

before. Again, it is a bipartisan solution. It is a plan to save Medicare. Unlike the gentleman's party or his President, we are actually proposing a solution to the problem and saving the program for this generation and the next.

Again, I'm sure the gentleman disagrees with my characterization and I with his. But to answer his question, to get back on track as far as the schedule and the fashion in which these bills are going to be brought to the floor, yes, consistent with precedent, we will be allowing full substitutes to be offered on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comment.

The last thing I would ask the gentleman: Am I correct that the agreement that was reached between our parties, which led to the passage of the Budget Control Act in a bipartisan fashion, does not reflect the substance of that agreement as it relates to the discretionary spending number for fiscal year 2013? Senator McCONNELL is quoted, as you know, as saying that that was an agreement that was reached and that he expected it to be pursued.

I want to make it clear that he was not referring to the action of the Budget Committee, but he was referring to the agreement on the discretionary number.

Am I correct that the agreement that was reached, in order to get a bipartisan vote on the Budget Control Act, which we passed, which made sure that this country did not default on its debts for the first time in history, am I correct that that number is not the number that is reflected in the budget?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I respond to the gentleman by saying it is our view that the agreement reached in August at the top line was that, a cap. We all know we've got to do something about spending in this country, and the top line, or 302(a), within our budget resolution will reflect that top line provided in the budget resolution for the second year of the budget that we posed last year.

□ 1300

Again, we view it very much that we need to continue to try—at least try—to save taxpayer dollars when we are generating over \$1 trillion of deficits every year, and I think the taxpayers expect no less.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments, but I will tell the gentleman that if we're going to have negotiations, and we have one number and you have another number, and we agree on a number, and then we pass a bill which reflects that number, put it in law—it doesn't say it's a cap; it says that will be the number. As we pass the budget, we said that will be the number. Now this is the law. And as was observed by others on the other side of the Capitol, but I will observe it here as well, if we're going to have those kinds of negotiations, it's sort of like

the guy who comes up to you and says, look, I've got something to sell you, do you want to buy it? And you say, yes, let's negotiate on price. And you come to a price of \$100. And then you come to settle, and the guy says, well, that was my top number. I'm going to give you \$92 for that item. You don't have a meeting of the minds as a contract requires.

Very frankly, nobody on our side, and frankly I don't think anybody on your side that negotiated the deal—I don't mean that didn't vote for it—and as a matter of fact, I know for a fact the Speaker, and I believe yourself, have been quoted that that was the number and we ought to stick with it. Clearly, Mr. ROGERS believes that's the number that was agreed to.

Now, we're not going to be able to agree on things if all of a sudden it becomes, well, that was a notional thing that we did, not an agreement. A lot of our people voted on that to make sure, A, we didn't go into default as a country, and, B, that was not the number we wanted. It clearly was not the number your side wanted. But it was a number we agreed upon. And it seems to me that if we're going to try to keep faith with one another and with the law that we passed that we should stick with what we agreed to.

I understand that we want to bring the budget deficit down. As a matter of fact, on this side of the aisle, I've made those comments, and I've been criticized by some on my side, as you well know. Yes, we do need to get a handle on the budget. We're going to have a real debate on the deficit and debt, and I've been working very hard on that. We're going to have a debate, a fulsome debate, hopefully, on whether or not your budget does that. We've had disagreements all the years I've been here on that, and performance has not reflected, from my standpoint, that the representations made have always worked out, perhaps on either side.

But I regret, I regret deeply, Mr. Majority Leader, that we've reached an agreement, and based upon that agreement, this House took an action, it took a bipartisan action, and it passed a piece of legislation that was critically important to make sure that America did not go into default. And now we see 7 months later, crossed fingers, well, we really didn't mean that, it was a cap. Nobody on our side—there was no mention in the law nor was there any mention in the negotiations that that was a cap, not a number.

Unless the gentleman wants to say something further, I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I'd just say to the gentleman this is somewhat of an academic discussion given that the Senate is not going to pass a budget. And I remind the gentleman, again, it takes two Houses to go and reconcile a budget, and it takes two Houses and two parties to actually go forward. So we look forward to working with the gentleman. I told him it is our belief that we need to respond to the urgency

of the fiscal crisis and do everything we can to bring down the level of spending in this town. I look forward to working with the gentleman towards that end.

Mr. HOYER. I look forward to next week debating how we bring that deficit down, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRIMM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

REPEAL IPAB

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5, the legislation to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB. As we've heard, this unelected board of 15 was created under the administration's health overhaul to take critical decisions on Medicare spending and hide them under a bureaucratic veil. As a result, it has the power to step between seniors and their doctors with no accountability.

Even Medicare's Chief Actuary indicated that the payment reductions required of IPAB are unrealistic and could drive doctors out of Medicare and limit seniors' access to care. That's hardly an answer to rising costs.

Today's legislation repeals IPAB and reduces costs through bipartisan medical liability reform. This common-sense reform curbs junk lawsuits and stops forcing doctors to practice costly, defensive medicine. This important bill eliminates IPAB and protects health care for America's seniors. I'm really glad that it has passed this House, and I hope that the Senate will take it up.

JUSTICE FOR TRAYVON MARTIN

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I promised that every day I would come to the floor of this House and announce to America just how long justice for Trayvon Martin has been delayed. As of today, Trayvon Martin was murdered 26 days ago, and still there has been no arrest. There has been no arrest, and everyone is suffering. His parents are suffering, his classmates are suffering, and his whole Miami community is suffering.

A psychologist once described to me what it feels like to lose a child. She

says it is as if someone cuts your chest open, rips out your heart, throws it on the ground, stomps on it, picks it up, places it back in your chest, and then sews you back up. She said the parents carry that pain inside of their heart forever.

So, today, this is for Sybrina and Tracy, Trayvon's parents. As they fight for justice, I stand with them. We demand justice for Trayvon. We demand justice for all murdered children. Stay strong, Sybrina and Tracy, stay strong. I'll be with you at the rally this evening just as soon as votes here are done. Keep one hand in God's hand, and stay strong, my friends, stay strong.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

REMEMBERING NORTH CAROLINA STATE SENATOR JIM FORRESTER

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a friend, former colleague and public servant, North Carolina State senator Dr. Jim Forrester.

Jim was a lifelong public servant. He was a brigadier general with the U.S. Air Force and the North Carolina Air National Guard. He served as a flight surgeon during the Vietnam War.

He was a small town doctor and community leader. He and his wife of 51 years, Mary Frances Forrester, shared the values that made our country great, were committed to the community, and worked tirelessly for the betterment of their city and State. Together they sold Bibles to pay for his education at Wake Forest Medical School. He made time from his successful practice and family to serve on the Gaston County Board of Commissioners in 1982 before being elected to the State senate, where he served 11 terms.

Today we pay tribute to his life and service. My heart goes out to Mary Frances, his three daughters and son, and his eight grandchildren. May God's peace be with them and the many people who mourn his death and celebrate his life of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BYUNG WOOK YOON AND NATIONAL KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Korean American Day. I would like to recognize the 109th anniversary of the first Korean immigrants to arrive in the United States and the achievements of the Korean American responsible for bringing both this day and the importance of the contributions of Korean Americans to light, Dr. Byung Wook Yoon.

In 2003, Dr. Yoon, then-president of the Southern California Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the United States, began the campaign to establish a National Korean American Day. In 2004, when Dr. Yoon became president of the Korean American Foundation, he formed the National Committee of Korean American Day. Under his leadership in 2005, the committee claimed victory when the United States Senate and U.S. House of Representatives passed resolutions supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day and established an annual celebration recognizing the many contributions of Americans of Korean descent to the life and cultural fabric of the United States.

Aside from spearheading the campaign to establish Korean American Day, Dr. Yoon has accomplished a great deal in his lifetime. He is the recipient of the Presidential Award from the Republic of Korea, the Grand Award for World Korean Day from the World Korean Interchange and Corporation Association, and the Grand Award for Korean American Day from the Korean American Foundation.

□ 1310

CONGRATULATING KRISTI HOUSE FOR ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE PORT OF MIAMI

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as a popular tourist destination, south Florida is known for its nightlife and sandy beaches, but unfortunately this has also made our area a destination for human trafficking. Thankfully, Kristi House has been a beacon of hope for our community by providing abused children the care they so desperately need.

Recently, Kristi House saw the need to try to identify and intercept traffickers and their victims as they use our air- and seaports. As a result, Kristi House has teamed up with Miami International Airport and the Port of Miami in an unprecedented partnership. MIA and Port of Miami employees will undergo special training that will allow them to identify child victims of human trafficking and hold their traffickers accountable. Approximately 750 personnel at MIA will be trained, as well as 1,500 trained by the Port Authority.

This unique collaboration is positioned to become a national model that will be invaluable in the fight against human trafficking. I again congratulate Kristi House on this tremendous achievement.

TRAYVON MARTIN

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am before the House with a very heavy heart. I am very much concerned about the circumstances in Florida involving Trayvon Martin.

We live in a world, Mr. Speaker, where it's not enough for things to be right; they must also look right. And it just doesn't look right for a 17-year-old child to lose his life under the circumstances that have been announced.

I would like to thank all of the many colleagues here for the bipartisan support that has been shown in calling for the Justice Department to investigate. I also thank those who say they support what the Justice Department is doing in terms of an investigation. It doesn't look right, and I believe it is not right.

REPEAL IPAB

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for the Medicare Decisions Accountability Act that passed this body today.

The measure will repeal the controversial Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB, that would limit seniors' access to Medicare.

In my rural Arkansas district, senior citizens rely on Medicare to see their doctor and get their prescriptions filled. Without the coverage, they would be in a world of hurt. IPAB has the real threat of limiting seniors' access to treatment. I won't stand idly by while the IPAB board of 15 unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats tries to deny Medicare services to my constituents.

Members of IPAB are not subject to any real checks and balances. A huge amount of power is being given to this Medicare-cutting board that will be tasked with deciding who can and can't receive health care benefits. I am committed to strengthening Medicare for today's seniors and the next generation of Americans for this program. The Independent Payment Advisory Board will not protect seniors; it will only deny care.

Mr. Speaker, the Medicare Decisions Accountability Act gives seniors in my Arkansas district the security of knowing that their Medicare benefits will not be denied by faceless bureaucrats. I hope the Senate will now take action and pass this important bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE SHENOUDA III

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this week, the world laid to rest in the Egyptian desert a holy and wise spiritual giant, Pope Shenouda III, the