

program will leave many of our Nation's seniors high and dry and our future generations without a health care program to depend upon.

And guess what? The Obama administration doesn't care. Instead of making Medicare reform a top priority, the administration has passed the task off to a panel of unqualified bureaucrats—like it was busy work that they couldn't be bothered with.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is going broke. That's a reality this administration has to face. The program is already driving up the larger-than-life debt, and it will only get worse from here. I urge the administration to at least present us with one option for fixing Medicare's present money problem. And if they can't, the House GOP doctors have plenty of suggestions of where to begin.

REPUBLICANS ARE HIDING THE TRUTH ABOUT MEDICARE FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, before I came to Congress, I was a newspaper editor in Louisville, Kentucky. And as an editor, my job was to make sure that our stories revealed the truth and made things easier to understand for our readers. Right now, the Republican majority in Congress is editing to obscure the truth and to hide the facts from the American people.

Ever since a Republican candidate in New York lost a special election in a heavily Republican district because she supported the reckless GOP plan to end Medicare, the majority in this body has been petrified about what it might mean for their political careers if the American people actually found out the truth, and they are doing everything they can to hide the truth.

The Republican-controlled Franking Commission—which controls content of mailings from congressional offices—is now dictating that any reference to the end of Medicare be cut out from correspondence. Whenever the word “end” is used, they say we have to use the word “change.” They won't let the truth be told. But the truth is, if you have eliminated something, you haven't changed it. You can't change something that has been killed. That's what the American people need to know. That's what the Republican majority is trying to hide, but they will not deceive the American people.

HAPPY 236TH BIRTHDAY TO THE U.S. ARMY

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the birthday of the United States Army; 236 years ago, the United States Army was established to defend our families.

The Army began June 14, 1775 as the Continental Army. The Continental Congress established the Army to coordinate military efforts among the 13 independent colonies.

With victory in the Cold War, more people and more countries today live in democracy, freedom and peace than in the history of the world due to the success of America's military. Promoting the values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage, today's soldiers represent the best of our Nation.

As the grateful son of an Army Air Corps Flying Tiger and as a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserves and Army National Guard, I know firsthand the competence and patriotism of servicemembers. Especially my wife, Roxanne, and I are grateful to have three sons currently serving in the Army National Guard. My youngest son, Second Lieutenant Hunter Taylor Wilson, was commissioned last month an engineer through the Clemson University ROTC.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CENSORSHIP BY FRANKING COMMISSION

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to object to the majority Franking Commission's exercise in blatant and transparent censorship on a Medicare mailing I and other colleagues of mine wish to send to our constituents.

I'm not allowed to call it the “Ryan budget” even though the Republicans called it the Ryan budget, because, of course, it has become unpopular. I'm not allowed to refer to changing Medicare to a voucher system even though Mr. RYAN himself referred to it as a voucher system. I must now call it a “premium support system.”

These changes, among many others, are censorship at its worst. When we don't like something, when it's not going well for us on the majority side, we suppress it. This censorship would make former Soviet censors blush at the breathtaking nature and sweeping scope of the suppression of free expression, of free ideas here in the Nation's Capitol.

REPUBLICANS WORKING TO CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about jobs.

Last week, during the district work period, I met with local business leaders, toured businesses throughout my district, and listened to their concerns. It should not come as a surprise to

anyone the main topic of conversation was where are the jobs and what is the state of the economy.

Over and over, the small business leaders told me that government regulations and uncertainty are negatively affecting their ability to grow and create jobs. Businesses are afraid to invest in the future due to the uncertainty in our Tax Code, the increased costs and regulations stemming from the Affordable Care Act—which they can't afford—and the increased burdens of an out-of-control regulatory process that has stifled job creation.

Just yesterday, the National Federation of Independent Business released their report showing a decline in optimism for small businesses for a third consecutive month. It has been 28 months since the ill-conceived stimulus passed and a year since June 2010 was declared “recovery summer” by the administration; yet 1.9 million fewer Americans have jobs. This is why we need to get our fiscal house in order, cut spending, repeal the Affordable Care Act, and end onerous regulations.

The Republican majority gets the message, and everything we're doing is to create a climate where we can expand and create jobs in America.

□ 1230

EMPOWERING BUSINESSES TO GET ECONOMY GOING

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, it is no coincidence that Illinois' corporate tax rate is the fourth-highest in the Nation and yet ranks 48th in economic performance. Businesses, big and small, can no longer afford to keep their doors open and hire more workers when they face a 45 percent tax increase.

If we are serious about creating jobs, then we must stop allowing the government to pick winners and losers in today's economy. In order to create economic certainty, we must have a level playing field and clearly defined rules that don't change halfway through the game. We need to encourage businesses to invest and to expand here at home. One way that we can do that is through corporate tax reform, eliminating tax loopholes that currently exist in the system.

One thing is clear: Increases in taxes without spending reform cannot work. It is time that we start to empower businesses to get our economy moving again. Illinois has lost 750,000 manufacturing jobs over the last decade. Now is the time we have to focus on job creation.

A REAL, ACTIONABLE JOBS PLAN FOR AMERICA IS NEEDED

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

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, President Obama made a joke about his so-called stimulus package. Remember those shovel-ready projects we heard so much about? They were one of the major selling points for the package. Well, the President now says they "were not as shovel-ready as we expected." I am sure some got a good chuckle out of that line, but there is nothing funny about a \$1 trillion failure.

The economic policies this administration has pursued have failed to create jobs, and they have made matters worse for our economy. In many of our home States, the economic situation is bleaker than the national picture. In my hometown of Phoenix, Arizona, our unemployment rate is higher than the national average, and we have lost thousands of manufacturing and retail jobs over the last 2 years. We also have a housing market that has collapsed.

Mr. Speaker, we will never get our economy growing again unless we see drastic improvements in unemployment and our housing sector. Our country is at our best when we unleash the ingenuity of the American people. The Republican Conference has a real and actionable jobs plan that will put America back to work, that will give our entrepreneurs and innovators freedom from the regulatory burdens and high taxes that are holding them back.

We must take action to get this economy going again, and that is what our plan does. President Obama's speeches, policies, and council meetings are not enough.

REPEAL AND REPLACE THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE PLAN

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall a promise that we heard many times from this President and his administration: that under his health care law, if you like your insurance, you can keep it. Unfortunately, it seems that that promise was an empty one, and it will affect millions of Americans.

A recent study from McKinsey & Company found that due to the law, at least 30 percent and perhaps as many as half of employers say that they will probably or definitely stop offering health care coverage to their employees after 2014. These are astounding statistics, and they reveal the fallacy we heard so frequently that if you like your plan, you can keep it.

With every passing day we find out more and more what is in the President's health care law, and we find out that it hurts middle class families and small business owners, holding back our economy and killing job creation. This study is just one more reason for the House to redouble its efforts to repeal this law and replace it with legislation that will control the cost of health care while preserving individual freedoms.

HONORING JIM SACKETT

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Sackett, who this week announced he is retiring after 33 years in remarkable service as the anchor of WPTV News Channel 5 in West Palm Beach.

I have enjoyed Jim's newscasts since my family moved to Palm Beach Gardens in 1984. In high school, I wanted to go into the news business and actually interned under Jim at Channel 5. I learned a lot that semester watching Jim, whose commitment to balanced news reporting set a high standard for other newscasters. His dedication to quality news coverage has earned him both a Telly and an Emmy.

Before he began his career in journalism, Jim served his country honorably for 5 years in the United States Army. He continues to serve our community, where he is active in several organizations, including Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Jim is widely recognized for his "Thursday's Child" feature, which for 30 years profiled children to help them find forever adoptive parents.

Jim, thank you for your service and your contributions to our community. You are truly a pillar of the Treasure Coast and Palm Beach County.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 1 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 1 p.m.

□ 1303

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BROUN of Georgia) at 1 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 300 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2112.

□ 1304

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and

Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. BASS of New Hampshire (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, a request for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) had been postponed and the bill had been read through page 26, line 17.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a-f), including preparation of conservation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management as may be necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 428a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary buildings; and operation and maintenance of aircraft, \$770,956,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed \$250,000: *Provided further*, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a.

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Under the authorities of Section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, \$15,000,000 is provided.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 27, line 23, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$15,000,000)".

Page 80, line 2, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$15,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would eliminate one of the 20 different conservation programs USDA currently operates, the water rehabilitation program. The chairman of the subcommittee, my good friend from Georgia, has stated during debate on funding for agriculture programs that he hopes to see a reduction in the number of Federal programs included in this bill.