RYAN BUDGET PLAN

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I feel as if it's deja vu all over again. Just 1 year ago, Washington Republicans proposed a plan to kill Medicare by turning it over to private insurance companies. It passed the House and luckily failed in the Senate.

Now, just 1 year later, Republicans are pushing yet another plan to kill Medicare and devastate Nevada seniors by forcing them to pay thousands more out of their own pockets for health care. Madam Speaker, it was a bad idea for Nevada seniors when it was first proposed, it's a bad idea for Nevada seniors now.

Unfortunately, these are the kinds of priorities we have come to expect from Washington Republicans. Instead of strengthening Medicare, Washington Republicans have spent this year trying to undermine it in order to pay for massive taxpayer giveaways to big oil companies making billions in profits and tax breaks for corporations who are shipping our jobs overseas. It's a matter of getting our priorities straight, and the Republicans in Washington just don't get it.

We need to put Nevada's seniors first, not Big Oil executives, not Wall Street billionaires. We must focus on creating jobs, not on killing Medicare by turning it over to greedy insurance companies.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE REFORM

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

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5, the bill that we're bringing to the floor today to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, this group of 15 unelected bureaucrats here in Washington, D.C., that, under the President's health care law, would be able to ration care for our Nation's seniors.

I think most hardworking American families out there would much rather the decisions on health care to be made between a patient and a doctor, not some unelected bureaucrats to be allowed to ration our grandmother's care. So that's why we're repealing this law. Hopefully, it's going to be sent over to the Senate, and we'll finally be able to get some good bipartisan support over there.

As part of this reform, we are also not just repealing, we're replacing with real commonsense medical liability reform. This is something that should have been in the President's law, but of course his law wasn't about reform; it was about a government takeover. We are actually putting in place legislation that would put commonsense medical liability reform in place.

According to the Harvard School of Public Health, 40 percent of medical malpractice suits filed in the United States are ''without merit.'' Well, what does that do? That dramatically increases the cost of health care because so many doctors out there will tell you that many of the tests they run on us are not because of our health, to look at health outcomes; it's to avoid frivolous lawsuits. We finally addressed that, lowering the costs and improving quality of care.

WAR ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, over the past several months, we have seen Republicans wage war on women's health. Nowhere can the Republican zeal for limiting women's access to affordable quality health care be seen more clearly than in their attempt to dismantle the Affordable Care Act.

Improving health care has long been a priority for women, reflecting their experiences as patients, mothers, and caregivers. For decades insurance companies have been able to deny coverage and charge higher rates for women simply because of their gender. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act—the greatest advancement for women's health in a generation—this will no longer be legal. This law moves us closer to the day when essential women's health services are covered, prevention is a priority, and care is coordinated.

On the eve of the 2-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, I join my colleagues in protecting health care reform for women, and I rebuke all attempts to continue discriminatory health insurance policies that result in women paying more than men.

□ 1230

THE HEALTH ACT OF 2011

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

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5, the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare Act of 2012, which also contains H.R. 452, the Medicare Decisions Accountability Act of 2012. I'm a cosponsor of both of these very important pieces of legislation.

The Independent Payment Advisory Board, IPAB, must be repealed, as this board will have extremely negative consequences on American families' health care. This board of unelected members will be making decisions for tens of thousands of Medicare patients. The power to control the purse strings will give enormous power to control what type of care a patient receives. I strongly believe that physicians and patients are in the best position to decide their own health care, and IPAB must be repealed.

In addition, the HEALTH Act is absolutely needed. I've been working on medical malpractice issues since my time in the Ohio General Assembly when we passed successful tort reform. The current system is broken and places a $210 billion burden on our Nation's health system each year. H.R. 5 will bring savings for patients and doctors, and is an important step in helping to make sure our Medicare liability system works in this country.

I support both bills.

BENEFITS OF 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. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the ways that young people in my congressional district and around the country are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act.

Before health reform, young adults were the age group most likely to be uninsured, losing their coverage right after they left home and entered the workforce; but thanks to the health reform law, 2½ million young people, including nearly 10,000 in my communities, now have health insurance. And some of them have reached out to tell us how the law is working for them and for their families.

Jamie from Santa Barbara wrote:

I got back on my parents' insurance and was finally able to visit the dentist and get a new prescription for eyeglasses that I desperately needed.

Maria from Oxnard says:

As a recent graduate. I felt completely vulnerable. With health care reform, I am now able to stay with my parents' health insurance, which has given me peace of mind while I search for employment.

Madam Speaker, health reform is working for young people on California's central coast. We must ensure the law stays strong to keep them and their families healthy, and I'll say the same for this entire Nation.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAN HOLDINGS CORPORATION

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

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, 40 years ago, Dr. Tan Siu Lin founded what is known as Tan Holdings, the largest private employer in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Over four decades, Dr. Tan, together with his wife and their children, nurtured their small, homegrown business into an international powerhouse. Tan Holdings has become one of the region's most important tourism businesses, with hotels, booking agencies, and, soon, an airline, Saipan Air. The company also provides personal and corporate insurance, distributes some

of the world's best known consumer goods in our islands, is active in real estate, and publishes a newspaper.

In addition to these business accomplishments, Tan Holdings has established the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, which has donated millions of dollars to deserving causes and activities in our islands, setting an example of social responsibility.

Please join me in congratulating Tan Holdings for its 40 years helping to build the economy of the Northern Mariana Islands and economies throughout Micronesia.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, in the 2 years since its enactment, the Affordable Care Act has truly improved health care for families in Maine:

It has given 190,000 seniors access to free preventative care and saved them over $5 million in prescription drug costs; it has allowed 7,000 young adults to stay on their parents' insurance; and, in Maine, it has helped 1,300 small businesses provide their employees with health coverage.

More critical benefits are on the way, including banning insurance companies from charging women more simply because of their gender.

Yet here we are again, debating how to undo these successes, debating how to block women's access to contraceptives, and, this week, considering proposals to dismantle Medicare and shift the cost back to seniors.

This must stop. We can't afford to go back to the status quo—denying women equal access to care, or telling seniors they're on their own, or letting families go bankrupt just because someone got sick.

We must let the Affordable Care Act stand so more Americans have the chance to reap the benefits of true health care reform.

DO NOT TURN THE CLOCK BACK

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, it's been about 236 years since we declared independence, but it's only been 92 years since women could vote. We have fought for equality, fighting our way from being second-class citizens. One such battle is the discrimination in health care.

For so long, insurance companies have denied coverage for preexisting conditions like pregnancy, breast cancer, C-sections, and domestic abuse. Ninety percent of the best-selling plans charge women more. Some plans require women to even get a pre-authorization before they can seek OB–GYN services.

From 2014, that will not be the case because of the Affordable Care Act. But just a few months ago, efforts by Republicans were to block contraception. Now the attempts are to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This is the act that's been the great equalizer for women and children.

Don't let them turn the clock back. We should not have to do another hundred years of battle for equality.

THE CRISIS IN KORDOFAN AND BLUE NILE

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, today, in Sudan, tens of thousands of men, women, and children are huddled in caves in the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan and at Blue Nile state, where they're hiding from aerial bombardment and rocket attacks unleashed by the Sudanese Government in Khartoum.

They have nothing to eat because they've not been able to plant crops this year. And although the world stands ready to provide lifesaving assistance, that same government in Khartoum refuses to allow them access to it. When the rainy season descends on Sudan in the coming weeks, it will be too late to get food in and these people will face starvation.

Madam Speaker, for decades, this Congress and successive U.S. administrations have expressed the will of the American people that we will not allow so many innocent people to die in a struggle for land and power.

I ask my colleagues to condemn the Sudanese Government's assault on innocent people and denounce President Omar al-Bashir's decision to use food as a weapon of war.

We have little economic or political interest in this situation, but we do have a profound moral obligation to speak out. Khartoum must withdraw its armed forces, stop attacking civilians, and allow humanitarian access immediately.

PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY AS PART OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 108, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 108

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA FOR HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY.

The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on April 19, 2012, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later today.

□ 1240

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE 225TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 886) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government;

(2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, shall be disbursed to any recipient designated in section 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.