

God bless Chris Parr, and God bless her family.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CONTRACEPTIVES

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of ensuring coverage for contraceptives and the impact this has on women's health.

For centuries, important aspects of women's health care have been treated as a political football by advocates on all sides of the issue. In politicians' efforts to score political points, women suffer because of a lack of access to coverage, a lack of reliable information about health care choices, and because many women are vilified for some of the health care choices they make.

It's time to take politics out of women's health, and it's time to ensure that women's health coverage includes full access to contraception. Birth control can have significant health care benefits for women and their families. It can significantly reduce health care costs. And it's one of the most commonly taken drugs in the United States.

We need to stop playing games with people's health and instead live up to our responsibilities to protect the right of women to make the health care choices that are right for them. I look forward to working every Wednesday to talk about women's health.

FIFTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL RARE DISEASE DAY

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, today, February 29, marks the fifth annual International Rare Disease Day, a day devoted to bringing attention to the needs of those with rare diseases.

There are nearly 7,000 rare diseases. Research opportunities remain difficult; and approved therapies are scarce, despite the fact that rare or orphan diseases afflict nearly one in 10 Americans. Bureaucratic hurdles and a lack of research incentives add to the challenges of those with rare or orphan diseases and the organizations that serve them.

As cochairman of the Rare Disease Caucus with my colleague, Congressman JOSEPH CROWLEY, I am committed to working in a bipartisan capacity with like-minded Members, policy advocates, and families across the Nation to increase awareness and education of rare diseases.

It is through greater awareness that we are able to bring hope to those who suffer from rare and orphan diseases.

GAS PRICES

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I represent San Diego, California, which has the dishonor of being home to the highest gas prices in the Nation. The most expensive gas in San Diego was going for \$4.75 a gallon, and that hurts my constituents.

My friends on the other side of the aisle believe the solution is simple—more production means lower prices. However, our Nation's oil production is the highest it has been in years. And yet so are gas prices. The conclusion? More drilling does not mean lower prices.

Independent analysis has pointed to Wall Street speculators as a culprit for the rise in gas prices. Mr. Speaker, we've heard this story before: Wall Streeters gaming markets to make big bucks at the expense of consumers.

Another culprit? There is nothing truly competing against gasoline. Prices will go down when there are alternative fuels and real transportation choices to compete with oil.

There are two things that Congress can do to relieve the pain at the pump: an innovative 21st-century approach to our energy problems, and we need to tame the speculative markets.

JOB CREATION

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of commonsense policies that will help create jobs.

I had the pleasure of meeting with one of my constituents, Jon David of Evansville, Indiana. Jon owns a small business, David Enterprises, an asphalt contractor and concrete supplier. He would like to expand his business, but onerous regulations are preventing him from doing it.

When I sat down with Jon, he talked about how EPA rules—such as emissions controls, dust regulations, the permitting process for oil refining, and wetlands designations on his property—these regulations, he tells me, are keeping him from selling his product and services that would allow him to expand his business and hire more employees. Instead, he spends his time dealing with regulations that increase his costs and prevent him from expanding.

The EPA under this administration should take note of how rules and regulations are hurting job creation. This is unacceptable. The House has passed bills to help out Jon and others like him, but the Senate has ignored them. There are 27 bills, at least, that we've passed here that we've sent to the Senate that would help Jon so he could quit spending his days fighting regulations so his business can survive.

HONORING REACH OUT AND READ RHODE ISLAND

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reach Out and Read Rhode Island, a program that works with doctors to encourage young patients and their families to read.

In honor of the upcoming Read Across America Day, I wish to recognize the contributions this program makes in my home State, where it reaches 35,000 infant-to-preschool-aged children each year in 44 locations. Reach Out and Read Rhode Island provides free books through pediatricians' offices for children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years old, creating a small library for children and emphasizing the importance of reading.

Reach Out and Read Rhode Island helps to distribute 60,000 books each year to young children and their families, working to build a foundation for when a child enters school. Reach Out and Read Rhode Island should take great pride in the contributions it makes to our young children. I congratulate Reach Out and Read Rhode Island on its success.

□ 1220

EXPAND DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION TO REDUCE GAS PRICES

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I heard from my constituents about the impact rising gas prices are having on their families and on their small businesses.

Congress must act to protect our constituents from even higher gas prices by expanding our Nation's domestic energy production. The solution is pretty simple—let's expand American energy production. This will reduce the cost of gas, putting money back in the wallets of every American, and it will create the kind of good-paying jobs that so many people need and would help get our economy moving again.

The House has already passed four bills to expand domestic energy production. It's time for the Senate to pass those bills and send them to President Obama so that he can show us whether his commitment to an all-of-the-above energy policy is mere rhetoric.

Creating jobs, saving our constituents money, and helping our economy should be bipartisan goals, and we can achieve them by expanding American energy production.

ASSAD'S ATROCITIES

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, first, I join with my female colleagues in supporting full health coverage for every single woman in our Nation.

I also rise to condemn the actions of Syria's Assad government, which are

truly appalling. America and this House should not be sitting silent as thousands of Syrian civilians are slaughtered by their government. Assad is not a man of peace, as some in this body have asserted. He is an international war criminal. His blood-stained hands should be shunned the world over.

The United Nations now believes that over 100 civilians are being murdered daily, including women and children. Estimates vary as to how many civilians have been killed since Assad's regime launched its brutal crackdown down on peaceful demonstrators in Syria in the spring of last year. CNN is reporting as many as 9,000 people have been killed in the last year, yet the leadership of this House remains silent. The Senate passed a resolution in mid-February. Why haven't we?

I and my colleague, Congressman KEITH ELLISON, have introduced a resolution identical to the bill the Senate just passed on a bipartisan basis. And I urge my colleagues to speak out against the unspeakable violations that take place every moment.

Doing right is long overdue. Let's stop the horrors and mobilize the world to stop the killing.

CABOT GUNS AND PENN UNITED TECHNOLOGIES

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

Mr. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of visiting with an outstanding new company in western Pennsylvania called Cabot Guns, a company whose belief in American exceptionalism and dedication to uncompromising quality have resulted in a new standard of precision-made handguns. In fact, Cabot Guns are already being described as the finest pistols in the world by the Blue Book of Guns. Cabot Guns embodies the best of what this great Nation's finest machinists, engineers, and master craftsmen have to offer, and is proof of the enduring prowess of the American dream.

These highly prized firearms provide a new industry for my district and are made in collaboration with Penn United Technologies, a pioneering manufacturer of precision components for the defense, aerospace, medical, energy, and nuclear industries that was founded 40 years ago by the great innovator and patriot, Carl Jones, a man whose legacy lives on through Cabot Guns and Penn United's strong belief in family, God, and country and a firm commitment to our Second Amendment.

CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, contraceptive coverage is an issue of women's health, access to health care, and af-

fordability that affects our entire health care system. As we deliberate this important issue, it's imperative that we consider all of the benefits of access to contraceptives, starting with the prevention of unplanned pregnancies.

One thing about which we should all agree is that we need to reduce the number of abortions. Now, access to contraceptives plays a critical role in that goal, but the benefits don't stop there. Contraceptives are often prescribed for certain medical conditions that, untreated, could keep women from work, lead to more serious health problems, or otherwise impact the quality of their lives. These negative consequences are easy to prevent with access to preventive health care, which can help with unnecessary costs, both intangible and tangible.

Unfortunately, too many women across the country suffer every day because they don't have access to health care that includes contraceptives. This is an issue of access, of affordability, and of the rights of women to receive quality health care. I urge my colleagues to make that their focus.

ENERGY SECURITY

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, Hoosiers across northeast Indiana paid \$3.85 for a gallon of gasoline this morning. Gas prices are skyrocketing, and people in my district are looking for long-term solutions.

Unfortunately, for the past 3 years, President Obama has rejected serious efforts to promote American energy security. By failing to put forward a responsible energy policy, this administration is making things worse at the pump.

In 2008, Energy Secretary Steven Chu said, "Somehow we have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe."

Well, if something doesn't change, Hoosiers could see those prices soon.

In January, President Obama rejected the bipartisan Keystone XL pipeline and blocked the flow of over 800,000 barrels of oil each day. The President's decision does nothing to lower prices or protect us from uncertainty in the Middle East. It's a serious blow to Hoosier families already struggling in the real economy.

Hoosiers deserve a true all-of-the-above approach. The House has already passed five energy bills that are being held up in the Senate. It's time to promote real energy security.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the start of Women's

History Month, which starts tomorrow. This month gives us all the opportunity to recognize the important and glass ceiling-shattering work women across our country and around the world have done and continue to do. Despite the tremendous progress that has been made over the past century towards gender equality, more still needs to be done.

Over the last 14 months, we've seen the rights of women come under attack again and again in this body. Though I firmly believe in encouraging healthy debate, the attacks that we have seen are an affront to the rights and health of women around this country. That's why I was so heartened by the recent compromise on contraceptive care. While I have deep respect for the religious and moral beliefs of all Americans, I am pleased with this compromise because these guidelines increase access to contraceptive services for women while respecting religious liberty. It protects the beliefs and health of all American women and families.

In the spirit of Women's History Month, I ask that we put an end to this partisan bickering and focus on achieving better women's health.

STOP DEFICIT SPENDING

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. For 4 consecutive years, President Obama has introduced a budget with a \$1 trillion deficit—4 years in a row. This has never happened in our Nation's history.

Well, how much is \$1 trillion? If you spent \$1 million a day every day, it would take you almost 3,000 years to get to \$1 trillion. No longer can we do this. We're paying more than \$733 million a day in interest on our national debt. We deficit spend something like \$4 billion a day.

Ladies and gentlemen, we cannot sustain the spending that we have. Our Nation is going bankrupt. It is imperative that this Congress get a grip on its fiscal future and put forward a budget that is responsible and over the course of time will actually balance our books and pay off the national debt.

□ 1230

ATTACKS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

(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 opposition to the extensive attacks made on women's health in recent weeks.

We have seen an almost unprecedented number of attacks on women's access to health care, reproductive options, and even prenatal care. From a