

This is the wrong approach to caring for our seniors.

TIME TO STOP POLITICAL GAMES AND WORK TOGETHER

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, right now Californians in my home district face an almost 14 percent unemployment rate and are dealing with the fourth highest rate of foreclosures in the Nation.

What my constituents need above all else is for both of us, Republicans and Democrats, to come together on creating new jobs. Yet in the last 18 weeks the Republicans have controlled the House, they have yet to bring one single bill focused on creating jobs. Instead, they have put forward a partisan agenda that is more about scoring political points than helping American families.

We should be putting American families back to work. We should not be voting to dismantle safety nets for seniors and vulnerable Americans. The Republican attacks on Medicare and Medicaid go against our core values and threaten the health care of 44 million low-income Americans.

It is time to stop political games. Let's work together, and I say let's work together and focus on straightening out our economy and creating jobs.

□ 1210

CONGRATULATING NEWARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Newark Community High School boys basketball team on their 2011 Illinois class 1A championship title. This is a great accomplishment; and their team, coaches, and the entire Newark community should be very proud.

Newark, Illinois, is a town of less than a thousand people. It is symbolic of our great Nation and is a place I am honored to represent. Newark High School, with a total enrollment of less than 200 students, has never before won the State championship. Coach Rick Tollefson, head coach of the Newark Norsemen, has been with the program for 5 years and in that time has led the Norsemen to three consecutive sectional championships as well as this year's State title. It has certainly been an exciting time for this close-knit community.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to personally congratulate everyone who made Newark history this year, as well as those who made it possible—the school's administrators and the entire Newark commu-

nity. I appreciate their hard work and dedication to this basketball program and to the students of Newark High School. Congratulations on a job well done.

CODE NAME "GERONIMO"

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, just last week, the U.S. military carried out a covert operation that ended in the killing of the most wanted terrorist on the planet, Osama bin Laden. The news of Osama bin Laden's death at the hands of our heroic Navy SEALs sent forth a wave of tremendous relief by the American people.

However, Mr. Speaker, we also learned that the U.S. military and the CIA used the code name "Geronimo" for the operation to seize and kill Osama bin Laden. The first reports of the details of the raid stated that Osama bin Laden had been identified as "Geronimo"—enemy killed in action.

Mr. Speaker, I would strongly suggest to all my colleagues in the House that you should go and see the movie "Geronimo" and see for yourselves if the Chiricahua Apache warrior Geronimo was a terrorist and murderer of thousands of innocent men, women, and children like Osama bin Laden. On the contrary, Geronimo was one of the greatest American Indian warriors who fought against some of the most vicious, cruelest, and inhumane treatment and policies instituted by our Federal Government against his people.

As a Nation—Mr. Speaker—I know we can do better than this. And with all due respect, I believe the President and CIA Director Panetta owe the Apache Nation an apology.

JUAN WILFREDO SOTO

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

Mr. RIVERA. I rise today to inform my colleagues of yet another ruthless murder by the Castro dictatorship in Cuba. Last Sunday, Juan Wilfredo Soto Garcia, a dissident leader on the island, was viciously beaten to death by Castro's state security thugs simply for participating in a peaceful protest.

Soto belonged to Foro Anti-Totalitario Unido, or the United Anti-Totalitarian Forum, a peaceful dissident organization. Witnesses have attested that two of Castro's henchmen cuffed his hands behind his back and then beat him mercilessly and repeatedly with batons until he was dead.

For 30 years, Soto peacefully worked for freedom and change on the island and served 12 years in Castro's political prisons for his pro-democracy advocacy. Last year, Soto stated, "I hold Cuban state security, the government,

and the repressive police here responsible for whatever happens to me in the future."

This past weekend, he gave the ultimate sacrifice for Cuba's freedom and became yet another victim in the Castro brothers' 50-year reign of terror.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, this past Tuesday, 41 House Republicans sent a letter to President Obama pleading with him to stop the criticism of the GOP's plan to turn Medicare into a private voucher system—a system that would cost future seniors thousands of dollars each year. Let bygones be bygones, these Republicans said. Let's wipe the slate clean. Well, I can't help but laugh at the irony.

Last year, in districts all throughout the country, Republican candidates for Congress attacked Democrats for supporting the Affordable Care Act, claiming it cut \$500 billion from Medicare—wrongly, I might add.

Fast forward 1 year later, and those same Republicans now in Congress just a few weeks ago voted for a budget that actually embraces the very same \$500 billion in savings we found in Medicare in the Affordable Care Act.

There's a difference, though. In the health care law, Democrats took that \$500 billion and reinvested it in Medicare to increase the life of the program for more than a decade. What did the Republicans do? They take that \$500 billion and use it to pay for more tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and giant oil companies. And Medicare? They dismantle it, forcing future seniors into a new system that will require them to pay upwards of \$180,000 more for their care.

The American people will not let them forget.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PUMP

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, lax regulation and reckless pursuit of higher oil company profits resulted in 11 deaths, 200 million gallons of oil dumped into our gulf waters, tens of thousands of marine and aquatic life lost, and a damaged fishing and tourism industry. A panel of experts showed us how we can learn from past mistakes and implement regulations to ensure that this disaster doesn't happen again. Yet over the last 2 weeks the Republican majority has passed legislation to create an even more lax regulatory environment than existed before the BP oil spill disaster.

Opening our shores to drilling and returning to pre-BP oil spill regulations won't reduce our dependence on foreign

oil, and it won't reduce the price of gas at the pump. The United States holds less than 2 percent of the world's oil reserves while we consume more than 22 percent. Even if all restricted areas in the U.S. could somehow be brought into production at this moment, the oil they would yield under the best scenario is about a million barrels of oil a day—5 percent of our daily consumption.

Those bills shouldn't get any further than the House. The Senate should reject them. The American people should better understand the real cost of giving the oil companies everything they want.

LET'S HELP REBUILD AMERICA

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. It's very clear in these economic times that Americans need jobs and, more accurately, we need the investment that will create jobs. We've got the money to do it. In light of the fact that bin Laden is no longer a threat to Americans, we don't need to spend over \$100 billion a year in Afghanistan.

So, again, let's take a share of the money that's gone to rebuild Afghanistan, have it sent back to the U.S. taxpayers right here in the United States to create jobs right here in the U.S. Let's help rebuild American cities like the city of Detroit. When you do that, you rebuild U.S. manufacturing capacity. That will create jobs for thousands and even millions of Americans right here at home. The best way to make it in America: redirect our tax dollars away from Afghanistan in part to create jobs right here for American people.

BROAD RANGE OF ENERGY SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, I visited a local Tampa gas station and spoke with dozens of customers about the impact of rising gas prices on already financially strapped families. Overwhelmingly, my constituents told me that we must look at a broad range of energy solutions to reduce our dependency on foreign oil and reduce the price we pay at the pump. We should increase domestic energy production, promote energy efficiency, and encourage private investment and renewable energy technologies as part of a comprehensive plan to address our energy needs. Not only will this all-inclusive approach ease the burden of high gas prices but it will help create jobs that this country needs.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 754, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 264 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 264

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. 754) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 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. 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. 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 in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. 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. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. 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.

□ 1220

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

Mr. SESSIONS. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. House Resolution 264 provides for a structured rule designated by the Rules Committee for consideration of H.R. 754. This rule allows for nine of the amendments submitted to the Rules Committee to be made in order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying bill. The fiscal year 2011 budget process began last Congress with about a dozen hearings and Member briefings and continued into this Congress with more briefings and negotiations. This legislation was introduced by the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the gentleman from Michigan, MIKE ROGERS, and has gone through regular order to achieve its presence on the floor today. H.R. 754 was marked up in the Intelligence Committee and the chairman of the Rules Committee, the gentleman from California, DAVID DREIER, provided a structured amendment process for nine additional amendments from Republicans and Democrats to be considered today on the House floor.

The bill we are discussing today authorizes the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government for fiscal year 2011 in order to enhance the national security of the United States, to support and assist the Armed Forces of the United States, and to support the President of the United States in the execution of the foreign policy of the United States of America. This bill is a vital tool for congressional oversight of the classified activities of the intelligence community, and it is critical to ensuring that our intelligence agencies have the resources and authorities they need to accomplish this important work on behalf of keeping America free.

The primary vehicle for exercising credible congressional oversight over our intelligence agencies is the intelligence authorization bill. Yet we have not passed a bona fide intelligence authorization bill in 6 years. Although the National Security Act requires intelligence activities to be specifically authorized, in recent years certain appropriation bills have included language that would "deem" the intelligence funding to be authorized. This procedure meets the statutory requirement but has weakened the ability, I believe, of Congress in its oversight of intelligence activities in recent years.

The U.S. intelligence community plays a critical role in the war on terrorism and securing our country from the many other threats we face as a