

Affordability. "By 2011 and 2012, the initial \$5 billion in Federal funding for high risk pools will be exhausted, resulting in substantial premium increases to sustain the program."

Access. The report projected that Medicare cuts would drive about 15 percent of hospitals and other institutional providers into the red, "possibly jeopardizing access" to care for seniors.

Quality. Some 18 million uninsured are estimated to go on Medicaid for their primary coverage, which will fail to provide meaningful access.

And finally, Choice. "We estimate that in 2017, when the provisions will be fully phased in, enrollment in Medicare Advantage plans will be lower by about 50 percent."

If you chose Medicare Advantage, half of you will be out of luck.

TWO SEALS NOT GUILTY—THIRD SHOULD BE ACQUITTED TOO

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, two of our three Navy SEALs responsible for catching one of the worst terrorists in the world—Ahmed Hasim Abed—have been acquitted of all alleged assault charges related to the terrorist's capture.

Abed planned the 2004 ambush and murder of four Blackwater security guards in Fallujah, Iraq. These Americans were set on fire, mutilated, dragged through the streets and hung from a bridge over the Euphrates River.

Our SEALs captured this crybaby terrorist. He later accused them of punching him. Two SEALs have been acquitted—the other should be acquitted as well.

Last week I visited the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and met with 10 amazing, intense midshipmen from my congressional district in Texas. The remarkable class of 2010 is expected to graduate over a thousand midshipmen, but only 27 will be selected for the SEALs program.

Our SEALs are the best that we have. We are forever indebted to these great warriors for their service to American freedom. We should give the Navy SEALs that captured Abed medals and send them out there to capture another one.

And that's just the way it is.

ARIZONA'S IMMIGRATION LAW

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, what are the people in Arizona supposed to do? What are the people in Texas supposed to do? Or New Mexico?

I hear this rhetoric on the floor here about how the law in Arizona is unconstitutional. I've looked at that. I don't

think its unconstitutional. And I think they have an obligation to protect the people of Arizona from the drug terrorists that are coming across the border in droves. They're bringing drugs illegally into the United States. We've got illegal aliens coming across in droves in the Arizona area into the United States and the government of the United States is doing absolutely nothing.

The border between us and Mexico is 1,980 miles long. We've talked about securing that border for a long time, and we have not done it. Those border States have to deal with this on a daily basis and the law enforcement agencies down there have a Herculean job to deal with.

And so I would just like to say to my colleagues, I don't think it's racial profiling for them to stop people that they suspect of being here illegally who may be dealing in drug trafficking and who may be threatening the lives of people down there because the crime rate is going out of sight. Let's support the people of Arizona and the law enforcement people down there. They have a right to make sure that they're safe.

□ 1930

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.

GEERT WILDERS AND NOW "SOUTH PARK" ARE DENIED FREEDOM OF SPEECH

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. Madam Speaker, freedom of speech is under attack in the West today, brought to you by the same radical Islamic terrorists who use religion to kill in the name of hate. I've talked about Dutch lawmaker Geert Wilders, who is on trial in Amsterdam for insulting Islam. You see, he made a documentary movie about real terrorist acts and real radical Islamic clerics encouraging violence in the name of hate. Instead of being grateful for shining a light on this problem, the Dutch Government is putting Geert Wilders on trial. He is charged with discrimination and incitement to hatred, all for showing the world how radical Islamic clerics discriminate and incite people to hatred. Wilders spoke the truth, and he got charged with a crime in his own country.

The Dutch Ministry of Justice says it doesn't matter if Wilders was telling the truth. The Dutch court says it's irrelevant whether Wilders' assertions actually are correct. What is relevant to the court is Wilders cannot speak

freely about radical Islam because it might offend somebody. In the Netherlands the truth is no longer welcome in a court of law.

Geert Wilders now lives under a threat of a 5-year prison sentence from his own government for freedom of speech for the right to tell the truth. His trial is set to resume in July, the trial where the Dutch court says truth doesn't matter. It only matters if Wilders' words hurt somebody's feelings. You see, Dutch law is intolerant of people who are intolerant of violence in the name of Islam. And that's a recipe for disaster. By denying free, truthful speech, the Dutch Government by its actions is encouraging radicals to incite violence worldwide.

Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh, grandnephew of the legendary artist Vincent van Gogh, also made a film the radical clerics didn't like. His was about Islam's harsh treatment of women and how they brutalized women and used them as property. The result, van Gogh was murdered in the streets of Amsterdam as he rode his bicycle to work. His partner in the film, now a former member of Parliament, fled the country in fear.

Kurt Westergaard is one of the 12 artists who drew a satirical cartoon about the prophet Mohammed. So radical clerics incited their followers to murder people in the streets around the globe. Most of the clerics admitted later they had never seen the Mohammed cartoons. And Westergaard now lives in hiding under an armed guard. So much for freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

Now the threats of violence are spreading to the United States. The popular animated TV program "South Park" insults everybody. It's a comedy program that uses satire to make social statements. "South Park's" creators, Matt Stone and Trey Parker, did a series of episodes that insulted various world religions, including Islam. The 200th episode broadcast depicted all the founders of the major religions. Mohammed was dressed in a bear suit because Islam forbids its followers to depict the religion's founders.

One radical Islamic Web site called "Revolutionary Muslim" is upset about the program, so they issued threats saying "South Park" creators Stone and Parker would end up like Theo van Gogh, in other words, dead. And they put up the crime scene photos of van Gogh with his throat slit and a knife protruding from his chest. They also gave out the TV network address of Comedy Central in New York, addresses for Parker and Stone's Los Angeles production company, and their residences. The radical Web site said they published the addresses so people could go out there and protest. Yeah, right.

The trouble is we have seen worldwide how these radicals protest. They kill people. Because of the threats of violence and fear for the safety of everyone from the receptionist to the series creators, Comedy Central censored

and spiked a follow-up program. Free speech was intimidated again by radical Islamics. These terrorists are being handed veto power over free speech through threats of violence and murder.

No charges have been brought in the United States against the author of these radical Islamic Web sites. Meanwhile, Geert Wilders is still on trial in the Netherlands for warning the world about these haters for speaking the truth.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SIMPLIFY THE TAX CODE

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to speak on behalf of America's small business owners and small business owners in western Pennsylvania who have recently finished filing their taxes with the Federal Government and have struggled over the past year to provide goods, services, and jobs during this recession.

As we all know, April is tax month for American citizens. And as a member of the Small Business Committee, I had the opportunity to hear testimony by Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Douglas Shulman on April 14. Commissioner Shulman walked through the service and disclosures provided by the IRS during tax preparation season. He described outreach being performed on many levels to aid small businesses in complying with the convoluted tax system they faced as American job creators.

While the IRS has a responsibility to use its funding to conduct outreach and facilitate voluntary compliance with tax laws, it's Congress that has the responsibility to hear the calls of America's small businesses for more streamlined and simplified tax regulations.

The outreach and disclosure by the IRS is certainly helpful. However, I would prefer to see it become less necessary. If America's small business owners were not spending so much valuable time deciphering codes and regulations, they could be growing their businesses to earn profits, create jobs, and lead America back to prosperity just as they have always done through past recessions. Less time spent complying with the Tax Code would increase tax revenue by allowing small businesses to focus more time on running their businesses, meanwhile saving the IRS time and money in outreach and instruction on their intri-

cate rules and requirements for every small business in America.

I hope that by April of next year Congress can find the time to work on behalf of America's small businesses and simplify the Tax Code.

VISIT TO WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER AND BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL WITH JEROME AND RACHEL LEE AND LEX

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

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, on April 12 of this year I had the honor and privilege of visiting the wounded warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital with Jerome and Rachel Lee and their dog Lex. The Lees' son Dustin, a marine, was killed in Iraq in 2005. Lex was his military working dog and was severely injured in the attack.

The Lees are a remarkable family. They continue to visit the wounded warriors that return from Iraq and Afghanistan. This is how they remember their son. And they gave for this country a very special young man. The interaction between Lex and the wounded was amazing. To see these brave men and women smile at the sight of Lex was truly a touching experience for me personally. Lex is one of them and continues to fight through his injuries. The shrapnel still lies in his back. In fact, Lex has been awarded the Purple Heart.

The Lees also had a wonderful experience meeting retired United States Senator Bob Dole as he was recovering from an accident. Senator Dole was kind enough to invite the Lee family into his room at Walter Reed and speak with them for several minutes. It was truly remarkable as I watched former Senator Dole, a war hero himself, as he pet and bonded with Lex.

I would like to thank the Humane Society, who sponsored this trip for the Lee family, Connie Whitfield, wife of United States Congressman ED WHITFIELD, who joined us on this tour. They, Mrs. Whitfield, and the United States Humane Society, went above and beyond for this family.

There are many other people to thank, but I would like to especially thank my dear friend Major General Mike Regner, who was very instrumental in uniting the Lees and Lex. Major General Regner is currently serving in Afghanistan, but I would like to note that he was remembered during the Lees' visit at Bethesda and Walter Reed. And the family is very grateful to him. Major General Regner helped them adopt Lex, their son's best friend and partner.

Madam Speaker, because of that trip that I took with the Lees to Bethesda and Walter Reed, and the number of young men and women both at Walter Reed and Bethesda who have been se-

verely wounded for this country, I would like to close, as I normally do on the floor of the House, I would ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I will ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I will ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate here in Washington that we would do what is right in the eyes of God for today's generation, but also tomorrow's generation. I will ask God to give strength, wisdom, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for today's generation and tomorrow's generation.

Madam Speaker, I will ask three times, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

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

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

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

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

DISPELLING THE MYTHS SURROUNDING H.R. 2499

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 2499, the Puerto Rico Democracy Act, I would like to take some time this evening to dispel some of the myths that surround this legislation.

The Puerto Rico Democracy Act provides for a formal consultation with the people of Puerto Rico regarding the island's political status. H.R. 2499 authorizes the Government of Puerto Rico to conduct an initial plebiscite. Eligible voters would be asked whether they wish to maintain the current political status or to have a different status. If the majority favors the current status, then the Government of Puerto Rico would be authorized to ask voters this question again at 8-year intervals. On the other hand, if a majority of the voters favor a different status, the Government of Puerto Rico would be authorized to conduct a second plebiscite among the three nonterritorial status options recognized under U.S. and international law.

What are those three options? They are, number one, independence; two, statehood; and, three, sovereignty in association with the U.S., which is commonly known as free association.