

abortion that President Obama signed is meaningless. This order states that no public funds will be used to pay for abortions in the health care insurance exchanges set up under the plan. But an executive order cannot change law, and the bill President Obama signed into law on Tuesday allows taxpayer money to fund abortion.

Directing taxpayer dollars to fund abortion is a violation of many Americans' deeply held beliefs, and we should not be forced to compromise our core moral principles as a means to health care reform.

This new law represents a retreat from the Hyde amendment, which has banned the use of taxpayer funds for abortions since 1976.

Republicans and Democrats in the House have agreed on little during the health care debate. The one amendment that passed with bipartisan support was eliminated in the rush to pass health care reform using reconciliation.

Expediency replaced principle.

ISRAEL AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise after the recent public statements made by Vice President BIDEN and Secretary Clinton on the subject of new Israeli housing in east Jerusalem.

While it is important for our country to play a mediating role in the Middle East peace process, it is also important that any disagreements be dealt with as friends would deal with disagreements, behind the scenes first and working them out in private before they are aired in public.

The President and this administration clearly care deeply about peace in the Middle East and made it a priority for our country to play an active role in these negotiations, and I applaud the emphasis. However, using these tactics, which distance us from a long-time ally, doesn't serve the purpose of furthering these peace negotiations.

When two allies with such a strategically close relationship as Israel and the United States air their disagreements in public, whatever those disagreements are, it puts all parties in an awkward position, including the Palestinian leaders who do want to engage in a peace process with Israel.

I think airing these disagreements in public was a setback to the peace process. Instead, as we go forward, we should draw on the special relationship that endures between the United States and Israel to move forward.

ISRAEL AND AMERICA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, from its beginning, Israel, the lone free and

democratic country in the Middle East, has had to fight for its very existence against enemies on all sides.

Historically, the only language its neighbors spoke was the voice of violence.

In the war of independence, Israel fought Lebanon and Syria in the north, Iraq and Jordan in the east, Egypt to the south. Now, over 60 years later, not much has changed. Israel still is the target for annihilation by Hamas in the south and Hezbollah in the north. In the pathway to the east lies Israel's greatest threat, Iran, who celebrates an anti-Israel day every September.

Israel's enemies are bent on the destruction of this nation and her values, such as democracy, freedom, justice, liberty. These are also American values. Those who kill innocent Israeli citizens also seek the murder of the American way of life.

We should make it clear to the world that the beacon of democracy in the Middle East, Israel, is our friend and our ally, and together we two nations are a force to be reckoned with.

And that's just the way it is.

SISTERS NETWORK

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute and congratulate Sisters Network, a national organization of African American women who have come together to stamp out breast cancer. Proudly, they will hold their first walk against breast cancer and seeking a cure this April 10, 2010, in Houston, Texas. They will be holding their national convention. Karen Jackson is their president and a survivor. I have had the pleasure of speaking to these wonderful women who go and reach out to others to help them secure an opportunity for preventative care.

I am glad we have just recently passed a health care bill that will provide mammograms and preventative care for women so that we can stop this horrible disease. And the only way we can do it is to be preventative, to have testing, and to ensure that you are seeing a doctor.

We will be walking to save lives on April 10, but this health care bill will be a partner in saving lives and helping these women who suffer. Now they will have a reason to know that there is hope.

OBAMA MORATORIUM

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in 2008, when gas prices reached \$4 a gallon, Republicans took to this House floor demanding that Congress take action.

The good news for Americans is that Congress responded by lifting the ban

on offshore drilling, opening up over 500 million new acres to energy production.

The bad news is that immediately when President Obama took office, he completely halted this potential production. Now his Interior Secretary has announced a new Obama moratorium, a delay on leasing any new offshore areas for drilling until 2012.

That means that Americans will have to wait 4 years for a plan to open up new areas for offshore energy production. That means that no new drilling will occur during President Obama's entire term in office. And this means that Americans will lose out on new jobs while this administration keeps dragging its feet.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end the delays and say "no" to the Obama moratorium and implement the 2010 plan to expand offshore drilling.

THE GOALS OF NASA

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, Lori Garver is the number two administrator at NASA, who is a political appointee that has been given credit as the prime author of the program to cut the Constellation.

In a speech in Maryland a fortnight ago, she said, "NASA has changed their goals," and seemed to indicate that the new goals of NASA will be to end poverty and hunger, create world peace, education, save the environment, and, in a note of bitter irony, create new jobs.

It would seem that Ms. Garver perhaps should look at her door and realize that, since 1958, the goal of NASA has been space: to be first in space science, first in space exploration, first in man flights. And the Constellation program is the program that works, with an emphasis on human safety to accomplish this.

Ms. Garver's plan would cede control of the heavens to the Russians and the Chinese, probably for most our lifetime, and has the unintended consequence of hurting education, aerospace, ironically enough defense, and jobs.

Mr. Speaker, we can and should do better.

RETIREMENT OF BERT V. MASSEY II

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a small tribute to one of the finest public servants in all of Texas.

For over 25 years, Bert V. Massey II, has been mayor of Brownwood, Texas, a city of 20,000, in central Texas.

Later this year, Mayor Massey is set to retire; and when he does, he will

leave a great void in the public discourse of Brownwood. Before he takes leave of public office for good, though, I want to take a moment to brag on his tireless work for the people of Brownwood.

Mayor Massey has been involved in public life since he first ran for the Brownwood City Council in 1978. Since then, he has been a voice of fairness, integrity, and honesty in city hall. He is a man with a big heart and a deep love for the people of Brownwood.

It is with heavy hearts that we see Mayor Massey retire, but I know that he will remain a fixture in Brownwood, happily measuring out his advice to his successor, encouragement to his friends, and history lessons to all.

On behalf of the people of central Texas, I thank Mayor Massey for all his years spent in service to his neighbors. I would be remiss if I failed to thank his wife, Melinda Brooks Massey, as well, for being so willing to share her husband with us all these years.

As Bert retires, I wish both my friends all the happiness and good health that God can grant two people. May God bless you both.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the resumption of legislative business.

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.

□ 2130

THIRD FRONT

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. I bring you news from the third front. The first front is in Iraq. The second front is in Afghanistan. And the third front, which we don't talk much about, is the front of the border; the border wars in south Texas on the border between Texas and Mexico.

We have heard a lot about the fact that there is violence on the border, especially the southern border. On the border where Mexico meets the United States, on the Mexican side, the drug cartels are fighting for turf. They are violent. They are vicious, and murder is a way of life against those good Mexican nationals that live just south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Recently, the Zetas cartel and the Gulf cartel have engaged in violent acts in the town of Guerrero, Mexico.

That is over here in the south Texas area on the other side of the Rio Grande River where Falcon Lake is the border between Mexico and Texas. People in that town have taken cover. In fact, the police department of Guerrero, Mexico, has told people of that town of 6,000, Do not come out of your homes because the drug cartels will take your life. They are fighting to take that turf, that entry into the United States, to bring that cancer and to sell it.

But there are those that say that the border war on the southern side of the U.S. border doesn't affect us. Well, of course, those people are wrong. Let's take one example. There are 14 counties on the border of Texas and Mexico. So, yesterday, I called the sheriffs of these counties and I asked them this question: How many people do you have in your county jail who are foreign nationals who have been arrested for a crime in the United States? Most of those sheriffs were quick to tell us. Some of them did not tell me. But, overall, of the 14 counties that border Mexico from Texas, 37 percent of the people in those county jails are foreign nationals charged with crimes in the United States.

Yes, the violence on the border and the failure of the United States Government to secure our southern border affects people who live in those border communities. These are not wealthy counties. These are poor counties where people have day jobs on both sides of the border. These counties are so poor, and I'll give you an example.

Over here in Hudspeth County where 63 percent of the people are foreign nationals in Arvin West's jail, the county commissioners don't even have enough money to give Arvin West, Sheriff West and his deputy sheriffs a motor pool. They have no vehicles. So what do they do to obtain vehicles in the sheriff's department? They have to confiscate drug vehicles that have been captured and turned over to the United States and then turned over to the county. So the sheriff of this county only drives vehicles that he's confiscated from the drug cartels. You see, the sheriffs along the border say that they are outfinanced by the drug cartels, they're outmanned, and they are outgunned by these drug cartels.

The crime that occurs in the United States by foreign nationals crossing our porous border affects counties along the border but also affects counties throughout the United States. I think we would be shocked to find out how many foreign nationals are in county jails throughout the country charged with crimes that they have committed here, both legal and illegals who have come across our border.

Once again, 37 percent of the people in the county jails on the Texas-Mexico border on the Texas side are foreign nationals. It goes all the way from 1 percent—and I don't think that is correct—over in Webb County all the way up to 100 percent in Terrell County. In

Terrell County, the sheriff said, Everybody in my county jail is a foreign national charged with a crime in my county.

It is the duty of the Federal Government to secure America's borders. This is the third front, yet we are blissfully ignorant up here in Washington, D.C., about what is taking place on this entire border. There are good people who live on both sides of this international border and there are good people who live in fear on both sides because of the violence that is created by the drug cartels. We need to do whatever is necessary to prevent crime from occurring and coming across our border, and that includes sending the National Guard down to the Texas-Mexico border. The Governor of the State has requested it. We need to do it.

We need to secure the border. It is the first duty of government to protect Americans citizens. And we better get with the program and start protecting these good Americans or these county jails will continue to fill up with foreign nationals who have committed crime in our country.

And that's just the way it is.

HARDER YET MAY BE THE FIGHT

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many years ago I heard Dr. Benjamin Hooks, who at the time was the executive director of the National NAACP, proclaim in the words of C.A. Tinsley, "Harder yet may be the fight." I thought I understood what he meant at the time; however, events as of late have provided additional occularity and given me greater clarity with reference to this statement, "Harder yet may be the fight."

First, a brief vignette. On Sunday, prior to voting on the health care bill that was signed by the President, as I was leaving the Cannon Office Building, I had a friend to share with me what was thought to be some sage advice. My friend indicated that it might be prudent—not necessarily in these words—or judicious to make my way to the Capitol Building by way of the tunnel because there were persons who were saying ugly things and doing ugly things in the area that I would have to traverse.

I thought. And as I thought, I reflected on Rosa Parks, a lone African American female in the segregated South, who concluded on one evening that she was going to stand up for justice and do what was right by taking a seat on a bus. And little did she know that, by taking that seat, she would ignite a spark that would start a civil rights movement. I would add that it was Virginia Durr, an Anglo female, who posted the bail for Rosa Parks to get out of jail.

I reflected on 1965 and what we now know as Bloody Sunday, when there