

RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the United States Supreme Court is expected to rule on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act.

Let us all step back and recognize those portions that people like. These are the highlights: For seniors, it closes the infamous doughnut hole for prescription drugs. This means, to date, about 5.3 million seniors have experienced savings of \$3.7 billion. That doughnut hole will close completely by the year 2020.

For women, we no longer are going to suffer the discrimination against us. Ninety percent of the plans today charge more for women than they do for men for the same process. In 2014, this stops. Women can no longer be discriminated against for what they call preexisting conditions. Do you know what these preexisting conditions are? Breast cancer, C-section and childbirth, pregnancy, victims of domestic abuse.

And there will be a ban on maximum coverage in your lifetime for medical care. You will no longer need to have a referral to go see an OB/GYN. Children will also benefit.

Madam Speaker, let's all recognize the value of the Affordable Care Act.

WE HAVE TO PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, if you know you're approaching a cliff, wouldn't you take steps to avoid it?

Consumer confidence is flagging. It's flagging in part because some Members of the House have taken to brandishing the debt ceiling as a weapon designed to undercut economic growth. That just isn't responsible.

We have to put our heads together now to find a responsible way to cut spending and increase revenues rather than play the blame game. We cannot allow this year's approaching fiscal crisis to go the way of the budget supercommittee. That means both parties must find common ground. I know that's what San Diegans expect.

It is critical that we deal with our real problems. Those who are underemployed need jobs, doctors facing reimbursement cuts must be paid, and everything cannot be paid for on the backs of the middle class.

□ 1220

WELCOMING HIS HOLINESS,
HAZRAT MIRZA MASROOR
AHMAD TO THE CAPITOL

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to welcome to the House of Representatives His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad. He is with us today in the gallery. His Holiness is the worldwide spiritual leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, which has tens of millions of adherents around the world in 190 countries and tens of thousands of adherents here in the United States.

Today at a historic event in the Gold Room of the Rayburn Building, we recognized His Holiness' commitment to world peace, to brotherhood, to justice, and to religious freedom. I am proud to join with my colleague from California, ZOE LOFGREN, and others in introducing a resolution today in honor of His Holiness' visit here to our Nation's Capitol. In the United States, the Ahmadi community is one of the oldest and most organized Islamic communities.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize two distinguished leaders from Los Angeles, Dr. Asif Mahmood and Kareem Ahmed, who are also in the gallery here and who show such leadership of the Muslim community in the Los Angeles area.

It is my honor to recognize His Holiness, to invite him to be with us here in the people's House. And I want to commend the Ahmadi motto: "Love for all. Hatred for none."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). Members should not refer to occupants of the gallery. In addition, the Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of its proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

CAP STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I will say to the American people, to the over 1 million online supporters of my legislation to forgive student loans, I want to thank you all for creating a national movement, a movement so strong that we are now demanding that this House and this Congress do something to cap student loan interest rates. But we can't give up. We can't stop there. We've got to cut this debt to bring people hope and to create jobs.

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, every year, California dairies produce over 17

billion pounds of milk products that provide families with affordable, nutrient-rich products that we consume. California is the Nation's top milk-producing State, and much of the production takes place in the San Joaquin Valley, which I represent a part of. Many of these dairies in my district have been passed down from generation to generation, including the one that I grew up on in Kearney Park, near Fresno, California.

Over the last few years, dairy producers have seen milk prices continue to drop and feed prices increase and even skyrocket. In the coming weeks, the Ag Committee is slated to begin consideration of the 2012 farm bill. It is my hope that we can find a way to bring more certainty in prices and prevent extreme market volatility to help our producers across the country stay afloat.

As National Dairy Month comes to a close, I would like to commend our dairymen and -women for the work they do every day on the farm, 365 days a year, that allows families nationwide to enjoy the nutritious, cost-effective food that they are putting on our tables.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUNICH VICTIMS

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, several weeks ago, my friend from New York, Congressman HANNA, and I sent a bipartisan letter to the International Olympic Committee, asking them to hold a moment of silence during the opening ceremonies of this year's Olympic Games in commemoration of the victims of the 1972 Munich massacre.

On September 5, 1972, 2 weeks after the start of the Olympic games in Munich, members of a Palestinian terrorist group, Black September, broke into the Olympic Village. Eleven Israelis were killed in that massacre. Now, 40 years later, in London, we are convening another Olympic ceremony. We asked the International Olympic Committee to recognize this 40-year anniversary, and the response we got was, No.

That is the wrong response, Madam Speaker. We, again, on a bipartisan basis, appealed to the International Olympic Committee in London, when these Olympics begin, to commemorate those Israelis who were massacred, which fits the ideals of the Olympics and, that is, international friendship and fraternity.

Eleven lives were lost. We should remember them in London when the Olympics convene.

STOP STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES FROM DOUBLING

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to draw attention to the fact that there are only 4 days left until Federal student loan interest rates double. On July 1, the interest rate for 7 million students could rise to 6.8 percent. Failure to act and to act now would add \$6.3 billion to students' debt burdens in 1 year alone.

Frankly, Madam Speaker, this rise in rates would happen at a time when our young people can least afford it. Our young people who are recent college graduates have the highest unemployment rate of any age group in the Nation, and more of them are graduating with debt than ever before. In fact, two-thirds of the class of 2010 graduated with student loan debt.

Madam Speaker, this is a real problem. It should be solved now, and it shouldn't be solved on the backs of the working class and the poor. I urge my colleagues to join me and do the right thing. Let's stop the interest rates from doubling before it's too late.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 4018) to improve the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATHAM. 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. 5972 and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 697 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. 5972.

Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1228

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. 5972) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes, with Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, June 26, 2012, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 74, line 6.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I submit the following for the RECORD.