

insurance on the individual market, are bearing the burden of a 20 percent rate hike in a recession.

Who's getting this 20 percent? It's not the patients, it's not my doctors, it's not my hospitals.

This fact screams for the need for national health insurance reform, reform that drives down health care costs for everyone, and asking those who make the biggest bucks off the system to take a little bit less.

Today President Obama is going to convene Members of both parties in a televised forum to sit down and try to fix our health insurance mess. And I'm hopeful that our Republican friends will finally bring some ideas that will change this status quo for individuals in my district, seniors and small businesses across the Nation. Instead of empowering these insurance industry rate increases, they should work with us to stop them.

I'm not naive. This may not happen today. But I'll tell you this: people in Connecticut will be watching.

HEALTH CARE SUMMIT

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, the President continues to ignore the American people's fundamental rejection of this health care bill. He needs to listen to the American public when they say "no" to Big Government and "no" to government-run health care. Yet, his proposal is more of the same government intrusion and high taxes that have been the dominant things of his health care plan since day one.

By refusing to change his plan, the President is demonstrating that today's summit and his rhetoric about working with Republicans to find solutions are purely for show.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to start over and allow the public to have a seat at the table.

□ 1015

ORLANDO ZAPATA TAMAYO

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my deep sadness over the loss of a human prisoner of conscience, Orlando Zapata Tamayo, held by the Cuban regime.

Orlando Zapata Tamayo was first arrested in March of 2003 for participating in a hunger strike to demand the release of Dr. Oscar Biscet and other prisoners of conscience. Since his initial arrest and unwarranted imprisonment, the regime consistently increased Zapata's prison term to 47 years.

While in prison, Zapata endured frequent beatings and unimaginable living conditions. On December 3, Mr. Zapata

began a hunger strike to protest the human rights violations and the repeated beatings by the Cuban authorities. After an 83-day hunger strike, Orlando Zapata Tamayo passed away on Thursday, February 23, 2010, with his mother at his side.

In mourning the death of Orlando Zapata Tamayo, I urge my colleagues to listen to his message of freedom and respect for human life. As the atrocities he fought against remain the reality of Cuba today, we must continue to fight for human rights and the release of all political prisoners.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Snohomish County Auto Theft Task Force for its success in combating vehicle theft in my district.

Recently, the task force was recognized as the top auto theft recovery team in Washington State by the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority. While vehicle thefts across the State decreased 20 percent in 2009, Snohomish County led the way with a remarkable 29 percent decline.

The Snohomish County Auto Theft Task Force is an example of law enforcement agencies working together to make a difference in our community. The Snohomish team is made up of detectives from the Monroe, Marysville, and Lynnwood police departments; the Washington State Patrol; the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office, and, most recently, the Tulalip Tribes.

Through this partnership, the task force disrupted the operation of 26 chop shops and theft rings over the past year alone—tracking down stolen vehicles, arresting those responsible, and helping make sure the bad guys were convicted.

Since forming in 2008, the Snohomish County team has convicted over 100 people and recovered 82 vehicles with an estimated value of \$1.5 million along with \$337,400 worth of stolen property.

At a time when budgets are stretched thin, we should not forget the needs of law enforcement or of the work of our prosecutor's office in making sure these folks are behind bars.

ANTITRUST EXEMPTION REPEAL

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House took a major step forward by repealing the antitrust exemption for health insurance companies. For more than 65 years, insurance companies have been able to play by a different set of rules, and the result has been disastrous for my constituents and for families across the country.

Americans deserve choices. They deserve the ability to pick the health plan they want at an affordable price, but because of these health insurance exemptions from antitrust, they were denied that trust. Insurance companies have been shielded from legal liability for price fixing, for sabotaging their competitors in order to drive them out of the market. In most industries, these behaviors would be unacceptable, but for the insurance industry, it's just another play in the book.

I have been a long and strong proponent of repealing this antitrust exemption. I'm thrilled that the House acted in such a bipartisan fashion to do so, and I urge the Senate to quickly pass this legislation so that all of our constituents can have a choice.

MILITARY FAMILIES JOB CONTINUITY ACT

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, every year our servicemembers across the country receive permanent change-of-station orders, having to relocate their families to meet the needs of our national defense. In the process, military spouses often have to put their careers on hold.

My new legislation, the Military Families Job Continuity Act, offers a \$500 tax credit to any military spouse who has to renew or transfer a professional license when a permanent change-of-station order takes their family across State lines. This tax credit will ease the stress of transfers and help military spouses quickly reenter the workforce.

I urge my colleagues to renew our commitment to our soldiers and to our soldiers' families by supporting the Military Families Job Continuity Act.

NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY

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

Mr. CHILDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Teach Ag Day. I have introduced a bill, House Resolution 886, to honor our Nation's agriculture educators and to support National Teach Ag Day on this day, February 25, 2010.

At a time when there is a nationwide teacher shortage in ag education and many agricultural education programs are suffering from the lack of qualified teachers, I feel it's important to encourage students to explore careers as teachers in agriculture. These teachers work hard to ensure that over a million American students receive an ag education as part of their curriculum.

Ag educators work hand in hand with community groups like FFA to strengthen communities. Our Nation's food supply depends on our continued support of the entire agriculture industry. Encouraging students to pursue

agriculture education is one way to help secure our food supply.

I urge you to join me and many of our colleagues, as well as the NAAE, on behalf of the National Council for Agricultural Education, in supporting America's agricultural educators and students on this day, National Teach Ag Day.

BIPARTISAN EFFORT FOR JOB CREATION

(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, we all know that most of the political eyes and other eyes are focused down at the Blair House right now as the health care summit has just gotten underway, and my friend from Fort Lauderdale and I are going to begin the floor management of the very, very important intelligence authorization bill focused on our Nation's security.

But we can't forget what issue is in the forefront of the minds of most Americans, and that is getting our economy back on track, focusing on job creation and economic growth. And we've just gotten the news this morning that there has been an unfortunate 12 percent increase in the jobless claims, and we continue to have mixed reports on where we are with the economy.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that it's absolutely imperative for us to work in a bipartisan way to put into place true private sector job creation incentives, and by that I mean utilizing the bipartisan effort that was, in the last half century, utilized by John F. Kennedy in the early 1960s and Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. And I believe that if we were to implement those kind of policies, Mr. Speaker, we would see the kind of job creation that the American people are seeking.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3961, MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM ACT OF 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-420) on the resolution (H. Res. 1109) providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3961) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reform the Medicare SGR payment system for physicians and to reinstitute and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory spending legislation, enforced by the threat of annual, automatic sequestration, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2701, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010, WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1105 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1105

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2701) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or his designee. The Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII).

SEC. 3. After passage of H.R. 2701, it shall be in order to consider in the House S. 1494.

All points of order against the Senate bill and against its consideration are waived. It shall be in order to move to strike all after the enacting clause of the Senate bill and to insert in lieu thereof the provisions of H.R. 2701 as passed by the House. All points of order against that motion are waived. If the motion is adopted and the Senate bill, as amended, is passed, then it shall be in order to move that the House insist on its amendment to S. 1494 and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

SEC. 4. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of February 26, 2010.

SEC. 5. It shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of February 26, 2010, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida was allowed to speak out of order.)

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING PATRIOT ACT AUTHORITIES

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform Members that the Intelligence Committee has received a classified document from the Department of Justice that is related to the PATRIOT Act authorities currently set to expire at the end of the month.

The House may consider a 1-year extension of the PATRIOT Act today so the Intelligence Committee will be making this document available for Member review in the committee offices located in HVC-304. Staff from the Intelligence and Judiciary Committees, as well as personnel from the Justice Department and with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, will be available to answer any questions that Members may have. Members who want to review the document should call the Intelligence Committee to schedule an appointment.

Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California, my good friend, Mr. DREIER. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days with which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.