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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 31, 2012, at 12 p.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2012

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: We give You thanks, God of the universe, for giving us another day.

As the various Members of this people's House return, we ask Your blessing upon each as they resume the difficult responsibilities that await them. Give each the wisdom and good judgment needed to give credit to the office they have been honored by their constituents to fill.

Bless the work of all who serve in their various capacities here in the United States Capitol.

Bless all those who visit the Capitol this very day, be they American citizens or visitors or guests of our Nation. May they be inspired by this monument to the noble idea of human freedom and its guarantee by the democratic experiment that is the United States.

God, bless America, and 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCCOLLUM 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.

GOVERNMENT ENERGY PLAN: MORE AIR

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently I met with some people in Texas in the trucking industry. We discussed the administration's domestic energy policy—how the administration is against using more American coal; how the administration is against drilling in ANWR; how the administration is stonewalling the drilling on Federal lands; how the administration has delayed offshore-drilling permits; and how the administration uses the EPA to block domestic energy production.

Since the administration is against so much, what is it in favor of? Then Dalton handed me this—yes, a tire gauge—and reminded me that the President touted his energy plan when he said this: We could save all the oil they are talking about getting off drilling if everybody would just inflate their tires and get tune-ups.

Really? That's it, more air in our tires? Now, you know, Mr. Speaker, more hot air will save us all. Now there's an energy plan we can all be proud of.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MILLE LACS BAND CHIEF EXECUTIVE MARGE ANDERSON

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my dear friend and outstanding tribal leader, Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson. After 30 years of service to our community, Marge is retiring. I know I'm not alone in saying she will be missed.

Ms. Anderson first reached out to me when I was in the Minnesota State house. The education she provided on Indian treaty rights and the U.S. Constitution's guarantees of tribal sovereignty are lessons I still carry with me.

The first woman elected to serve as chief executive for the Mille Lacs Band, Marge promoted tribal self-governance, economic development, education, health care, and infrastructure. Chief Executive Anderson has also been recognized for her dedication to the welfare of Native American children, families, and communities by regional tribal organizations all around this country. I thank her for her inspired leadership, for her protection of tribal sovereignty, for her guidance and her

□ 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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friendship. Marge, Miigwetch—thank you.

PROVIDING FOR VETERANS—AND STILL TRIMMING SPENDING

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2013 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill.

Most of the time, when budgets are cut and cuts are made, someone somewhere is upset about them. But as a wise Governor once said: you'll be amazed how much government you'll never miss.

In the case of this bill, efficiencies were found within programs to trim billions in spending, while still providing for our warfighters and veterans in the most effective and efficient ways. The fact that funding for so many vital programs for our veterans were actually increased is a testament to the significant savings made in other areas of the bill. For example, it will provide disability compensation for almost 4 million veterans and their survivors, and it will provide post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits for more than 600,000 veterans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this important bill later this week.

STUDYING TOWARD ADJUSTED RESIDENCY STATUS ACT

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

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, many young immigrants have found themselves stuck in limbo due to our failure to address immigration reform. Such is the plight of my constituent, Daniela Pelaez, who came here from Colombia with her family when she was four. They overstayed their visas, and she has now been ordered deported. Next week, Daniela, who is here with us today in the gallery, will graduate as valedictorian from North Miami High. Having maintained a 6.7 GPA, she has received a full scholarship to Dartmouth College.

In order to assist students like Daniela today, I am introducing the Studying Toward Adjusted Residency Status, or STARS, Act. The STARS Act would allow undocumented students who arrive here at a young age, graduate from high school, and are accepted into a university to apply for a 5-year conditional nonimmigrant status. During that 5-year period, they can focus on their college education and, once they graduate, have their conditional status extended and work toward achieving residency.

This legislation can make the American Dream a reality for young people like Daniela, who through no fault of their own are prevented from realizing their full potential in this land of opportunity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to help Daniela and others like her who are as American as anyone born in the United States and who simply need a chance to continue being productive Americans.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION ACT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives will consider the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, a bill to ban the practice of sex-selection abortions.

If you talk to most expectant couples, you'll hear a common refrain: we don't care whether it's a boy or a girl; we just want a healthy baby. In fact, even with advanced ultrasound technology, many parents choose to wait until birth to discover the sex of their child. Unfortunately, there are exceptions. Some couples will do anything to choose the sex of their child. In the majority of these cases, boys are favored and girls are aborted.

I know most Americans think this is something that happens overseas in places like China and India. However, a Columbia University study found evidence that sex selection at the prenatal level is happening right here in the United States.

Just yesterday, the group Live Action released undercover video of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Austin, Texas, counseling a woman on how to choose the sex of her child. We shouldn't wait any longer to ban this barbaric and socially unhealthy practice. It's time to pass the bill.

□ 1410

PAT HEAD SUMMITT HONORED WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

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

Mr. COHEN. Yesterday, there was a historic program at the White House where 13 great people of the world were recognized with Presidential Medals of Freedom. They ranged from former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens to Bob Dylan to John Glenn and others. But nobody stood out more than Pat Head Summitt, the great athletic coach for the University of Tennessee Lady Vols—greatest basketball coach of all time.

But now, facing her greatest battle, Alzheimer's, she stands as a public statement that a cure must be found, and the caregivers must be recognized and taken care of. She's raising money for Alzheimer's. She's raising money for those that face this problem, like she does, but she's facing it with courage and trying to help others.

This is her greatest battle. She is a great American. I thank the world for Pat Head Summitt, not for her coaching ability but for her courage as a human being.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1532

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah) at 3 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

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 motions 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.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3541) to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or race, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3541

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act (PRENDA) of 2012".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Women are a vital part of American society and culture and possess the same fundamental human rights and civil rights as men.

(2) United States law prohibits the dissimilar treatment of males and females who are similarly situated and prohibits sex discrimination in various contexts, including the provision of employment, education, housing, health insurance coverage, and athletics.

(3) Sex is an immutable characteristic ascertainable at the earliest stages of human development through existing medical technology and procedures commonly in use, including maternal-fetal bloodstream DNA sampling, amniocentesis, chorionic villus sampling or "CVS", and obstetric ultrasound. In addition to medically assisted