

the phrase “promote the general welfare.”

Next week, the new Republican majority will put forward a bill to repeal health care reform; to tell seniors, go back to a world where you can choose between your prescriptions and your food; to tell our children, go back to a world where an insurance company can deny you coverage because you had the misfortune to be born with a disease. That is what they are doing next week.

Listen hard, listen hard today to those words, “promote the general welfare.”

THIS ILLEGAL ACT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this new Congress must be committed to listening to the will of the people and following the Constitution. Immediately we must right a wrong that has been forcibly placed like chains on the American people.

The unhealthy national health care bill bruises the doctrine of the Constitution. The people don't want the government stealing their individual liberty to make health decisions. Congress must repeal this totalitarian act.

In a few moments, Congress this day, on this new day, will read the Constitution on the House floor, the sacred rule of law for this Nation. Nowhere in this document of wisdom does the Federal Government have the omnipotent authority to force any American to buy any product or face criminal penalties, whether it is a car, health insurance, or a box of donuts.

The nationalized health care bill is an unconstitutional oppression of the American citizen. We will repeal this injustice. On this new day, we stewards of the Constitution must right this wrong, this illegal law that has been coerced upon the people without their consent.

And that's just the way it is.

CONDEMNING THE NEW YEAR'S DAY ATTACK ON A COPTIC CHURCH IN EGYPT

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the senseless and heinous attack that took place on New Year's Day in Alexandria, Egypt, during a Coptic Christian mass ushering in the new year.

The suicide bombing that took place 20 minutes into 2011 took the lives of 23 Christians and wounded more than 90 others. Although no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, the Egyptian Government has linked the al-Qaeda terrorist organization to this brutal attack. Whoever the perpetrators may be, their actions epitomize the definition of evil and remind us of the constant struggle around the world

against terrorism. Security must remain a priority in Egypt and all freedom-fighting nations.

This event illuminates the unprecedented prejudice facing this minority population and the evident inter-religious struggle and violence that is plaguing Egypt. This deplorable act of violence is yet another example of the escalation of violence against Egypt's Coptic Christians, who make up about 10 percent of the population.

I offer my condolences to the families of victims who perished in the bombing, and I hope the Egyptian Government honors their promise with a swift and thorough investigation of this vicious crime.

AMERICAN ENERGY, AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, well, here we go again. Gasoline: \$3, \$4, and soon \$5 a gallon. Oil at \$100 a barrel. Yet America's offshore resources total more than 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, enough oil to replace imports from Saudi Arabia and Venezuela for the next 80 years. But the administration's moratorium says “no” to American oil and “yes” to OPEC.

We don't have to buy hundreds of billions of dollars worth of oil from OPEC, borrow \$900 billion from China, run a massive trade deficit or raise taxes. The revenues and leases from offshore exploration can bring up to \$3.7 trillion in Federal revenue to slash our deficit, build clean power plants, clean up our air and water, increase renewables, and rebuild our crumbling highways and bridges—all while creating millions of jobs and trillions in economic output.

I hope my colleagues will join me as I reintroduce the bipartisan American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act so we can work on securing America's prosperity and American jobs using American resources.

Stop talking; start building.

VOTE “NO” ON REPEALING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(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 to speak against the reckless attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The new law has already put in place critical protections to help our families across this country. I want to tell the story of one family in my district whose life has been dramatically helped by this law, the Strong family of Santa Barbara.

Bill and Victoria Strong's daughter, Gwendolyn, was diagnosed at age 6

months with a rare disease, muscular spinal atrophy. Her care is extremely expensive; and before the new law, the Strong's lived in constant fear that Gwendolyn would reach her policy's lifetime limit, no longer be covered for treatments and be uninsurable because of her pre-existing condition.

The elimination of lifetime caps has given the Strong's peace of mind. They are guaranteed Gwendolyn will receive the care she needs and their family is protected from bankruptcy.

Repealing these safeguards will take that security away. It would put this courageous little girl at risk of having her health care cut off when she needs it most and it would put this inspiring family at risk of bankruptcy.

I urge my colleagues to stand for all those who are benefiting from the law, as the Strong family is. Vote “no” on repealing the Affordable Care Act.

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ROADMAP TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, while this is my first opportunity to address the House, it won't be my last. The people of eastern and southeastern Ohio sent me here to be their voice, and I intend to be that voice. On their behalf, I will speak out—loud and clear—on the issues that matter to the working people of my district.

People sent me here for one primary reason: They think Congress has lost its way. And my constituents gave me a map they want us to use to get back on the right path. It's a simple map, drawn in bold, unmistakable strokes. Americans want us to be true to our founding principles, and the roads are open for all. But there are no shortcuts for special interests.

But, most of all, this roadmap was made in America and paid for upfront. That's how our spending must be. We owe it to taxpayers to disclose what our votes will cost and be clear about how they're paid for.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, the map my citizens gave me leads in one very clear direction—toward economic recovery for every American. That's the way I'm headed. And I will cast my votes here with that in mind.

HEALTH CARE REPEAL AND IMPACT ON JOBS

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

Mr. BACA. All throughout Congress, the Republicans consistently asked, “Where are the jobs?” They asked this last year. Yet in their first major action, the House Republicans are showing their true colors: playing politics at the expense of hardworking Americans.

Under the Republican plan to repeal health reform, small businesses will not be able to receive \$40 billion in tax credits that will allow them to cover employees; insurance premiums will continue to rise, forcing businesses to cut benefits and lay off employees; and they will add to the deficit, exploding it to \$1 trillion over the next 20 years, creating more uncertainty in our economy.

Instead of serving hardworking American families, Republicans would rather have American small businesses serve greedy health insurance companies. Republicans are proving yet again that they are indeed the party of “no”—no relief, no health care, no jobs.

I urge my colleagues to stand with American small businesses and workers and resist any attempt to repeal health reform.

HOLD ON TO THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, in a few moments, the United States Constitution will be read for the first time in a long time in this Chamber. And I, for one, Mr. Speaker, am glad to see this welcomed day come.

I know there are those that will dismiss it as symbolic. But I remember the words of Daniel Webster when he said, “Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6,000 years may never happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, for if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world.”

Mr. Speaker, I hope, as we go forward in this new Congress, that we will all hold Mr. Webster’s words in our hearts.

DON’T TAMPER WITH HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, despite repeated warnings yesterday from groups as diverse as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Ironworkers, the Laborers, the American Trucking Association, even the Motorcycle Riders of America, Republicans adopted a new rule which allows Congress to tamper with the transportation authorization fund and the highway trust fund. And despite the protests from the majority that it wasn’t doing it, yesterday, UBS-PaineWebber put out a stock advisory that transportation construction companies were being downgraded because of the damage that the Congress did yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, the transportation and construction sector of our country is in a depression. There is 25 percent unemployment. The last thing this country needs is to tamper with the highway

trust fund. And yesterday, that’s what the new majority did.

The Democrats will fight to restore the transportation authorization fund, make sure that America has the transportation system that it needs, and get people back to work in the hardest-hit sector in the American economy.

TIME TO GET TO WORK FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we began a very important new chapter in the history of this great Nation as we began the 112th Congress. I was so proud to join so many of our new Members in taking the oath of office. The enthusiasm and the commitment that was shown by our new colleagues, as well as those of us who were honored enough to be re-elected, to take on the great challenges facing our Nation, I think, will be remembered as a historic pivot for our country.

The Constitution, which we will soon read here on the floor of the House, states that one of the primary purposes of the Federal Government is to “preserve the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.” For far too long, the Federal Government has been mortgaging those blessings for our prosperity by burying them under a mountain of debt. And that must end.

We have a responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to make the tough decisions to cut spending, to eliminate the Federal deficit and begin to pay down the immense debt that threatens the opportunities that will be available for our children and our grandchildren. Our work will be difficult but it must be done. Let us all face up to these challenges and get to work.

TAKING THE OPPOSITE APPROACH

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Yesterday a new Congress was sworn into office, and just like the one before it, a top priority is to get our economy moving in the right direction. I’m profoundly disappointed, though, that the new majority of the Republicans has decided to take the opposite approach: skyrocketing the debt, denying rights, and making sure we kill jobs.

Seniors in my district now have access to better preventative care and help with paying for expensive drugs. Americans who have worked long and hard throughout their life have earned that peace of mind. Young people in my district are now being put back on their parents’ insurance after being denied for preexisting conditions. Repealing the health care bill will take those benefits away, will kill jobs, will sky-

rocket the debt, and will ensure that insurance company CEOs make health decisions for you, not you and your doctor.

Many of you may know I represent the world-famous Mayo Clinic in my district. They provide the highest quality patient-centered and affordable care the world has ever known, and I would like to leave you with a short quote they put out right before we voted on the health care bill last year: “Reforming health care in America is essential. The status quo is not sustainable.”

MILLARD SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon a suspended student at Millard South High School in suburban Omaha opened fire. Assistant Principal Vicki Kaspar was killed, and Principal Curtis Case remains in serious condition. After fleeing the school, the student killed himself.

This morning Nebraska has been blanketed by a profound wave of shock and sorrow. My heart goes out to the victims and their families and the innocent schoolchildren whose first day back at school was shattered by this nightmarish act. Today school is closed as counselors begin to help the community to try to cope and make sense out of what can be considered a senseless act of violence.

I ask for this body’s thoughts and prayers, Mr. Speaker, to be with those students and teachers, their families, and all members of the Millard South community in the aftermath of this horrific tragedy.

REJECTING REPEAL OF AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituent, David Zoltan-Breiger, 33 years old, who now has coverage under Illinois’ Pre-Existing Condition Plan thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

David has diabetes. Because of his preexisting condition, he couldn’t get insurance for over 2 years after losing his job. David is absolutely elated that he no longer has to wait for hours in the emergency room to get lifesaving insulin. Without coverage, the ER was his only option. Instead, he now has regular visits with the doctor and can avoid the medical crises that had become a frequent nightmare.

What happens to David under repeal of the bill? He, like so many others, would lose coverage and once again be at the mercy of insurance companies.

We cannot go back. We must reject the Republican call for repeal of the Affordable Care Act.