

UNIVERSAL ACCREDITATION

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month we witnessed the tragedy of an inter-country adoption gone wrong when a 7-year-old boy was forced back, alone, to Russia. Last year over 12,000 children from around the world were adopted by American families, yet only a fraction of these adoptions were processed by accredited adoption agencies. The others occurred under an unregulated process that may not have the best interests of the families or the child in mind.

Just over 2 years ago, the United States became a full member of the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption. Under the Convention, the United States requires that inter-country adoption service providers be accredited to improve transparency and accountability. Unfortunately, these rules only apply to adoptions from countries that have signed the Convention. Adoption agencies who work for non-Convention countries do not need to meet the accreditation requirements, and these agencies continue to conduct unregulated adoptions, creating a double standard for the treatment of children and families.

We must strengthen the adoption practices by requiring accreditation for all countries' adoption service providers. Universal accreditation will create an adoption process that is lawful, safe for the child, and respectful to the families involved.

CMS CHIEF ACTUARY'S ANALYSIS ON EFFECTS OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House told the National Association of Counties a while back that Congress needed to pass the health care bill so we could find out what's in it. Well, we are finding out now.

The Chief Actuary for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is the independent scorekeeper of legislation like this. Their report that they just issued said half of all seniors in America who are on Medicare Advantage plans, half, are going to lose that coverage under the bill that was signed into law.

Well, that's a big problem for seniors in Oregon. Oregon has had one of the highest penetration rates in the United States of seniors who wanted Medicare Advantage and signed up for it. I was out in Ontario, Oregon, not long ago, and the seniors there raised their hands and said, "Why are they taking away the Medicare Advantage I have?" We now know under this independent

evaluation half of them will lose that care, 38,000 seniors in my district alone.

We need to repeal and replace this law that was jammed through this Congress, Mr. Speaker.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Yesterday I urged all Americans to boycott the State of Arizona until this law is repealed. This law is unjust. It will only lead to the increase of racial profiling and hate crimes in the State, especially towards Hispanics.

This is a violation of the fourth and 14th amendment in the United States Constitution. It does not require local police officers to have a warrant. This new law will create a divide between people who are asked for legal documents and those who are not. This law will create distrust between police and the communities they protect. This law is backwards, and sets us back in time.

I urge Americans show their support of the boycott and wear a red, yellow, and blue wristband. This is an unjust law and must be overturned, and an example of why we need comprehensive immigration reform.

□ 1215

THE DEBATE OVER HEALTH CARE REFORM IS ALIVE AND WELL

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, while some may believe that the debate over health care is behind us, the report that we received last week, which stated very clearly that this administration had determined that we would see a \$311 billion increase—increase—in health care costs over the next decade, was completely counter to what we and the American people were promised. We were promised that there would, in fact, be savings. So I think that, with this report, it is very clear that the debate continues to be alive and well.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take a step-by-step approach, ensuring that people can have access to insurance products across State lines and ensuring that meaningful lawsuit abuse reform takes place. Small businesses should be able to come together to buy at lower rates. We should have pooling to deal with preexisting conditions, and we should expand medical savings accounts.

Those five things, Mr. Speaker, will go a long way towards decreasing costs to ensure that every American will have access to quality, affordable health insurance.

SUPPORT WALL STREET REFORM

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, we need Wall Street reform. The collapse in the value of securities as a result of Wall Street's conduct caused our Nation's economic crisis. While Americans struggle to find work and to pay their mortgages, Wall Street continues to pay huge bonuses and to focus only on their profits.

Janet Orcutt of Kailua, Oahu, shared her story with me recently. Last August, Janet's son-in-law lost his job in this bad economy. This led to her daughter and son-in-law losing their home. Now her daughter, son-in-law, and 5-year-old grandson live with Janet and her two teenage children. With everyone living with them, Janet and her husband have had additional costs, which they charge to their credit cards. Each month, they fall farther behind.

Janet said, "We middle-income Americans are suffering while powerful Wall Street financial companies lobby against financial reform."

I share Janet's anger. Without reform, the current system will continue to harm the well-being of families like Janet's. The House has passed Wall Street reform. It is high time that the Senate does likewise.

THE NEW HEALTH CARE LAW FAILS ON ALL COUNTS

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, remember when we were told the whole point of the new health care bill was to lower health care costs and to insure all Americans? Well, the CMS, under the control of the Obama administration, estimates that the law fails on all counts.

Twenty million Americans who currently can't afford health care will be forced under duress to buy a product or will face fines in IRS action. Four million Americans still will not be able to buy health insurance, and they will pay \$33 billion in fines. Fourteen million will lose their employer-sponsored health care insurance. Twenty-three million Americans will still have no health care coverage in 2019. Twenty-one percent of the gross domestic product will be spent on health care after this law is implemented, which is much higher than if the Congress had done nothing.

You have to wonder: When did we know all of this, and why didn't we know about it before the vote was taken?

THE CONE OF SILENCE

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, after the collapse on Wall Street and after the multiple abuses, the American people are very disappointed that one party in the Senate is filibustering so that we can't move forward to have a bipartisan Wall Street reform bill.

The Republicans' filibuster kind of reminds me of the old "Get Smart" show where they had the Cone of Silence. When they wanted to keep a secret so that nobody knew about the secret, they brought down the Cone of Silence. That's what the Republicans want to do about Wall Street reform. They want a Cone of Silence over the Senate so that nobody knows whose side everybody is on.

We are on the side of the American people to have aggressive Wall Street reform. The people who are over there who are filibustering are on the side of Wall Street. They want the Cone of Silence so that people won't know that they're standing up for their friends on Wall Street. That is wrong.

You know, maybe the answer "no" is the right answer to some things, but it isn't the right answer to Wall Street reform. End the filibuster. Get a vote. Let's tame Wall Street the way it ought to be regulated.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, we are being told today by our friends, the Democrats, to trust Washington and to trust them. Yet the Obama-Pelosi legislation which passed this House earlier last year promised that, if Congress passed the \$787 billion stimulus package, national unemployment would never rise above 8 percent. Today, the national unemployment is 9.7 percent and is hovering near a 25-year high.

I think it is time for the American people to recognize that the answers do not all reside here in Washington, D.C., but that we need to take care of our business. Our business should not be about trying to do a lot of things to a lot of other people but to focus on jobs for this country. Jobs are the number one issue. Jobs are the things which will spur the American entrepreneurship and the creativity that will allow us to be competitive with the world.

Where are the jobs?

SUPPORT WALL STREET REFORM

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Wall Street reform.

Wall Street shenanigans led us to this recession, and if not for having the

taxpayers bail them out, these shenanigans would have melted down our entire financial system, all while Wall Street made hundreds of billions of dollars for themselves.

Last December, the House of Representatives responded by passing commonsense Wall Street reform. It would protect families and small businesses from predatory loans, from indecipherable fine print, and from other industry gimmicks. It would end taxpayer-funded bailouts and too-big-to-fail banks. It would impose tough new laws on the riskiest Wall Street practices that got us into this mess in the first place.

House Democrats voted "yes" on Wall Street reform, but unfortunately, Republicans all voted "no." Yesterday, their Senate colleagues again voted "no," this time even to start an open and honest debate.

It is time to stop the obstructionism and to let the debate begin. If Senate Republicans have problems with the bill, make them known in public. Offer amendments. Take votes. Show us where you stand—with Main Street or with Wall Street.

HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER INCREASES COSTS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, the administration's own report released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services confirmed that the government health care takeover will increase costs, will hurt seniors, and will put employers in a position to drop employee coverage. This is not what the American people wanted when it came to health care reform.

According to the CMS report, national health care costs will increase by \$311 billion over the next 10 years, and this increase will force millions of seniors off of their current Medicare coverage. This information was released over a month after the health care takeover was rushed through Congress. Clearly, Congress needed to wait to vote on this legislation after the report was released.

It is time for us to come together to repeal the government health care takeover and to swap it for patient-centered, affordable health insurance reform that expands access and that continues to cover preexisting conditions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, everyone in Wisconsin wants to know the answer to the question: Whose side are you on?

Yesterday, the partisans in the United States Senate voted to return to the good old days—to the good old days of unregulated financial markets, of voodoo economics on Wall Street, and of the continuing deregulation of big banks on Wall Street.

We cannot afford to go back to the losing policies of the Bush administration when Wall Street was allowed to consume the wealth of an entire generation. People in Wisconsin believe if you're too big to fail, then you should not exist. People in Wisconsin know that we are on their side and that, when Wall Street innovates, Main Street pays the price.

We have got to work hard together to catch all of the crooks and to follow their trails wherever they may lead. We have to make certain that we balance our budgets, that we live within our means, and that we rewrite our financial regulations to make things fair for people on Main Street. That's what we have to do together.

ARIZONA ACTS BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ACT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, because the Federal Government refuses to secure the border, States like Arizona have become desperate to solve the crisis. Arizona has a new illegal immigration law that is causing some heartburn for the open borders crowd. The new law makes being in Arizona without proof of legal status a crime. The consequences range from a misdemeanor to a felony depending on whether one is a repeat offender, is trafficking drugs, or is smuggling human beings.

The open borders lobby doesn't want the laws they don't like enforced, so they protested outside the Arizona State capitol building when the Governor signed the bill into law. They were caught on video pelting police with rocks and bottles. One even assaulted a cameraman. The inconsistent national media calls the peaceful TEA Party people fringe terrorists, but the violent pro-illegal immigration rock throwers get a pass.

No matter how the open borders media crowd spins these rowdy demonstrations, entering this country illegally is still against the law. The Federal Government should do its job and secure the border. That is what they are supposed to do.

And that's just the way it is.

THE CMS REPORT IS GOOD NEWS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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