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No. 95

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 21, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TED POE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

May all the Members have the vision of our Nation where respect and understanding are the marks of civility, and honor and integrity are the marks of one's character.

Give them the grace to see the best in those with whom they find disagreement, and the courage to move together with them toward solutions that best serve our great Nation.

Raise up, O God, women and men from every nation who will lead toward the paths of peace, and whose good judgment will heal the hurt between all peoples.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELAURO 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REPEAL OBAMACARE IN ITS ENTIRETY

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, soon we will know if the Supreme Court will defend the Constitution and strike down ObamaCare, or let it stand.

The Founders worried about the growth of government and the yielding of liberty. Ben Franklin warned us about the fragility of limited government when he proclaimed that the Constitutional Convention had produced "a Republic, if you can keep it."

Now it is 225 years later and a moment of truth. We will soon know if our Republic will reaffirm its commitment to the Constitution or succumb to the consolidation of unchecked power and the erosion of our cherished liberties.

Although I hope that ObamaCare will be struck down, the Founders ulti-

mately left the defense of the Constitution to the people. And I know that if the Supreme Court will not rise to the defense of the Constitution, the people will.

To all the patriots throughout the country who have dedicated themselves to the repeal of this law, let me remind you of the words of Thomas Jefferson, who once said:

The ground of liberty is to be gained by inches.

So I pledge to stand alongside all of you in that fight, inch by inch, to defend the Constitution, and repeal the ObamaCare law in its entirety.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY RESTORATION ACT

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

Ms. DELAURO. One year ago yesterday, the Supreme Court voted 5-4 in the case of Walmart v. Dukes to make it harder for workers to challenge discrimination in the workplace. Upending decades of judicial practice and precedent, the Court erected new unwarranted and challenging barriers for groups of private employees to challenge unemployment discrimination.

As a result, 1.5 million female Walmart employees were denied remedy for discrimination that resulted in smaller paychecks, limited professional advancement, and increased financial pressures for families trying to make ends meet. In fact, all workers throughout the country will find it more difficult to challenge any discrimination in the workplace because of the Court's decision.

Yesterday, I introduced the Equal Employment Opportunity Restoration Act, a thoughtful, careful, and effective legislative response to this flawed Supreme Court decision. It restores the rights of groups of plaintiffs to pursue

□ 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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actions against employment discrimination.

We need to see discrimination in the workplace addressed. We have to protect employees' rights to bring suit together. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Help restore the legal rights of ordinary citizens over corporations.

FIX HEALTH CARE THE RIGHT WAY

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, next week the Supreme Court is expected to rule on the constitutionality of President Obama's health care law.

While we don't yet know the outcome, there are things that we do know. We know that no matter what happens, you'll still be able to see your doctor, the emergency room will still treat you if you're in an accident or have a problem, and the pharmacy down the street will fill your prescription.

We know that the American people don't want government bureaucrats making their health care decisions, but they do want us to address real problems like skyrocketing costs of care or the challenges that many people are having of finding a physician.

We all know this law must be repealed. In its place, we must adopt reforms that will lower the cost of care, increase access, and enhance the quality. This must be done in a transparent, bipartisan way.

No matter what the Court determines, our work here has just begun. As representatives of the American people, we have a responsibility to fix health care in the right way.

BUSINESSES NEED STABILITY

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I come from an energy State, a State that has done hydraulic fracking since the 1940s. It is a State that has beautiful lands, clean air, and clean water.

But energy requires a tremendous amount of capital, and so it needs consistency in its laws and its regulations. In this day and age, that's a problem apparently because Federal regulations continue to change.

It shouldn't be an issue. We're a Nation of laws, not a Nation of leaders. As a Nation of laws, we center around what is consistent and stable so business can invest. When that is destabilized, no one knows what to do, no one knows how to invest, and jobs don't grow.

Let me just give you a few examples. The recess appointments done by this President just a few months ago destabilized the NLRB and CFPB. The Boeing rule that was put down just 2 years

ago now by the NLRB telling Boeing where they can and can't build. The immigration laws that are coming out right now begin to destabilize because no one knows when the law is going to be enforced and when it's not going to be enforced, and who gets a waiver and who doesn't. The Defense of Marriage Act that now is not going to be enforced anymore by this administration. The HHS decision that comes down and tells a religious group what they can practice as their doctrine and what they can't practice. And then yesterday, a requirement for executive privilege based on Fast and Furious.

The Missouri Senate has experienced this. *Hosanna Tabor v. EEOC* was a 9–0 Supreme Court ruling, kicking out the Obama administration trying to redefine what is a minister. It is time for stable regulations, stable rules, and the law to come around to Congress again.

EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE AND FAST AND FURIOUS

(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, the government continues to hide the evidence of the Fast and Furious gun running scheme.

The attorney general says he doesn't know who authorized this reckless and deadly operation, but he still conceals documents to show what occurred. The President claims he was not involved, but minutes before Congress began the process to hold the Attorney General in contempt, the President—"the leader of the most transparent administration in history"—desperately asserted executive privilege to withhold the documents from Congress.

According to *The Washington Times*, when the President was a Senator, he said this about the previous administration:

There has been a tendency on the part of the administration to try to hide behind executive privilege every time there is something a little shaky taking place. I think the administration would best be served by coming clean on this. There doesn't seem to be any national security involved.

Mr. Speaker, that was then, and this is now. And this President conveniently does exactly what he criticized others for doing.

So the saga of the Republic continues, and that's just the way it is.

□ 0910

AMERICA'S HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT PROGRAMS

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, unless we act now, the highway and transit programs will expire in a few days, endangering our roads, bridges, transit

systems; and everyone who uses them will experience a decline in what they view as America.

So I would like to list the reasons we need to move quickly to pass a highway bill that is not simply an extension. One, we must raise America's standing in the world of infrastructure from 24th place to first. Three months ago, the Senate passed a responsible, bipartisan 2-year transportation bill that would save or create 2 million jobs. We have 2.2 million construction and manufacturing workers out of work; \$1,060 is how much we could save each family in transportation costs if we could come to an agreement. H.R. 7 was called by my friend Secretary LaHood "the most partisan transportation bill that (he had) ever seen, the worst transportation bill."

Mr. Speaker, I have more points. I will try to get them in later.

DOMESTIC ENERGY AND JOBS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4480.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROE of Tennessee). Pursuant to House Resolution 691 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4480.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) kindly take the chair.

□ 0911

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4480) to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas exploration, development, and production under oil and gas leases of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense in response to a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, with Mr. POE of Texas (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 17 printed in House Report 112–540 offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 112–540.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows: