

their assumptions and plans based around what the government promised they were going to do? For that individual aged 55 or older, nothing changes. I happen to fall into that age group. As Mr. THOMPSON alluded to, I would happily opt into the group that is going to have choices because I would rather have choices than a prescribed benefit.

□ 1520

Nevertheless, those individuals who are 55 and older will see no change, the thought being that they have already structured their lives and their retirements based on the fact that this promise had been made. For individuals who are younger than that, when there is still time to make some adjustments in your post-work years, your retirement years, there will be a different program.

Now you ask: For people who are 54 years of age and younger, is that fair to do this?

Well, I think both Mr. THOMPSON and I have articulated what "fair" will look like if you don't do something. What "fair" will look like if you don't do something is either vastly restricted benefits, as has been recommended by the Medicare trustees, vastly restricted benefits as dictated by the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or perhaps no Medicare program at all. After all, the makeup of the voting public in 10- to 15-years' time is going to be different than what it is today, and the makeup of the voting population in 10- to 15-years' time may feel significantly different about paying 60, 65, 70, 75 percent of their paychecks in order to continue benefits that were promised by a Congress 60 years before.

This type of intergenerational anxiety is just around the corner, and if we don't deal with it head on, if we don't take it as a serious responsibility, then it, indeed, could set the stage for some significant strife down the road between today's children and tomorrow's grandparents. That is why it is so important that we address this situation today.

G.T., I have said what I had intended to say today. If you have any additional comments or closing thoughts, we'll wind down this hour a little early.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I appreciate that. Thanks again for hosting this hour.

Whether we're talking about addressing the deficit or whether we're talking about saving Medicare—frankly, both of those issues are intertwined—we've got to save the country, and we've got to save the Medicare program. What we cannot do is allow the politics of 2012 to affect the problem-solving of critical problems in 2011. That's what we have seen so far. Where the facts are evident and clear that this country is facing a critical deficit that could bankrupt it and where the numbers for Medicare are such that its insolvency is impending and bankruptcy occurs and it goes

away, these are critical problems, and they shouldn't be demagogued as we bring solutions to the floor to debate. That's what has been happening. So there is no way we should allow the politics of 2012 to affect the critical problem-solving of 2011.

After the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, I had the privilege as a health care professional to be recruited to serve on a technical expert panel for Medicare. At the time, it was the Health Care Finance Administration. Today, it's the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Based on that experience, this is necessary. This is a necessary debate. This is necessary in order to save Medicare, and it's an opportunity for us.

We have had previous reforms. The most recent one I saw was under President Bush where he created the waiver program. That was a reform to an entitlement program that actually increased the quality of life and decreased the costs of many people who were institutionalized, living in nursing homes. Frankly, I like nursing homes. I think they can be very quality facilities, and I was an administrator at one time. Yet people should have the choice of where they live if they're living with a significant disability. It was President Bush's waiver program, a reform actually, that allowed that to occur.

So "reform," I think, can be a word used to scare people, but we need to talk about the specifics of why it is necessary and the opportunities that we have, I believe, to increase the quality of care, to decrease costs, to even increase access—all those—and certainly choice since the health care consumers are making decisions. Those are four principles that we share as a caucus as to whatever we do in health care. In looking at Medicare reform, I think that our plan, which is really the only viable plan, honors all four of those qualities.

So I look forward to continuing this debate. We need to have a good, transparent debate, but it needs to be a debate that is not based on demagoguery. It's a debate that needs to be based on the facts. I thank my colleague for hosting this Special Order time.

Mr. BURGESS. I think we'll look forward to having similar discussions in the future, probably frequently, because it's important that we not just have the debate with both sides of the Chamber. It's also important that we have the conversation with the American people.

I would remind people that the Republican budget that was passed in April was an aspirational document. It wasn't terribly long. If you look at something that becomes an actual law, it can get fairly long and intricate, but the budget was an aspirational document that set the goals. In 10-years' time, we want to see Medicare on a sustainable path. We want to preserve, protect and defend it for the future, and this aspirational document sets the pathway for achieving that goal.

All of the work that will be done to actually develop the legislative product will be done in the committees that Mr. THOMPSON and I are on in the House and that Members of the other body are on in the Senate. The actual work will be done on those committees, and there will be ample opportunity for people to comment, for people to contact their legislators. There will be periods of open comment at the Federal agencies as those laws are written. They won't be written in the next couple of months. They will be written over the next several years.

The point I would end with is that we are entering a phase of a long conversation with the American people about what the future of this program is, which arguably has been a good program in the past but, left untouched, is headed for some significant problems in the future.

So what is the forward-looking path for our Medicare system and for our seniors of both today and tomorrow? It will be a long conversation, but we are both up to it, and we can talk for a long time without pausing. I look forward to working with you on many afternoons on this very subject.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of attending the funeral of former Congressman Peter Frelinghuysen.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at 10 a.m.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Gary L. Ackerman, Sandy Adams, Robert B. Aderholt, W. Todd Akin, Rodney Alexander, Jason Altmire, Justin Amash, Robert E. Andrews, Steve Austria, Joe Baca, Michele Bachmann, Spencer Bachus, Tammy Baldwin, Lou Barletta, John Barrow, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Joe Barton, Charles F. Bass, Karen Bass, Xavier Becerra, Dan Benishek, Rick Berg, Shelley Berkley, Howard L. Berman, Judy Biggert, Brian P. Bilbray, Gus M. Bilirakis, Rob Bishop, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Timothy H. Bishop, Diane Black, Marsha Blackburn, Earl Blumenauer, John A. Boehner, Jo Bonner, Mary Bono Mack, Madeline Z. Bordallo, Dan Boren, Leonard L. Boswell, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Kevin Brady, Robert A. Brady, Bruce L. Braley, Mo Brooks, Paul C. Broun, Corrine Brown, Vern Buchanan, Larry Bucshon, Ann Marie

Buerkle, Michael C. Burgess, Dan Burton, G. K. Butterfield, Ken Calvert, Dave Camp, John Campbell, Francisco “Quico” Canseco, Eric Cantor, Shelley Moore Capito, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Dennis A. Cardoza, Russ Carnahan, John C. Carney, Jr., Andre Carson, John R. Carter, Bill Cassidy, Kathy Castor, Steve Chabot, Jason Chaffetz, Ben Chandler, Donna M. Christensen, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Hansen Clarke, Yvette D. Clarke, Wm. Lacy Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, James E. Clyburn, Howard Coble, Mike Coffman, Steve Cohen, Tom Cole, K. Michael Conaway, Gerald E. “Gerry” Connolly, John Conyers, Jr., Jim Cooper, Jim Costa, Jerry F. Costello, Joe Courtney, Chip Cravaack, Eric A. “Rick” Crawford, Ander Crenshaw, Mark S. Critz, Joseph Crowley, Henry Cuellar, John Abney Culberson, Elijah E. Cummings, Danny K. Davis, Geoff Davis, Susan A. Davis, Peter A. DeFazio, Diana DeGette, Rosa L. DeLauro, Jeff Denham, Charles W. Dent, Scott DesJarlais, Theodore E. Deutch, Mario Diaz-Balart, Norman D. Dicks, John D. Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, Robert J. Dold, Joe Donnelly, Michael F. Doyle, David Dreier, Sean P. Duffy, Jeff Duncan, John J. Duncan, Jr., Donna F. Edwards, Keith Ellison, Renee L. Ellmers, Jo Ann Emerson, Eliot L. Engel, Anna G. Eshoo, Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, Blake Farenthold, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Bob Filner, Stephen Lee Fincher, Michael G. Fitzpatrick, Jeff Flake, Charles J. “Chuck” Fleischmann, John Fleming, Bill Flores, J. Randy Forbes, Jeff Fortenberry, Virginia Foxx, Barney Frank, Trent Franks, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Marcia L. Fudge, Elton Gallegly, John Garamendi, Cory Gardner, Scott Garrett, Jim Gerlach, Bob Gibbs, Christopher P. Gibson, Gabrielle Giffords, Phil Gingrey, Louie Gohmert, Charles A. Gonzalez, Bob Goodlatte, Paul A. Gosar, Trey Gowdy, Kay Granger, Sam Graves, Tom Graves, Al Green, Gene Green, Tim Griffin, H. Morgan Griffith, Raúl M. Grijalva, Michael G. Grimm, Frank C. Guinta, Brett Guthrie, Luis V. Gutierrez, Ralph M. Hall, Colleen W. Hanabusa, Richard L. Hanna, Jane Harman*, Gregg Harper, Andy Harris, Vicky Hartzler, Alcee L. Hastings, Doc Hastings, Nan A. S. Hayworth, Joseph J. Heck, Martin Heinrich, Dean Heller*, Jeb Hensarling, Wally Herger, Jaime Herrera Beutler, Brian Higgins, James A. Himes, Maurice D. Hinchey, Rubin Hinojosa, Mazie Hirono, Kathleen C. Hochul, Tim Holden, Rush D. Holt, Michael M. Honda, Steny H. Hoyer, Tim Huelskamp, Bill Huizenga, Randy Hultgren, Duncan Hunter, Robert Hurt, Jay Inslee, Steve Israel, Darrell E. Issa, Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Sheila Jackson Lee, Lynn Jenkins, Bill Johnson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr., Sam Johnson, Timothy V. Johnson, Walter B. Jones, Jim Jordan, Marcy Kaptur, William R. Keating, Mike Kelly, Dale E. Kildee, Ron Kind, Peter T. King, Steve King, Jack Kingston, Adam Kinzinger, Larry Kissell, John Kline, Raúl R. Labrador, Doug Lamborn, Leonard Lance, Jeffrey M. Landry, James R. Langevin, James Lankford, Rick Larsen, John B. Larson, Tom Latham, Steven C. LaTourette, Robert E. Latta, Barbara Lee, Christopher J. Lee*, Sander M. Levin, Jerry Lewis, John Lewis, Daniel Lipinski, Frank A. LoBiondo, David Loebsack, Zoe Lofgren, Billy Long, Nita M. Lowey, Frank D. Lucas, Blaine Luetkemeyer, Ben Ray Lujan, Cynthia M. Lummis, Daniel E. Lofgren, Stephen F. Lynch, Connie Mack, Carolyn B. Maloney, Donald A. Manzullo, Kenny Marchant, Tom Marino, Edward J. Markey, Jim Matheson, Doris O. Matsui, Kevin McCarthy, Carolyn McCarthy, Michael T. McCaul, Tom McClintock, Betty McCollum, Thaddeus G. McCotter, Jim McDermott, James P. McGovern, Patrick T. McHenry,

Mike McIntyre, Howard P. “Buck” McKeon, David B. McKinley, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Jerry McNerney, Patrick Meehan, Gregory W. Meeks, John L. Mica, Michael H. Michaud, Brad Miller, Candice S. Miller, Gary G. Miller, George Miller, Jeff Miller, Gwen Moore, James P. Moran, Mick Mulvaney, Christopher S. Murphy, Tim Murphy, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Jerrold Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Richard E. Neal, Randy Neugebauer, Kristi L. Noem, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Richard Nugent, Devin Nunes, Alan Nunnelee, Pete Olson, John W. Olver, William L. Owens, Steven M. Palazzo, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bill Pascrell, Jr., Ed Pastor, Ron Paul, Erik Paulsen, Donald M. Payne, Stevan Pearce, Nancy Pelosi, Mike Pence, Ed Perlmutter, Gary C. Peters, Collin C. Peterson, Thomas E. Petri, Pedro R. Pierluisi, Chellie Pingree, Joseph R. Pitts, Todd Russell Platts, Ted Poe, Jared Polis, Mike Pompeo, Bill Posey, David E. Price, Tom Price, Benjamin Quayle, Mike Quigley, Nick J. Rahall II, Charles B. Rangel, Tom Reed, Denny Rehberg, David G. Reichert, James B. Renacci, Silvestre Reyes, Reid J. Ribble, Laura Richardson, Cedric L. Richmond, E. Scott Rigell, David Rivera, Martha Roby, David P. Roe, Harold Rogers, Mike Rogers, Dana Rohrabacher, Todd Rokita, Thomas J. Rooney, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Peter J. Roskam, Dennis Ross, Mike Ross, Steven R. Rothman, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Edward R. Royce, Jon Runyan, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Bobby L. Rush, Paul Ryan, Tim Ryan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Linda T. Sánchez, Loretta Sanchez, John P. Sarbanes, Steve Scalise, Janice D. Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Robert T. Schilling, Jean Schmidt, Aaron Schock, Kurt Schrader, Allyson Y. Schwartz, David Schweikert, Austin Scott, David Scott, Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, Tim Scott, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., José E. Serrano, Pete Sessions, Terri A. Sewell, Brad Sherman, John Shimkus, Heath Shuler, Bill Shuster, Michael K. Simpson, Albio Sires, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Adam Smith, Adrian Smith, Christopher H. Smith, Lamar Smith, Steve Southerland, Jackie Speier, Cliff Stearns, Steve Stivers, Marlin A. Stutzman, John Sullivan, Betty Sutton, Lee Terry, Bennie G. Thompson, Glenn Thompson, Mike Thompson, Mac Thornberry, Patrick J. Tiberi, John F. Tierney, Scott Tipton, Paul Tonko, Edolphus Towns, Niki Tsongas, Michael R. Turner, Fred Upton, Chris Van Hollen, Nydia M. Velázquez, Peter J. Visclosky, Tim Walberg, Greg Walden, Joe Walsh, Timothy J. Walz, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Maxine Waters, Melvin L. Watt, Henry A. Waxman, Daniel Webster, Anthony D. Weiner, Peter Welch, Allen B. West, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Ed Whitfield, Frederica Wilson, Joe Wilson, Robert J. Wittman, Frank R. Wolf, Steve Womack, Rob Woodall, Lynn C. Woolsey, David Wu, John A. Yarmuth, Kevin Yoder, C.W. Bill Young, Don Young, Todd C. Young

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

1812. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Triflurosulfuron-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0102; FRL-8871-4] received April 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1813. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Data Requirements for Antimicrobial Pesticides; notification to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0110; FRL-8861-7] (RIN: 2010-AD30) received April 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1814. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Fluopicolide; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0481; FRL-8859-9] received April 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1815. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of the Department of Defense (DoD) Chemical and Biological Defense Program (CBDP) Annual Report to Congress for 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1816. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement; Business Systems-Definition and Administration (DFARS Case 2009-D038) (RIN: 0750-AG58) received May 10, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1817. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission’s “Major” final rule — Implementation of the Whistleblower Provisions of Section 21F of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [Release No.: 34-64545; File No. S7-33-10] (RIN: 3235-AK78) received May 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1818. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting annual report on Operations of the Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs for Fiscal year 2009; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1819. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Florida; Jefferson County, Kentucky; Forsyth, Mecklenburg, and Buncombe Counties, North Carolina; and South Carolina [EPA-R04-OAR-2010-0840(a); FRL-9298-9] received April 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1820. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Adoption of the Revised Lead Standards and Related Reference Conditions and Update of Appendices [EPA-R03-OAR-2010-0882; FRL-9298-1] received April 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1821. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Carolina; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [SC-200906; FRL-9286-2] received April 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1822. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department’s report required by the Omnibus Appropriation, Public Law 105-277, Section 2215 on “Overseas Surplus Property”; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1823. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department