

And that's just the way it is.

#### IN MEMORY OF GEORGE TILLER

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, in 1970, Dr. Jack Tiller traveled to a convention in Canada with his wife and daughter. Tragically, their plane crashed, leaving behind his children, George and Diana.

George went to Wichita. He cared for a sick grandmother and orphaned nephew when they didn't have anyone else. He planned to be a dermatologist. Instead, he took over his father's general practice when he saw that local patients didn't have anyone else. Soon after, women asked him if he would do what his father did. They were desperate women who needed reproductive control over their lives. George said yes.

Now you know why George Tiller began the career that cost him his life, because he decided he would be there for women facing a crisis when they didn't have anyone else.

#### SPEAKING OUT FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the American people demand real change in Washington. From record deficit spending to the passage of a health care bill most Americans don't want, there is a serious disconnect between the congressional agenda and the desires of the American people.

America Speaking Out is a timely initiative designed to start an honest discussion between Americans and their representatives. Through this innovative new forum, the American people can give us their priorities and offer their ideas for a new agenda to solve the problems that confront our Nation.

There is a deficit of trust in Congress, and it is only by listening to the American people that we can earn back their trust and turn the country in the right direction.

Check out the Web site, America Speaking Out.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the historic health reform passed earlier this year is already having a positive impact on millions of American seniors.

Starting today, Medicare will begin mailing out \$250 rebate checks to assist those who fall into the prescription drug doughnut hole. In my home State of California, over 382,000 seniors will now find it a little bit easier to afford

lifesaving medicine they need, no longer making the decision of paying for medicine, paying for mortgages, or putting food on the table, but getting the service they need.

Starting next year, seniors in the doughnut hole will receive an additional 50 percent discount on all brand-name drugs. By the year 2020, the new law will totally close the doughnut hole.

But the benefits don't stop there. Health reform will provide free preventive care services to all Medicare recipients, and that extends Medicare solvency by an additional 12 years to the year 2029.

Those who continue to call for repeal of reform want to move us back to the era of higher drug costs and less security for seniors. Democrats will continue to fight to protect our most vulnerable Americans.

#### MR. PRESIDENT, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

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

Mr. PENCE. We all agree the loss of life that occurred last week when a flotilla designed to challenge Israel's effective blockade of Gaza ended in military confrontation, but Israel has a right to defend itself.

The history is clear in that region. Gaza is controlled by a terrorist organization known as Hamas. Hamas used Gaza as a launching pad for thousands of rockets that killed innocent civilians in Israel. Israel responded with military force and has instituted a blockade that has saved lives in Gaza and in Israel.

There's no humanitarian crisis. Ten thousand tons of food and medical supplies are transferred into Gaza every single week.

Remarkably, yesterday, the President said it was time for Israel to sharply limit its effective blockade in Gaza saying, "The situation in Gaza is unsustainable." The truth is, Mr. President, your policy in Israel is unsustainable. The American people are on the side of Israel and Israel's right to defend herself.

Mr. President, whose side are you on?

#### FILLING THE DOUGHNUT HOLE

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, starting this week, tax-free rebate checks of \$250 will be sent to seniors who have already hit the part D doughnut hole. This \$250 rebate is a key improvement to Medicare and the first Medicare benefit of the new health care reform law to take effect.

These rebates are being sent out 3 months ahead of schedule, and the first round of checks will reach nearly 80,000

seniors who are already in the doughnut hole. Following this initial round of rebate checks, additional checks will be sent to seniors as they hit the doughnut hole. It's estimated that 4 million seniors across the country will receive a \$250 rebate check this year.

This is just a first phase of relief for seniors from prescription drug costs. Next year, seniors in the doughnut hole will see a 50 percent discount on brand-name drugs.

While the Medicare part D prescription drug program has helped millions of seniors obtain prescription drug coverage, seniors who fall into the doughnut hole and receive no financial assistance with their prescription drugs are often forced to put their health in danger by splitting pills or skipping treatments altogether to save on costs.

Despite the clear benefits to seniors from the health care reform legislation, Republican leaders have now made it a priority to repeal this landmark law, which will take away these prescription drug cost savings and other benefits for seniors and millions of Americans. It is now time that we implement further reform.

#### FARM BILL ENERGY TITLE

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, one of the most difficult challenges facing our Nation's future is providing clean, affordable, and reliable energy. The 2008 Farm Bill Energy Title provided a commitment to farm-based energy.

While the intent of this agenda was to expand biofuels in a timely manner, many of my constituents have expressed frustration with the slow pace of USDA's implementation. Nebraska's Third Congressional District is a leader in biofuels, and I remain committed to advancing the critical, timely development of our Nation's biofuels industry while decreasing our Nation's dependence on foreign oil.

I am confident that we can provide a cleaner environment and alleviate some of the economic pain Americans continue to experience. However, without a strong commitment, our advanced biofuels industry faces massive uncertainties, jeopardizing our Nation's path to energy independence.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. MURPHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today we see the first benefits from the new health care reform law that was passed earlier by this Congress and signed into law by the President.

Eighty thousand seniors across America will be receiving checks that are being sent out, starting today, for

\$250 to help pay the costs of their prescription drug coverage while they are in the doughnut hole. Other seniors that reach the doughnut hole through the rest of this year will also receive \$250 checks to help them afford the prescription drugs they need to live their lives safely and happily.

Over the next 10 years, this health care reform will eliminate the doughnut hole completely for our seniors. That's a step in the right direction, providing security and safety in the health care that our seniors need.

Amazingly, though, some on the other side of the aisle are continuing to call, not to change the health care reform bill but to repeal it entirely, to cut up the checks, take them away from our seniors and stop the help that they need to pay for their prescription drugs.

We will always be working to make our health care system better, but repealing this positive step forward makes no sense to me.

#### \$250 CHECKS TO SENIORS

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, in 2003, Republicans said they were overhauling Medicare, but all they succeeded in doing was creating a prescription drug doughnut hole that, in 2009 alone, forced 63,000 Maryland seniors to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket, forcing many to choose between buying the prescription drugs they need or purchasing food.

The Nation's seniors shouldn't be forced to make such a choice. That's why, under the new health care law, we are dedicated to closing the doughnut hole once and for all.

Today, June 10, \$250 checks are being mailed out to 80,000 eligible seniors as a first step to reducing the financial burden faced by seniors. Then next year there will be a 50 percent discount on prescription drugs in the doughnut hole.

Mr. Speaker, the first of many benefits under the health law that my Republican colleagues opposed and now hope to repeal is on the way. Our seniors and the rest of the country can't afford to go back to a broken system controlled by insurance companies with coverage gaps, denied care, and skyrocketing costs.

#### \$250 FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today is a very important day for seniors in south Florida.

Today, more than 3 weeks ahead of schedule, checks to help cover the costs of prescription medication will be mailed to seniors who have fallen into

the dreaded Medicare part D doughnut hole.

I have talked to many seniors in West Palm Beach and other parts of my district who had to make the wrenching choice between food and medicine. This should not happen in the America that I know, and that's why I personally have fought so hard to make sure that health care reform included reducing the cost of medicine for our seniors.

Starting today, payments of \$250 will be mailed to every senior who falls in the doughnut hole to help cover their costs. This is an important step, but it's just the beginning, because starting next year, seniors will see a 50 percent discount on brand-name drugs and we will begin to close the doughnut hole for good.

Fighting for our seniors in south Florida is one of my top priorities, and today's checks will make a real difference for seniors who have worked hard and paid into the system. I look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen and protect Medicare.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3473) to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to authorize advances from Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3473

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. ADVANCES FROM OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL.

Section 6002(b) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2752) is amended in the second sentence—

(1) by inserting “(1)” after “Coast Guard”; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and (2) in the case of the discharge of oil that began in 2010 in connection with the explosion on, and sinking of, the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon, may, without further appropriation, obtain 1 or more advances from the Fund as needed, up to a maximum of \$100,000,000 for each advance, with the total amount of all advances not to exceed the amounts available under section 9509(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and within 7 days of each advance, shall notify Congress of the amount advanced and the facts and circumstances necessitating the advance”.

#### SEC. 2. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 3473.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I am grateful for the indulgence of our colleague on the committee, our ranking member and senior Republican, Mr. MICA, for responding so quickly to the action of the other body.

We are unaccustomed to such prompt unanimous action in the other body, but they did pass, by unanimous consent, the bill before us now, S. 3473, in response to requests of the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Napolitano, and Admiral Thad Allen, the National Incident Commander, following up on the May 12 request of the administration for legislative changes to, quote, “speed assistance to people in need,” close quote, in response to the BP-Deepwater Horizon tragedy.

The request further asks the Congress to, quote, “act immediately on return from recess,” close quote. And that is exactly what we are doing, but preceded by a hearing the committee held yesterday on the many aspects of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and payment from responsible parties and the need for future legislation.

And the gentleman from Florida had several instructive and thoughtful suggestions that we in the committee will be acting upon per our previous agreement.

I want to lay out the specifics.

First of all, the request: Quoting again from the Homeland Security Department letter, “Congress needs to act now to permit movement of monies from the principal fund to the emergency fund. At the current pace of BP-Deepwater Horizon response operations, funding available in the emergency fund will be insufficient to sustain Federal response operations within 2 weeks.” That's from June 4.