionally, the health care bill does put TRICARE on the chopping block. Now, it might be okay with the fig leaf amendment that we passed today in lots of words, but that's what happens when you ram something through.

The \$523 billion in Medicare cuts, how does that affect seniors? I don't know the good and the bad and the ugly of it. I think it's worth more than 72 hours to debate. If this is such a great bill and it's going to last such a long time, why not give it more time to debate?

The impact of hiring 16,000 new IRS agents. I don't think Democrats like the IRS any more than the Republicans. I agree that the IRS is necessary. They do a vital job. But 16,000 new IRS agents with all kinds of new powers to look into the businesses and households of America? That scares me. That's why we plead to you. Let us have time to look at the bill carefully. We don't need to do it on a Sunday afternoon.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I want to thank the gentlelady from Guam for doing such an excellent job in honoring our veterans and honoring our soldiers by managing legislation that truly deserves our honor and respect to the

Cold War veterans, many of whom are unsung heroes. I offer my greatest tribute as we honor the aviators and those marines who sacrificed their lives as well.

It is interesting, when there is nothing good to say about something that is good, then my friends on the other side of the aisle begin to engage in misrepresentations and fairy tales and exaggeration. So I'm reminded of the words of Thomas Edison that many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. And that's what they want us to do—to give up.

I appreciate the breadth and depth of the representation and the interest that is appearing on the east steps of the Capitol. This is what a democracy is about. But when I see words like "socialized medicine" and "ObamaCare, a lethal injection," it is important to realize that people have been so provoked because of misrepresentation and untruth.

They don't understand that there will be \$1.3 trillion in cutting the budget; that, in fact, small businesses will get tax incentives and subsidies to help insure those hardworking Americans who work for small businesses, the engine of our economy; that our young people who, in fact, have gone on without insurance, our college students, our graduate students, the best of America's future suffer without health insurance, like a young woman that I know that is in between jobs and cannot get health insurance because she happens to be over the age of college and cannot be on her parents' insurance.

What are we doing if we're not investing in our children? All of the chatter and confusion says nothing about the value of this bill. All of the misrepresentations about special interests, when many of that is not done, but much of that is helping Americans. It's helping the States who've been donor States. It's helping those States who are poor. It's helping those States who have suffered from a devastating disaster like Hurricane Katrina. What is wrong with America standing up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

And so it is important to note they want us to give up, and as was recounted by one of our major leaders in the Congress comparing this to a basketball game when the clock has run out and people are continuously trying to foul the winning team, putting obstruction in the winning team's place. But you know what we're going to do in this March month? We're going to keep on dunking that ball, as this great leader has said. We're going to put that ball in the basketball hoop and we're going to win that game, because we've got to stand up for those who are not out there on those front steps. We've got to stand up for the veterans who understand that TRICARE will be preserved. And what a miserable collapse the veterans health care system was just about 2

years ago when we had to come to this floor and fight—

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

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield 1 extra minute to the gentlelady.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. When we had to come to this floor and provide extra money for those veterans to shore up this health care system, or the many veterans that I work for in my office that come and ask about helping them get their benefits because it's a logjammed system that we're continuing to try to work on.

So don't use this argument about the TRICARE. We're protecting the TRICARE system, as well as the veterans hospitalization system. But those veteran families and their extended family members who are uninsured or the 45,000 who die every year because they have no insurance, this is the toughest health insurance reform that we've ever been able to do.

And I can tell you, my friend, health insurance companies, you need to be tough with them, because all they can see is the dollar and the up and up and up of the premiums. And I want to say enough is enough.

So this is not a lethal injection. This is a lifeline. This is a rope being thrown into the water to drag those out who are drowning because they can't get any health insurance. And this is not socialized medicine, nor was it with Medicaid or Medicare or the veterans system. It is helping Americans using their tax dollars in a wise way.

We need to move forward on health care reform and dunk the ball and win the game.

Mr. LAMBORN. Republicans believe that we can have health reform, and we should, without a government takeover of one-sixth of our Nation's economy.

Republicans introduced over 70 bills that offer free market solutions to health care reform, and one of those is H.R. 3400. H.R. 3400, a bill I have co-sponsored, is the Empowering Patients First Act. It does three things.

It gives access to coverage for all Americans. It does this in large part by extending the tax deduction, which right now unfairly only goes to corporate employees, and says every American can have this tax deduction. That lets you have your insurance and not be dependent on your job to provide it for you. That way you can take it with you. It becomes portable. You have less to fear from preexisting conditions.

Coverage will be truly owned by the patient under H.R. 3400. The individual market is expanded. Things like pooling mechanisms, where national associations can form together, use national economies of scale to form membership plans and accounts to pool across State lines. Right now that is not allowed under law. And reining in out-of-control costs. We can do this for instance, through reforming the medical liability system.

The bills in front of us that we may vote on tomorrow do nothing about medical tort reform. That's a huge driver of defensive medicine and needless costs in our health care system. But if we, for instance, establish administrative health care tribunals, known as health courts, in each State, added affirmative defense through provider-established best practice measures, or encourage the speedy resolution of claims, we would do things to cut down on the cost of defensive medicine.

So Republicans have solutions that, unfortunately, have not been allowed to come to this floor for a vote. We also have about a hundred amendments being heard, as we speak, over in the Rules Committee, and I doubt that a single one of those rules will be labeled in order for voting on the floor tomorrow.

Let me conclude by reading some lines out of today's Wall Street Journal. They have summed it up better than anyone can. This is the lead editorial in today's Wall Street Journal:

"A self-governing democracy," it concludes, "can of course decide that it wants to become this kind of superwelfare State. But if the yearlong debate over ObamaCare has proven anything, it is that Americans want no such thing. There is no polling majority or any bipartisan support, much less a rough national consensus for this expansion of government power. The election of SCOTT BROWN in Massachusetts for Ted Kennedy's seat, of all things, was as direct a referendum as you could have."

"So if the health bill passes in the House, it will only do so the way it did in the Senate, with a narrow partisan majority, abetted by political bribery and intimidation, budget gimmicks and procedural deceptions."

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Would the Chair give me the time that we have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Guam has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state for the record, House Resolution 1119 states that we should honor our armed services with a moment of silence, and I hope that my colleagues will seem fit to support this very fine resolution.

I would also like to go on record to thank Mr. LAMBORN of Colorado for managing the bills and resolutions this afternoon with me.

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. 1119, 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. Mr. 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.

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ARE MEN THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE?

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, in his introduction to the epic "The Ten Commandments," Cecil B. DeMille asked the question, "Are men the property of the state, or are they free souls under God?" Congress will authoritatively address this question tomorrow. Will the Federal Government order Americans to purchase products that the government thinks that they should buy and fine or imprison them if they refuse? Will it empower a new health czar to make decisions over the most minute details of every American's health care? Will it set loose 16,000 new IRS agents to enforce its edicts?

This vote transcends any questions of health care. It introduces a proposition that will fundamentally alter the relationship between the Government and the people for all time. I pray that my democratic colleagues, drunk as they may be with power, will consider carefully the implications of the action they are about to take.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, here we are a day away from a very big vote. The bill has been read, the details have been debated, the amendments have been offered, the fights have been fought, the misinformation has been peddled. But now we are left with the facts. We are left with the facts that the bill we are voting on tomorrow will, according to the Congressional Budget Office, reduce the deficit of this Nation by over \$100 billion in the first 10 years of its existence and by over \$1 trillion in the second 10 years of its existence. This bill contains every reasonable and good idea that has been offered by credible health care economists for how to bring down the costs of our health care.

Is there risk? Of course there is risk. This body may choose not to do some of the things it has said it will do.

Some ideas will work. Some will fail. There is risk. But to try to do nothing is the biggest risk of all.

We have spent so much time on the economics and the cost, and now I think, as we reflect on the last day, that we return to the moral question associated with health care reform. At the core of the moral question, to my way of thinking, is the fact that this Nation protects its own, that we look after each other, that we won't let you die.

I need to tell you about my friend, Dave Roberson. He was a good, close friend, and a fellow parishioner at the First Presbyterian Church at Greenwich. A volunteer, an activist, a former NASA engineer, a kind, thoughtful smart man who lost his job at NASA 6 years ago. And with that loss of his job, he lost his health insurance.

Dave had a heart condition. He didn't see a doctor for 6 years. He got no advice. He got no help. And 2 weeks ago, driving home, he lost consciousness for reasons that they believe had to do with his heart condition and drove his car into a wall and was killed. We buried Dave Roberson today, a good, fine man whom we did not stand for, whom the health care system failed. Dave worked his career so that his Nation could explore space. But his Nation, our country, couldn't do what was needed to keep Dave on Earth.

And by the way, Dave is no lone individual. One hundred twenty-three people will die every single day because they don't have adequate health care coverage, 123 Americans every day like Dave Roberson. We don't do this. If our enemies attack, we spend billions to send men, women, and equipment to defend the lives and the values of this Nation. If your house is on fire, we send men, women, and equipment to put out that fire. If you're assaulted, if an intruder enters your home, we don't ask, we send police, equipment, the resources to save your life. But if you get breast cancer, if you have diabetes, if you get leukemia, we don't make that same promise. We might help you if you have a job and can keep that job, if you're not too old, if you're not maybe a woman with a history of domestic violence, we might help you. But we didn't help Dave Roberson. And we don't help the 123 Americans who die every day because we do not live true to the promise that we look out after each other. On this we can do better.

And it's not just the Democrats who think so. It is 250 organizations, including the AARP, the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the Catholic Health Association, the Consumers Union, the League of Women Voters, the list goes on and on of organizations who say, we can do better, we can live more true to the values of this Nation.

I hope that each and every one of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle when the vote comes tomorrow will say, we'll send the military. We'll send

the fire. We'll send the police to save your life. And now being true to the values of this Nation, we will save your life if you get sick.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of the United States of America was written by our Founding Fathers to limit the size of government. The Constitution sets limits on what the government can do for us and what the government can do to us.

The people decide what is best for themselves and our country, not the all-seeing eye of the Federal Government. James Monroe said in 1788 at the Virginia convention to ratify the United States Constitution, How prone all human institutions have been to decay, how difficult it has been for mankind in the ages and countries to preserve their dearest rights and best privileges, imperiled as they were by an irresistible fate of tyranny.

Now the tyrannical all-seeing eye of the Federal Government is trying to take care of us. The government doesn't think we know how to take care of ourselves, so it must come in and take care of us. We are to be made subjects incapable of taking care of our own health. Nowhere in the Constitution is the Federal Government given any authority to control the people's health, not one place.

George Washington didn't fight the redcoats so people could be the subjects of the new, oppressive, and untrustworthy Federal bureaucracy. The colonists didn't die in the War of Independence so a health care czar could rule over us.

The government takeover of health care is unconstitutional. And if this bill passes, the Texas attorney general and 30 other State attorneys general are prepared to sue the Federal Government for an exercise of unconstitutional action because this bill is unconstitutional. It forces Americans to buy health insurance against their will. And if people don't buy the insurance, they will face fines or go to jail. And on top of that, it forces people to buy government-approved health insurance. That means the Feds tell people they have to buy the Federal-approved insurance, and it tells them what insurance they must buy. That's not allowed under any stretch of the law or imagination. That is unconstitutional.