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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, through Whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your Spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks. Be with them and with all who labor here to serve this great Nation and its people.

Assure them that whatever their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful to their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

Remind us all of the dignity of work and teach us to use our talents and abilities in ways that are honorable and just and are of benefit to those we serve. May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOLD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute requests on each side.

IPAB MUST BE REPEALED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, every American should be given the freedom to make his or her own decisions regarding health care. When the government takeover health care bill was passed, the liberal control of Congress took away this right and instead created the Independent Payment Advisory Board, IPAB. This board is comprised of 15 unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats who will be responsible for making major cuts to Medicare which are likely to lead to waiting lists, deferral of service, and denial of care.

Today, House Republicans will vote on a bill that will eliminate IPAB and help strengthen our Medicare system for a doctor-patient relationship.

Our country cannot afford to spend \$1.8 trillion on an unconstitutional

government mandate which the NFIB reveals will destroy 1.6 million jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REPEAL OF IPAB WRONGLY TIED TO MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

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

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of repealing IPAB. However, I speak in opposition to tying this repeal to H.R. 5. This is another act of political theater and disingenuous at best.

IPAB relinquishes congressional responsibility to care for our seniors. Passing these decisions off, whether it is to insurance companies or an unelected commission, undermines Congress' ability to represent the needs of our seniors and make decisions on health care policy for Medicare beneficiaries.

We must preserve access to quality Medicare while containing costs and replacing the flawed payment system. Simply cutting reimbursements is not the answer. If we truly want to rein in the cost of Medicare and repeal IPAB, we should do it as a stand-alone bill.

The Senate has no intention of bringing H.R. 5 up for a vote. Why then are we wasting our time on legislation that has no chance of becoming law?

Americans want their elected leaders working together to find solutions to the problems facing our country, not to be active participants in political theater.

I urge my colleagues to have an open and honest debate on Medicare reform by bringing an independent IPAB repeal bill to the floor.

□ 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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H1499

HEALTH ACT OF 2011

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

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the legislation we'll vote on shortly to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board created under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This is something that simply should not have been done. These are unelected board members, 15 of them, appointed by the President, tasked for finding savings and making recommendations.

Unfortunately, because of the limitations of what the board can cut, the majority of spending reductions will come from cutting reimbursements for doctors and those who care for Medicare patients. The ultimate result will be fewer options for patients when doctors are driven out of the Medicare system.

We were told when the Affordable Care Act was passed that it would lead to a reduction in premiums. It's done exactly the opposite.

This kind of board and these kinds of decisions made by unelected officials will simply drive the cost up further, and we cannot afford to do that.

My only regret in today's action is that we're not repealing the entire act. I hope that comes soon.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to speak of the need to protect the health care of American women.

Last week, I hosted a women's conference focused on the benefit of the Affordable Care Act for women. The historic health care reform is a step in the right direction for the health of mothers, sisters, daughters, and granddaughters.

Thanks to affordable health care, women can no longer be dropped from insurance coverage when they get sick or become pregnant. Twenty million women have already used free preventive services offered through health care reform, including mammograms and colonoscopies.

Beginning in 2014, women will no longer be denied coverage for having a preexisting condition. The health care law finally ends gender rating, in which women are forced to pay higher premiums than men for the same coverage.

American women are the foundation of our families. We must protect the benefit of health care reform and ensure that all women have better access to health care.

□ 1010

THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, our national debt now exceeds \$15.5 trillion. I think it's fair to say that Washington has a spending problem. Republicans and Democrats alike have overspent over the years.

In the past 4 years, Washington has spent over \$5 trillion of taxpayer money that we don't have. The degree of how much this actually means to the American public, I think, is incomprehensible. Most people that I talk to just say that's a heck of a lot of money. I talk about the deficit of \$1.5 trillion that we spent this last year and they say I just think it's a lot of money. It works out to be about \$3.4 million a minute in deficit spending.

But if we take eight zeros off these numbers, to put it in perspective for the American family, I think it gives them a good idea about what their budget would look like. The annual family income would be about \$22,280. The money the family would spend in a given year would be \$37,080. New debt on the credit card would be \$14,800. The outstanding balance, which I think is important, is \$155,000, and the total discretionary budget cuts that were put in for 2011 for this family, \$398.

Madam Speaker, that's what we're facing. We must pass a budget that takes the step necessary to rein in the out-of-control spending that our country has today and put ourselves on a path to economic prosperity. We have no other choice.

THE ADVANCES FOR WOMEN IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, tomorrow marks the second anniversary of the landmark health care reform bill being signed into law by President Obama.

Many of the important reforms under the new law benefit women, who for years have faced discriminatory practices by insurance companies and borne higher health care costs simply as a result of their gender.

Because of the new law, women can no longer be denied coverage or charged more for such preexisting conditions as breast or cervical cancer, pregnancy, or, of all things, being a victim of domestic abuse.

Women no longer have to share the cost of critical and potentially lifesaving preventive services such as mammograms and colonoscopies.

These reforms for women not only make care more equitable, but they also help to reduce the cost of care by insuring that many diseases are detected early or prevented before their onset through vaccinations and regular screenings.

While additional reforms will be implemented in stages, many advances, as a result of health care reform, are al-

ready making a difference in the lives of women across this country.

JOEL SHRUM

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, on Sunday in the Yemeni city of Tah-izz, al Qaeda terrorists viciously gunned down American Joel Shrum.

Joel grew up in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in Mount Joy and was a football star at Donegal High School.

He leaves behind a wife and two young sons who lived with him in Yemen.

Joel worked as a teacher at the International Training Development Center, which focused on giving vocational training to the poor.

Joel was a Christian, but he was not in the country to proselytize. According to his father, Joel was there to teach and break down barriers. The organization he worked for is staffed by both Christians and Muslims and has worked in the country for over 40 years.

The people of Yemen are appalled at this violence. Hundreds of activists took to the streets yesterday to demand justice for the killers. They carried photos of Joel and chanted: "Yemen is not a place for terrorism" and "We love you, Joel."

Joel Shrum selflessly served the poor in a country far from home. He will be dearly missed by his family and by the people he came to serve.

CHARLES DARWIN WOULD BLUSH

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, yesterday by one vote the Republican Budget Committee passed a fend-for-yourself budget that gives Darwinism a bad name. It breaks a bipartisan compromise not even a year old. It voucherizes Medicare, in effect jeopardizing health care for tens of millions of American seniors. It essentially guts Medicaid and jeopardizes nursing home care for millions more. It block-grants the safety net programs led by food stamps, threatening to reverse decades-old progress in lowering poverty and malnutrition rates in America.

This is a budget that needs to be rejected, Madam Speaker. It is a budget that would make Charles Darwin blush.

IT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the nationalized health care bill will soon go before the Supreme Court.