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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: At times of conflict we pray for peace. In times of violence, as we long for serenity, we pray for victims and the conversion of perpetrators.

At times of anger and hatred we search for signs of charity and cling in respect for each other and from each other. At times of senseless acts, we pray for wisdom that will give meaning and define common purpose.

O gracious God, shape us into a unified force that sees our battle as truly spiritual. Give us strength to fight for what is right no matter the risk.

Because we rely upon Your grace, we will give Your Holy Name the honor, the power and the glory both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING ACT

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, today is a great day for small businesses in the United States. The small Business Lending Act we are voting on today will give \$12 billion in tax relief to small businesses and increase access to capital through community banks.

These \$12 billion in tax cuts, including a 100 percent exclusion of capital gains tax on small business investments, saves entrepreneurs money that they can put right back into their businesses. This legislation creates a \$30 billion small business lending fund to help community banks, not Wall Street banks, lend to our small businesses.

Access to capital is the biggest concern facing our small businesses today. That's why we included my plan to increase the cap on Small Business Administration express loans from \$350,000 to \$1 million.

More capital for business means that they can expand and create new jobs. Helping businesses grow is essential to our economic recovery and getting people back to work. As a small business owner, I am proud to support this plan to provide tax relief to businesses and give them access to capital they need.

HEALTH CARE TAX INCREASE

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, last March I voted against ObamaCare, the government takeover of health care, in part because it imposed over half a trillion dollars of additional taxes, fees, and costs on an already struggling U.S. economy. Throughout the year-long debate, small business owners in my district and across the country expressed

concerns that the bill would increase their health care-related costs.

While back in my district this August, I encountered businesses already preparing to face the consequences of the over 2,000-page health care bill. Ferno-Washington, Inc., is an emergency and medical equipment manufacturing company that is based in Wilmington, Ohio, in my district. The company is preparing for the health care bill's new 2.3 percent excise tax on the sale of medical devices.

The business leaders at Ferno estimate the cost of the tax puts at risk 23 jobs. Also, they are concerned that this tax will reduce their ability to fund research and development to produce cutting-edge advanced products.

In Clinton County, the unemployment rate hovers around 17 percent. We cannot afford the impact of ObamaCare's tax increases upon businesses like Ferno. We need to replace ObamaCare.

AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING CRISIS

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, ADAPs, are experiencing a funding crisis. Thousands of our most vulnerable citizens are counting on Congress to ensure that they have access to the medications they need to stay alive. To make matters worse, the Census Bureau reports that the number of uninsured Americans rose sharply last year to an all-time high of 50.7 million due to the difficult economy.

It is projected that tens of thousands more individuals will soon require the vital services that State ADAPs provide to low income, uninsured and underinsured individuals living with

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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HIV/AIDS. The issue hits close to home. Currently, of the 3,214 individuals on ADAP waiting lists, Florida has 1,712 of them. This is outrageous.

Congress must increase its commitment to State ADAPs while continuing to fund other AIDS programs. This problem is not going away. We need a long-term solution until the Affordable Care Act takes full effect in 2014. I urge this body to bring an emergency supplemental of \$25 million to the floor for a vote.

□ 1010

TAX INCREASES KILL JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, unemployment in South Carolina has increased to 11 percent. Citizens rightfully want to know where are the jobs? Republicans have made positive proposals to help small businesses create jobs, but they are falling on deaf ears. Americans across the country are hurting and cannot wait another day, let alone another few months, to know whether or not Congress is going to offer job creation incentives and tax relief.

During these tough economic times, the last thing families need are more tax increases. The Heritage Foundation has some staggering numbers about how the incoming tax increases would kill jobs in South Carolina. The Heritage Foundation has found that the State of South Carolina would lose over 9,000 jobs a year, and South Carolina's families would lose \$3,000 each in disposable income.

If these statistics become a reality on our families, the impact would be catastrophic. We need immediate tax relief, not job-killing tax increases.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HEALTH INSURANCE HIKES

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I'm outraged by the blatant lies being told by some health insurance companies. I have a renewal statement here for a small business with a 28 percent increase, allegedly all because of health insurance reform.

How do we know it's a lie? Because the rate hike was requested before health reform passed. Health insurance rates were increasing at an astounding rate before health reform. That is why we passed the law, because consumers were paying more and getting less.

Their business model is dying, and health reform has nothing to do with it.

Hello. Without new exchanges, new tax credits for small businesses and subsidies for families, your industry is

in a death spiral because people can't afford to buy your product.

The recent shocking rate increases are exactly why we need to implement health reform as soon as possible. We can't afford to slow down, let alone turn back. If insurance companies were honest, they would admit they can't afford it either.

LEAVE GRAY WOLF MANAGEMENT TO MONTANANS

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

Mr. REHBERG. Everyone has heard the story about the three little pigs and the wolf that huffs and puffs his way through a house made of straw and a house made of wood. Montanans face a similar situation with the status of the Rocky Mountain gray wolf as an endangered species. The science says that the gray wolf is no longer endangered in Montana and Idaho. The targets set by the Endangered Species Act were surpassed years ago. But powerful out-of-State interests have huffed and puffed and used all sorts of dirty tricks and gotten the gray wolf relisted for the second time over the recommendation of the Obama and Bush administrations.

In the story, the three little pigs find shelter in a house made of stone. If that's what it takes, a legislative solution, that's what we'll do.

I've heard from more than 1,000 people in the last few days who've weighed in on a legislative solution, and it's time to start building that stone house.

PATIENTS BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Today marks an important milestone in our effort to ensure access to high quality health coverage for all Americans—the implementation of the Patients Bill of Rights. As of today, no child can be denied insurance coverage because of a preexisting condition. I introduced this bill, championed it throughout health care reform, and now it offers financial and emotional security for so many families.

And there is more. Young adults may remain on their parents' policy until age 26. Insurers may no longer drop coverage when someone gets sick. From now on, plans cannot set annual or lifetime limits on coverage. And new policies must include prevention and screening without copayments and consumer choice of their primary care physician.

Other important provisions of health care reform are already underway. Every State now has a high-risk insurance pool. Seniors get the help of a \$250 check to help with the doughnut hole, the gap in prescription coverage, and thousands of businesses are receiving

relief for providing health coverage to workers and retirees.

Access to meaningful coverage and these new consumer protections are improving the lives of Americans and mark a new era of high quality insurance for all Americans.

NASA

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, over the last year, there has been a lively debate on the future of NASA's manned spaceflight program. The debate has largely focused on the role of commercial space and what direction the government programs should take. Those advising the Obama administration chose an approach with deep practical and technical flaws which has embarrassed the administration and brought resounding rebuke from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

To quote Scott Pace speaking at a recent event, "The administration's radical course abandoned the most precious and rare commodities for the U.S. space community—a bipartisan consensus."

This administration has directed NASA to ignore the spirit of last year's appropriations. Layoffs due to changes at NASA are taking place all over the country. These incredibly intelligent individuals represent a culture, not just a profession. They are literally rocket scientists, and they will disappear if we don't give them direction and firm funding.

For this reason, it is absolutely imperative that we pass a new NASA authorization bill, providing NASA and the Obama administration with firmer guidance.

DEMOCRATIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, when President Obama took office, he inherited a \$1.2 trillion deficit, two wars, a recession, mounting job losses, and a disaster like Katrina that pushed our economy to the brink.

While the Republicans continue to push the same failed policies of the past, Democrats are fighting to help America recover from the Bush recession and move forward.

This Congress, our President, and the Democrats, have fought for middle class tax cuts, boosted small businesses with job creating investments, fought to protect Social Security, worked to create new jobs at home, fought to end the outsourcing of jobs overseas, and have given patients, not health insurance companies, control over their health care.

The choice is clear. Support the Party of No with no solution or the Democrats who will work with working families, the middle class, and will work to strengthen our economy.