

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while in Iraq last week with Members of Congress, we not only met with our troops, but we met with Prime Minister Maliki. During our conversation, it was suggested to Mr. Maliki that Iraq eventually assume some of the costs for this war of liberation.

The war has cost billions of dollars and thousands of American lives. Since we are rebuilding Iraq and have given them a free democracy, it seems only right that Iraq at least consider paying for part of the cost with future oil revenues. I was surprised that Prime Minister Maliki reacted with an emphatic "no way" to sharing the cost. Even Kuwait helped reimburse the coalition nations when Saddam was driven from their lands. But not Iraq. They will not hear of it.

Later this same day, we learned that the Prime Minister had actually ordered the Members of Congress out of Iraq. Looks like our questions to him were a political IED.

But as the date for our military looms ever closer for departure, there are reports the Prime Minister wants our military to stay a little longer and Americans to pay for it. Iraq should help pay for the nation that Americans rebuilt and liberated.

And that's just the way it is.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Presidential Scholars Dylan Neel of Moses Brown High School and Sol Taubin of the Wheeler School for the academic excellence.

Dylan and Sol have shown themselves to be some of our Nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. They are two of only 141 students selected as U.S. Presidential Scholars from more than 3,000 applicants. The U.S. Presidential Scholars program recognizes graduating high school seniors for academic excellence, artistic accomplishments, and civic contributions. These young people represent the great hope of our Nation's youth and the promise of the American education system.

I also want to recognize Jennifer Stewart and Christine Barry, who were selected by Dylan and Sol, respectively, as their most inspiring and challenging teachers. I thank these teachers for their dedication to our young people and our schools.

I am pleased to join the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars and the United States Department of Education in recognizing Dylan Neel and Sol Taubin.

HAMAS FUNDING

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago from this very Chamber, we heard the Israeli Prime Minister make clear that Israel seeks a permanent peace settlement with recognition of a Palestinian state. He reiterated that Israel seeks peace with its neighbors. Unfortunately, some of its neighbors do not feel the same way.

The charter of Hamas clearly states that peaceful solutions are contrary to their beliefs. As a party, they stand for the destruction of Israel, they glorify the murders of women and children, and even mourn the death of Osama bin Laden. Despite these positions, Hamas was recently welcomed back in to the Palestinian Government, and Egypt has opened the border to the Gaza Strip.

By no means should U.S. taxpayer money go to support these murderers. We cannot support a Palestinian Government that has no intention to live peacefully with its free and democratic neighbor. We must stop sending hundreds of millions of dollars in annual aid until all parties in the Palestinian Government recognize that Israel has a right to exist.

TERROR GAP

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, shockingly, individuals on the Federal terrorist watch list are not excluded from purchasing firearms in the United States. Quite simply, this means you can be on a terrorist watch list and be prohibited from boarding a plane because we think you are a terrorist, but you can buy a semiautomatic weapon.

Last week, American-born al Qaeda spokesman Adam Gadahn urged the terrorist group's followers to exploit this "terror gap" in our gun laws. Our enemies, intent on destroying Americans and our way of life, have made a calculated decision that Congress cares more about protecting the gun lobby than it does the safety of its citizens. They are convinced we lack the courage and fortitude to close our gaping loopholes and that their persistent campaign to strike again on our soil has new promise.

I would love to stand here today and say our enemy has grossly underestimated us. I am not certain I can. My colleagues in Congress are now faced with a critical opportunity to do the right thing and pass the most commonsense of commonsense policies by closing the terror gap. Al Qaeda will be watching our response.

□ 1210

INDIANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD AIRMAN OF THE YEAR: STAFF SERGEANT ANDRE CARBONEAU

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to honor a native member of Indiana's Air National Guard today. Staff Sergeant Andre Carboneau was recently awarded Indiana Air National Guard Airman of the Year for 2010. The honorable award is designed to recognize members that are hardworking, are involved in the community, and have continued to advance themselves in education. After members compete on a quarterly basis, they compete at the State level to become the airman of the year.

Carboneau received his award Friday, May 20, at Victory Field in Indianapolis. He is from Warsaw, Indiana, and a phase aircraft mechanic for 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is also a full-time student at Indiana State University, where he is majoring in professional aviation.

I congratulate Staff Sergeant Andre Carboneau for his achievements and am proud of Indiana's 14,700 members of the Indiana Army and Air National Guard.

Our Nation owes endless gratitude to these men and women in uniform who have devoted their lives to our security and the preservation of our liberty.

MEDICARE VOUCHER PROGRAM

(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 rise today in strong opposition to the Republicans' misguided attack on Medicare and Medicaid. No matter what the other side says, their plans for Medicare and Medicaid will end them, leaving them as nothing but a shell.

This is a question of priorities. Which is the best choice? Either closing the doughnut hole so seniors, including 7,000 in my district, don't have to choose between their medications and paying the rent, or giving huge subsidies to oil companies?

Or this choice: telling people, including 100,000 in my congressional district who are in their 40s and 50s, to hurry up and save another \$200,000 each before they retire so they can pay for health care since Medicare's guarantee is gone?

Or continuing tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires?

The Republican budget is not a plan for our future. It's a recipe for disaster. It ends Medicare and Medicaid, puts our seniors at risk.

Stand up for our current and future seniors. Say "no" to the Republican attack on Medicare and Medicaid.

MR. PRESIDENT, WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, we found out last week that new business

creation is at a 17-year low, and Americans are asking, Mr. President, where are the jobs?

Unemployment has now languished at the highest level since the Great Depression, and Americans are asking, Mr. President, where are the jobs?

One in seven families is now on food stamps, and Americans are asking, Mr. President, where are the jobs?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released that the time it takes to get a new job is at an all-time high, and Americans are asking, Mr. President, where are the jobs?

House Republicans have a plan for America's job creators to put the Nation on a fiscally sustainable path to restore confidence, to make our Tax Code competitive, and to take the burden of regulation off our job creators so that American workers can get the paychecks they need and deserve.

REPUBLICAN PLAN TO END MEDICARE AND GUT MEDICAID

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

Mr. Sires. Mr. Speaker, the more we learn about the true impact of the majority's plan to end Medicare and gut the Medicaid program, the more there is to dislike.

For starters, under their plan, seniors will pay \$6,000 more in annual out-of-pocket costs for health care services. Current seniors will see higher costs on prescription drugs as a result of reopening the donut hole, as well as a spike in the price of preventative care because free annual wellness visits will be eliminated.

Individuals who are 54 years of age and younger, including 540,000 people in my district, will be denied access to Medicare's guaranteed benefits.

Additionally, the majority's budget slashes Medicaid funding by \$800 billion over 10 years and converts the program into block grants. Nearly 60 million Americans that rely on Medicaid for their health coverage will be in jeopardy of losing their health care.

From my district in particular, their plan will impair the health care of 21,000 dual eligible seniors who rely on Medicaid to supplement their Medicare coverage, and 82,000 children who receive coverage under Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, given the current economic climate, now is not the time to be cutting valuable services to our most vulnerable citizens.

MEDICARE HOME INFUSION BILL

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there are massive inefficiencies in Medicare that are causing the program to go bankrupt. One example is infusion therapy, or the intravenous delivery of medication administered to patients suffering from cancer or seri-

ous infection for which they cannot just take a pill. But it requires specialized equipment and supervision and often lasts several hours a day over a period of several weeks. It's very expensive for patients to get this care in a hospital.

Although private plans have been covering home infusion therapy for decades, Medicare still forces people to go to a hospital, where they also have increased risk for infection by going there, and it costs thousands of dollars for delivery, as opposed to hundreds of dollars when they get it at home.

That's why today, Representative ELIOT ENGEL and I are reintroducing the Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Coverage Act, so patients can receive the same treatment in the comfort and convenience of their home at a lower cost. Our bill saves taxpayers money, about \$6 billion over 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, our proof is that this is one more way we can find significant savings in Medicare, or simply wait for the program to go bankrupt. And I urge all of my colleagues to support our bill to give patients better quality and better care at lower costs.

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, America's seniors have given a lifetime of service to our Nation. It is our responsibility to demonstrate the same commitment to them by providing a safety net like Medicare and Medicaid.

Sadly, the Republican budget will have a devastating impact on our seniors, forcing many of them to sell their homes and rely on their children just to get by because they can't afford health coverage.

In my district alone, the Republican budget plan would throw out 3,200 Medicare beneficiaries into the prescribed donut hole, eliminate preventive care benefits for 56,000 seniors, deny 630,000 individuals aged 54 and younger guaranteed Medicare coverage, jeopardize nursing home care for 1,100 seniors whose expenses are paid by Medicare.

Yes, we must lower the deficit with intelligent spending cuts, but it is wrong to balance the budget by cutting vital service to American seniors.

Let's preserve Medicare and Medicaid. Let's work together, Republicans and Democrats, and find a solution.

THE IMMINENT MEDICARE CATASTROPHE

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, we are at a great turning point in history when it comes to the survival of Medicare. The CMS actuary just informed us that Medicare will become insolvent in just 12 years. That means that if

you're on Medicare, or expect to be on Medicare in the next 12 years, you need to think about how you will finance your health care after that period.

And what is the President's plan or the Democrat congressional plan? Sorry, there is no plan.

When asked, Mr. President, why no plan when the law requires you to have one? He said, and I paraphrase, that he would rather Republicans take the lead so he can demagogue ours. Never mind that ObamaCare takes one-half trillion dollars from Medicare to subsidize its crazy schemes.

The Ryan budget plan that was passed here in this Chamber has the only credible plan to save Medicare. It ensures traditional Medicare coverage indefinitely if you're over 54 years of age. It provides for a choice among many private plans with premium support based on financial need for those who are under. It is time congressional Democrats and the President step up on this vital issue.

□ 1220

THE TRUTH ABOUT MEDICARE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the more people know about the Republican plan for Medicare, the less they like it. So it's no wonder that the Republicans are trying to prevent House Members from telling our constituents about the plan to end Medicare by actually censoring our mailings to our own districts.

The Democrats aren't alone in saying the Republican plan ends Medicare. Tom Scully, former Bush administration head of Medicare, says the Republican plan "gets rid of the current Medicare program" and that it is "a fundamental structural change in the program." It's so fundamental that beginning in 2022 the out-of-pocket costs for enrollees would double, and they would be forced to pick a private insurance plan without guaranteed benefits.

Republicans can call their plan whatever they want—sorta-care, maybe-care, we don't care—but they can't call it Medicare. They can try all they want, but they can't keep seniors from learning the truth.

This program that they introduced ends Medicare.

MEDICARE IS GOING BROKE, MR. PRESIDENT

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this administration has failed to lead, they have failed to budget, and now they have failed to produce any viable solution for saving Medicare. In fact, their solution is to let it go broke.

In 13 short years, Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will run completely out of money. Bankrupting this