

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, recently Forbes magazine ranked what they called the most miserable cities in the country. Memphis, Tennessee, was third on that list. They considered certain issues but they didn't consider others.

They didn't consider the best barbecue in the United States of America; some of the greatest music; Beale Street; the great tourist center; gorgeous sunsets on the Mississippi River. They didn't consider the people of Memphis and the creativity that's emanated from there; Fred Smith and the greatest delivery of goods in the world, a system of freight delivery unrivaled; St. Jude's Children's Hospital that provides the gift of life and research into cancer and Nobel prize winners.

Opportunities for innovation are prevalent in Memphis. In music, Sam Phillips and Elvis Presley created rock-and-roll. And Willie Mitchell and Isaac Hayes and David Porter, and Stacks and Soulful.

I invite Chris Buckley, my friend, and Forbes magazine to come to Memphis and visit for themselves. Memphis has also got a great optometry school. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Maybe they'll leave with 20/20 vision.

NEW ORLEANS' ZULU SOCIAL AID AND PLEASURE CLUB

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, today I continue to honor Black History Month by paying tribute to New Orleans' Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club. The Zulus were founded in 1909 and have been an integral part of the social organization of African American communities for 100 years. They are a foundation of New Orleans' cultural framework through their participation in Mardi Gras and their community service activities.

The Zulus' Mardi Gras parade is one of the largest attractions for the tribal costumes, the singing and dancing, and the famous, ornate hand-painted coconuts they distribute to onlookers. In 1949, the King of the Zulu parade was none other than New Orleans' own Louis Armstrong, one of the greatest contributors to African American history and culture.

In addition, the Zulus have contributed to the fibers and spirit of our community through their scholarship funds, Adopt a School programs, health fairs, Positive Male Models program, and other activities.

The Zulus are the "everyman's club," and I am proud to recognize them and their contributions to Louisiana's culture and history.

NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

(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 take this opportunity to acknowledge National Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

Millions of Americans struggle with an eating disorder. We must do more to increase public awareness about diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. One critical step we can take is to promote positive body image.

As we all know, the media has a significant influence on girls' and young women's perception of the ideal body size and shape. Sixty percent of girls say they compare their bodies to fashion models, and a staggering 90 percent say they feel pressured to be thin from the fashion industry.

Just as we witnessed with cigarette advertisements targeted at young women, fashion advertising often portrays a twisted ideal of beauty.

I urge my colleagues to take this opportunity during National Eating Disorders Awareness Week to work together to promote positive body image to the girls and women in your lives and in your congressional district. Our support on this issue is vital to ensure the physical, emotional, and social health of all our girls.

START OVER ON HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, while I was flattered that the President chose to include seven parts of my bill, the Medical Rights and Reform Act, in his latest health care proposal, he left out nearly every major reform in our centrist health care legislation, including the Medical Rights Act guaranteeing decisions made with your doctor will be made without government interference, lawsuit reform, and granting the right of every American to buy insurance from any State in the Union if you find a plan that is less expensive for your family or your small business.

The White House proposal is based on a very expensive Senate bill with half a dozen major new taxes levied in the teeth of the Great Recession. The new proposal would tax retirement savings, cut Medicare for seniors, and adds to our long-term deficit.

I urge the President to start over, to invite key congressional leaders to Camp David—there we could find reforms that we all support, like covering Americans with preexisting conditions—and present a more modest set of reforms that we all could support.

DON'T ASK DON'T TELL

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respond to Army Secretary McHugh and to share the

substance of an email from an active duty soldier in Afghanistan. In response to an inquiry from his commanding officer related to the military's review of the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, the soldier shared how he and his partner of 10 years have managed multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

He explained that they survived like any couple does, except, because of the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, his partner would not be informed in the event of his death and could not make any emergency decisions that would normally fall to a spouse. This situation is typical, even within his unit.

He learned that a fellow soldier was also gay only after he was killed by an IED in Iraq. The partner of the deceased's soldier wrote the unit to say how much the victim had loved the military, how they were his family.

As Admiral Mullen said, this issue is a matter of integrity. This immutable human trait—sexual orientation—like the color of one's skin, does not affect one's integrity, their honor, or their commitment to their country. Soldiers serving their country in combat should not have their sacrifices compounded by having to struggle with an antiquated Don't Ask Don't Tell policy.

Let's do the right and honorable thing and repeal this policy.

ANTHEM BLUE CROSS SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF ITSELF

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, Anthem Blue Cross should be ashamed of itself for raising premiums in California by 39 percent. People in my district have complained of increases as much as \$2,400 a year. How can anyone afford that kind of an increase? This at a time when the insurance lobby has spent millions of dollars to defeat health care reform in America. This at a time when Anthem passed \$4.2 billion to the parent company, WellPoint, in profits alone. It's beyond my comprehension how any Members of the people's House can continue to defend this behavior.

It's time to demand an answer to a question asked many years ago by Pete Seeger, "Whose side are you on?" You're either with the American people or you're with the insurance lobby. You either stand up for those who want affordable health insurance, or you lay down with the corporate titans who continue to care less about the American people.

Whose side are you on?

WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT MEDIA EVENT

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

Mr. PENCE. Well, tomorrow the White House will convene a so-called summit on health care reform. It's supposedly an effort to find bipartisan agreement and consensus on reform. And frankly, if the administration and Democrats in Congress were willing to scrap the bill and start over with a clean sheet of paper, I would be all for it.

The American people long for health care reform that will lower the cost of health care insurance without growing the size of government. But that is not what's happening here. Instead of scrapping the bill, the President's actually produced his own bigger, worse version of the bills that passed the House and Senate and then were summarily rejected by the American people: more spending, more taxes, more government, and coverage for abortion.

Instead of starting over, Democrats in Congress continue to threaten to abuse the very rules of this institution by passing some version of their health care reform bill by a simple majority in the Senate—known as reconciliation.

Tomorrow's summit is looking more and more like a taxpayer-funded media event designed to set up passage of ObamaCare 2.0. The American people deserve to know it.

□ 1030

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I support health care reform, but I do not support the proposal put forward by the White House, because it mistreats 4.4 million Americans living in Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories. They are treated like second-class citizens.

My loyalty to my party and to our President is beyond question, but my principles and my people come first. This proposal violates my principles, and it mistreats my people.

In Puerto Rico, the Federal Government pays less than 25 percent of the cost of providing Medicaid services. That is a national travesty. The House took important steps to mitigate this disparity in funding. Yet the White House proposal does not make a good-faith effort to address this inequality. Moreover, the proposal excludes Puerto Rico from the exchange but allows non-citizen residents of the States to participate. This is discrimination, and it is no way to treat one's fellow Americans.

I do not believe this proposal reflects the President's thinking, and I cannot believe my colleagues will allow it to stand. The people of Puerto Rico and the other territories fight proudly for their country. Their country should fight for them, too.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this administration and Democrats in Congress don't seem to have an answer to the single most important question workers across the country are asking: "Where are the jobs?" The American people don't want more political pandering on the economy and health care; they want action now that will control runaway Federal spending and create jobs.

The third time is not the charm, Mr. President. When government-controlled health care was introduced in the House, the American people rejected it. Strike one. When government-controlled health care was introduced in the Senate, the American people rejected it. Strike two. And when the President puts his government control of health care on the table before a bipartisan handful on Thursday, the American people will reject that, too. Strike three.

The Democrats need to scrap their job-killing policies, like a government takeover of health care and national energy tax, and begin working with Republicans on commonsense solutions to create jobs and reduce out-of-control spending. It's time we work together to get this economy moving again and to help put people back to work.

RECOVERY ACT IS WORKING

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, here are the jobs. I believe if you polled across America you would understand that the investment that this Democratic Congress made, along with its President, created or saved 3.5 million jobs, gave 95 percent of American workers a tax cut, and began to build our crumbling rail and water and a variety of infrastructure.

Where are the jobs? I will tell you, 2.4 million jobs were created according to the Congressional Budget Office, non-partisan, \$120 billion in tax cuts to 95 percent of our working families and to businesses, loaned nearly \$20 billion to our small businesses creating or saving a job.

What I like most of all is the 300,000 jobs in education and the 400,000 jobs in corrections officers and public health personnel. Let's ask all the firefighters and police officers across America whether or not there were jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that we have invested in America. We had an economy that wasn't growing when we came in, down some 6 percent. Now it's up. We have the jobs, and we are going to do health care reform this morning as well.

We are working for the American people.

ENACT TORT REFORM NOW

(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 administration's health care bill fails to include a Republican solution that could actually achieve savings for patients—lawsuit abuse reform.

Forty percent of medical malpractice suits against doctors and hospitals are without merit, according to a study by the Harvard School of Public Health. And excess damages add \$70 billion to \$126 billion annually to health care costs, the Department of Health and Human Services has found. These costs, of course, are passed on to patients.

The administration has only suggested a pilot program for tort reform. But some States, including my home State of Texas, have already enacted tort reform. These States have seen insurance premiums fall and access to medical care expand.

We don't need a pilot program. We need to enact medical malpractice lawsuit abuse reform.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL

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

Mrs. HALVORSON. Where are the jobs? I think we can answer that every time we speak. In my district it is happening quite literally.

Recently I was very proud to announce \$1.2 billion in Recovery Act funding being invested in Illinois for high-speed rail lines from Chicago to St. Louis. Two of the towns in my district happen to be stops along the rail line—Joliet and Normal.

There are those who have said, and continue to say, that projects like these will not put people to work, that the stimulus isn't working. But here is the reality: These high-speed rail lines in Illinois alone are going to put 6,000 people to work. This wouldn't have been possible without the investment in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

I am proud that the Recovery Act is putting these people to work and putting our communities back on the track to recovery. We must continue to invest in American infrastructure, build upon the work of the Recovery Act is doing, and continue working to create jobs. The future of our districts depends on it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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