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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 21, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

MEDICAID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, while it is imperative that we reduce the Federal deficit, balancing the budget on the backs of our Nation's disadvantaged children and senior citizens is neither responsible nor equitable. I believe in an America that protects the young and the elderly.

But the Republican budget attacks the important safeguards for children and the disadvantaged, replacing Medicaid with vastly limited monetary

grants to the States, forcing them to either reduce benefits to lower-income families or reduce the number of eligible families. Currently, 34 million children receive health care through Medicaid. From 1997 to 2009, the percentage of children without health insurance as a result dropped from 13.9 percent to 8.2. The Republican budget's attacks on Medicaid will imperil the health insurance for 24,100 children and reduce benefits for 6,100 seniors in my district, the 11th District of Virginia.

Unfortunately, the Republican attacks on our seniors don't end with Medicaid. Imagine a world where half of all seniors lack health insurance. Imagine a world where the rising costs of health care threaten retirees' ability to afford essential medicine their doctor prescribed. Imagine a world where more than one out of every three seniors lives in poverty and the choice for the day is between food and their drugs. This isn't a dystopian nightmare—it was the United States in 1965 before we passed Medicare. Seniors suffering from arthritis, hypertension, coronary disease, cancer, glaucoma, and any number of ailments lacked coverage and far too often fell into financial distress.

But thanks to Medicare, we changed all of that, providing guaranteed health insurance coverage to our Nation's seniors. As a result, the senior poverty rate decreased by 75 percent.

But our retirees once again face that nightmare scenario as the Republican budget plan for fiscal year 2012 seeks to eliminate Medicare for everyone 54 years and younger and force future retirees into finding insurance in the private market—the private market which could choose not to offer them coverage at all. Many seniors will be forced to pay more for health insurance; many seniors won't find any coverage.

Under the Republicans' plan for Medicare, according to the nonpartisan

Congressional Budget Office, retirees in 2022 will pay \$6,400 more per year than they otherwise would under the traditional Medicare coverage.

In addition, the Republican budget reopens the Medicare part D prescription drug coverage gap, or the doughnut hole, which will cost seniors thousands of dollars each year for prescription medication. Prescription drugs can be expensive, and many of the medications seniors take are long term. People take medication daily to control their arthritis pain, lower their cholesterol, and reduce the risk of stroke. These lifesaving medications come at a price.

The implementation of Medicare part D in 2005 left many seniors with a gap in coverage, the doughnut hole. This gap, the initial coverage within it, and the catastrophic coverage amount cost many seniors thousands of dollars a year. I was proud to vote to eliminate that doughnut hole in 2009 with the health care reform bill. Unfortunately, just 2 years later, the Republican attack on Medicare reinstates the doughnut hole, once again threatening seniors with thousands of dollars in medication costs.

Mr. Speaker, I know our constituents want the Congress to get our fiscal house in order, and they're right. But Americans don't want us to eviscerate Medicare and attack retiree health insurance as part of that process.

I recently held a telephone town hall meeting and I conducted a poll. Seventeen hundred people participated in that poll. Seventy-three percent said do not gut Medicare.

True fiscal responsibility requires a firm commitment and shared sacrifice. It involves long-term focus to rein in and reduce spending in a responsible, sustained manner. Real fiscal discipline requires us to look at every area of the budget, including revenues, savings, efficiencies, and cuts where

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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necessary. Ultimately, the budget represents our Nation's priorities. Reducing deficits is a significant priority, and as my constituents in the 11th District of Virginia have made clear, protecting seniors and their Medicare is equally significant.

WARNING: LIGHTBULBS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's turn out the lights; the party is almost over for the incandescent lightbulb.

Four years ago, a law went into place which mandated that every lightbulb across America must be 25 percent more efficient by 2014. What this meant was that the incandescent lightbulb, Thomas Edison's greatest invention, is being banned and Americans will be forced to buy the government-selected replacement, the compact fluorescent lightbulb.

There are health risk problems with the compact fluorescent lightbulb, or the CFL as it's called. The National Institutes of Health states that fluorescent bulbs contain mercury. Now, isn't that lovely? Further, another Federal agency, the EPA, warns that the broken bulb contains mercury and will "continue to release mercury vapor until it is cleaned up and removed from the room."

Mr. Speaker, I thought we were trying to get rid of mercury in our products in this country. So, in case we happen to break one of these new glass fragile lightbulbs—and I have one here and I'll be very careful not to drop it on the House floor because if I do, we'll have to evacuate the House floor. Here's what the EPA says and advises we're to do to clean up the poisonous debris in this lightbulb.

I am reading from the EPA's verbatim Web site:

Have people and pets leave the room.

Air out the room for 5 to 10 minutes by opening a window or a door to the outdoors. Now, how you do that in a high-rise, Mr. Speaker? You are to shut off the central heating and air conditioning system.

Collect materials needed to clean up the broken bulb. I guess we have to use gloves and duct tape, and place the cleanup materials in a sealable container.

Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of properly.

Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials inside the room.

It goes on. Continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the heating and air conditioning system shut off for several hours.

I might note this is just a condensed instruction. The EPA has provided more detailed instructions on its Web site, and I submit this 3-page, single-spaced, typed document of over 1,000

words on how to clean up one of these lightbulbs if it's broken into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker.

Recently, the French have noted that CFL bulbs can harm a child's vision because they contain arsenic, among other poisons, and the German scientists have found that these CFL bulbs can also cause cancer. Now, isn't that odd—that these bulbs mandated by the Federal Government actually are harmful to our health?

We should forget school lunches, Mr. Speaker. We now need to worry about our children's eyesight because of the lighting they sit under every day in a classroom, all thanks to the blind Federal Government. The Federal Government's anti-energy, anti-consumer choice regulation leaves Americans no other option but to purchase and use a harmful, poisonous product. If that's not reason enough to get rid of these bulbs, here's another one.

None of these bulbs are made in the U.S.A. You look very carefully on every one of these bulbs, they will say, "Made in China." That's right. Our good buddies, the Chinese, make all of these bulbs. The last factory in the United States that made incandescent lightbulbs closed down September 14, 2010. This ended a manufacturing industry that began all the way back to Thomas Edison.

So these job-producing lightbulb factories have been shipped off to China and now to Mexico, leaving even more Americans out of work. In fact, the lightbulb that I just read off of says that it is made in China, and it's in several languages, of course.

So the Federal Government imposed a burdensome, harmful-to-your-health regulation. An American factory closed. Jobs moved overseas. We've sort of heard this story before.

□ 1210

But there's a bright spot to this sad tale. Just yesterday, the State of Texas passed a law that protects Texans from this absurd abuse of Federal power. The law will allow Texans to continue to buy incandescent bulbs that are made in the State of Texas, keeping the government out of people's lives and keeping jobs in America—even if it is in Texas.

And let's not forget that this regulation is unconstitutional. The Federal Government does not have the authority to force anybody to buy anything, from health care insurance to a box of doughnuts or even a light bulb, especially if the light bulb is hazardous to America's health. Nowhere in the Constitution does the Federal Government have such abuse of power.

So it's time we repeal the unconstitutional job-killing, bad-for-your-health light bulb mandate. Otherwise, it looks like we'll be singing "the party's over" for the incandescent light bulb. "Because they say that all good things must end. Call it a night. The party's over. And tomorrow starts the same old thing again."

And that's just the way it is.

WHAT TO DO IF A COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT (CFL) BULB OR FLUORESCENT TUBE LIGHT BULB BREAKS IN YOUR HOME: DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS

SOURCE: EPA.GOV

BEFORE CLEANUP

1. Have people and pets leave the room, and avoid the breakage area on the way out.
2. Open a window or door to the outdoors and leave the room for 5–10 minutes.
3. Shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning (H&AC) system, if you have one.
4. Collect materials you will need to clean up the broken bulb:

Stiff paper or cardboard; sticky tape (e.g., duct tape); damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes (for hard surfaces); glass jar with a metal lid (such as a canning jar) or a sealable plastic bag(s).

CLEANUP STEPS FOR HARD SURFACES

1. Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place debris and paper/cardboard in a glass jar with a metal lid. If a glass jar is not available, use a sealable plastic bag. (NOTE: Since a plastic bag will not prevent the mercury vapor from escaping, remove the plastic bag(s) from the home after cleanup.)
2. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder. Place the used tape in the glass jar or plastic bag.
3. Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place the towels in the glass jar or plastic bag.
4. Vacuuming of hard surfaces during cleanup is not recommended unless broken glass remains after all other cleanup steps have been taken. [NOTE: It is possible that vacuuming could spread mercury-containing powder or mercury vapor, although available information on this problem is limited.] If vacuuming is needed to ensure removal of all broken glass, keep the following tips in mind:

Keep a window or door to the outdoors open; vacuum the area where the bulb was broken using the vacuum hose, if available; and remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and seal the bag/vacuum debris, and any materials used to clean the vacuum, in a plastic bag.

5. Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials, including vacuum cleaner bags, outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of properly.
6. Check with your local or state government about disposal requirements in your area. Some states and communities require fluorescent bulbs (broken or unbroken) be taken to a local recycling center.
7. Wash your hands with soap and water after disposing of the jars or plastic bags containing bulb debris and cleanup materials.
8. Continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the H&AC system shut off, as practical, for several hours.

CLEANUP STEPS FOR CARPETING OR RUGS

1. Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place debris and paper/cardboard in a glass jar with a metal lid. If a glass jar is not available, use a sealable plastic bag. (NOTE: Since a plastic bag will not prevent the mercury vapor from escaping, remove the plastic bag(s) from the home after cleanup.)
2. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder. Place the used tape in the glass jar or plastic bag.
3. Vacuuming of carpeting or rugs during cleanup is not recommended unless broken