

for saving America, and we came here to get the American Dream of a successful economy and freedom back on track. It ought to be risky to sit here and do nothing, Mr. Speaker. That ought to be the risky thing.

What has happened to this country that the risky thing for those who call themselves public servants is to do something instead of nothing? Because that's what the President proposes in his 10-year budget plan: nothing, nothing that does one thing, that takes one baby step forward toward saving Medicare. In the Budget Committee, we are proposing serious alternatives. Are they going to be frightening to folks in my generation? I don't think so, Mr. Speaker. You and I have a long time until retirement. Despite all our gray hair, we've got a couple of decades left before we get there; and we've got time to prepare, and we will, and America will. But it is our responsibility to offer those alternatives. The President offers nothing, and Medicare goes bankrupt.

This chart says it all, Mr. Speaker. There is a path to prosperity for America that we are proposing here in this House, and there is the President's approach, and they could not be more different.

Our approach tells the American people the truth. There are a lot of political pundits out there that believe telling people the truth is a risky thing to do in an election year. Mr. Speaker, I tell you it's our solemn obligation. I tell you the oath we took requires us to tell folks the truth. I tell you the responsibility that our voters back home have entrusted us with requires us to be bold.

And if the consequence for trying to save the Medicare program—not just for this generation of seniors, but for a generation to come—if the consequence of that is that I frighten voters back home and I get defeated, so be it. So be it. No one sent us here to get reelected year after year. They sent us here to do the work that they asked us to do. They sent us here to follow through on the promises that we made during the last campaign. They sent us here to offer serious solutions to what we all know, Democrats and Republicans alike, are serious problems threatening the future of our Republic. And none is more serious when it comes to a social safety net here in this country than the giant fiscal crisis looming in Medicare.

I'll leave you with this, Mr. Speaker. We have the law of the land that's already on the books. It's in the President's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, that bill that raids Medicare in order to fund his other social priorities, that bill that hastens the demise of Medicare rather than preventing it. And in that they find 15 unelected bureaucrats that they say will not ration services; they'll just cut reimbursements for docs. And we have testimony after testimony after testimony after testimony that says, go

ahead, if you think you need to cut docs, cut docs; but just know those docs will not be there for you when you need them to be because they can't—because they can't.

Do you really believe it, Mr. Speaker? Does anybody in America really believe it? Find your primary care doctor that lives down the street from you. You know him or her. They're in your Sunday school class and they coach your kids' soccer team. You know who they are. Do you really believe that they're the ones that are driving the Medicare program into bankruptcy? Do you really believe it? Or does the Washington establishment just use our docs, the healers in our community, those folks who are there for us when we need them the most? Does the Washington establishment just use those folks as the scapegoats for what is a much more serious, much more systemic underlying problem with the way that we finance federally funded health care systems in this country?

Competition has served this country well, Mr. Speaker. Individual responsibility has served this country well. Entrepreneurship and innovation have served this country well. And we have a choice now to embrace those functions that are so indicative of who we are as Americans and where we've come from, and use those tools to set Medicare on a new and sustainable course; or we can go back to business as usual, more pages of Federal regulation, more blaming other people for the problems we've created, more unelected boards of bureaucrats who make health care decisions for us instead of letting us make those decisions within our family.

The choice for me is clear. Mr. Speaker, you know these aren't things that we're just down here to talk about. You know these aren't just ideas that are being brainstormed. We have a real opportunity to make this change not 2 years from now, not after the next election, not 6 months from now, but tomorrow. Tomorrow we'll bring a rule to the floor of this House to allow for a consideration of a measure that will repeal IPAB once and for all. IPAB, this word that was not in our lexicon 2 years ago but now threatens to control the health care decisions of every senior in America.

With a successful vote tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, we can make that a thing of the past.

And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACHUS (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of minor throat surgery.

Mr. MARINO (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5313. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Peter W. Chiarelli, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5314. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Edgar E. Stanton III, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5315. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Jeffery A. Remington, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5316. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received February 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5317. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received February 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5318. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0003] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-B-8217] received February 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5319. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received February 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5320. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Diversity and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting a report entitled "2010 Smart Grid System Report"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5321. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting Annual Report to Congress on FDA Foreign Offices Provisions of the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act, pursuant to Public Law 111-353, section 201(b); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5322. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act [MB Docket No.: 11-93] received March 1,

2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5323. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Interpretation of Protection System Reliability Standard [Docket No.: RM10-5-000; Order No. 758] received February 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5324. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) Participation MD 5.12 received February 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5325. A letter from the Program Manager, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Summary of Benefits and Coverage and Uniform Glossary — Templates, Instructions, and Related Materials; and Guidance for Compliance [CMS-9982-FN] received February 14, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5326. A letter from the Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to Existing Validated End-User Authorizations for Applied Materials (China), Inc., Boeing Tianjin Composites Co. Ltd., CSMC Technologies Corporation, Lam Research Corporation, and Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation in the People's Republic of China, and for GE India Industrial Pvt. Ltd. In India [Docket No.: 110525297-1476-01] (RIN: 0694-AF26) received February 13, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5327. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Updated Statements of Legal Authority To Reflect Continuation of Emergency Declared in Executive Orders 12947 and 13224 [Docket No.: 120124063-0261-01] (RIN: 0694-AF55) received February 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5328. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period October 1, 2011 through November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5329. A letter from the Assistant Director for Policy, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Iranian Financial Sanctions Regulations received February 13, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5330. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5331. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5332. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5333. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform

Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5334. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting fiscal year 2013 Congressional Justification of Budget for the Office of the Inspector General; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5335. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marine Mammals; Subsistence Taking of Northern Fur Seals; Harvest Estimates [Docket No.: 110781394-2048-02] (RIN: 0648-BB09) received February 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5336. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status and Designations of Critical Habitat for Spikedace and Loach Minnow [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2010-0072] (RIN: 1018-AX17) received February 17, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5337. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the 2012 biennial report on the "Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5338. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Increase [Docket No.: 001005281-0369-02] (RIN: 0648-XA974) received February 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5339. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers from the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5340. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment of H-2B Aliens in the United States (RIN: 1205-AB58) received February 17, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5341. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting a report on the proposed fiscal year 2013 budget; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Oversight and Government Reform.

5342. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2013, including the Performance Plan, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. NUGENT: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 591. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system (Rept. 112-416). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BACHUS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4014. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act with respect to information provided to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Rept. 112-417). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. DeFAZIO):

H.R. 4214. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the use, production, sale, importation, or exportation of the poison sodium fluoroacetate (known as "Compound 1080") and to prohibit the use of sodium cyanide for predator control; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 4215. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for pharmacy benefits manager standards under the Medicare prescription drug program to further fair audits of and payments to pharmacies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 4216. A bill to provide for the exchange of information related to trade enforcement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIMM (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 4217. A bill to support and promote community financial institutions in the mutual form, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 4218. A bill to preserve affordable housing opportunities for low-income families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 4219. A bill to amend section 1451 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to establish programs to provide counseling to homebuyers regarding voluntary home inspections and to train counselors to provide such counseling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 4220. A bill to establish a pilot program to train public housing residents as home health aides and in home-based health services to enable such residents to provide covered home-based health services to residents of public housing and residents of federally-assisted rental housing, who are elderly and disabled, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. RUSH):