

for the per-person in Medicare is increased. So what's going on here? You've got to think this through. Bad idea. Bad concept.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Your 92-year-old mother, when she goes into the hospital, if she didn't have—she probably does have—a supplemental insurance policy, the copayment on the first day in the hospital, which some seniors have to pay out-of-pocket, is well over \$1,000. Medicare, let's remember, does not cover most vision, hearing, or dental, so seniors are still left with not only their premiums and their copayments and their deductibles but lots of things that still aren't covered by Medicare.

With the cost of health care to seniors today, this is no entitlement, which makes it sound like they're getting a freebie here. It's very, very expensive. We want to make Medicare better. We want to make it efficient and actually enhance some of those benefits.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The word "entitlement" is really misused for both Social Security and Medicare. Basically, the word means that, when you reach a certain age, the program is available to you. It's not a freebie. Men and women in America who work, even those who are 65 and over, continue to pay what amounts to a health care premium. It's the payroll tax. They're paying that from the first paycheck they get until the last one that they receive. Then when they're no longer working, as you so correctly stated, Medicare does not cover the total cost, so they're going to continue to pay. They're probably going to be paying for a supplemental insurance program, and they're certainly going to be paying out-of-pocket and the like.

There are a couple of other things that have been proposed, and I want to just cover those because they're very important. It has been proposed that the cost of the Medicare system can be reduced by giving every senior a voucher or—a different word but exactly the same thing—premium support, which basically says that the Medicare system, as we have known it for nearly 50 years, is terminated—gone—and that seniors who are 65—or 67 if they get their way—would be thrown into the private health insurance market. I cannot imagine a worse situation for a senior. The private health insurance market is not interested in caring for seniors.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. That's why we have Medicare.

Mr. GARAMENDI. They don't want those people because they get sick and they're expensive. They want Medicare, but the voucher program is the privatization of Medicare. It is nothing other than that. It's the termination of this guarantee, and seniors have to go out and negotiate on their own for a health insurance policy.

Good luck, Mom. You're 92 years old. Good luck in getting a health insurance policy from any private health in-

surance company. It won't happen. It won't happen.

So, with those proposals, they are wrongheaded; they are cruel; they are expensive to the individual; and they ultimately will lead to a system in which health insurance will not be available to seniors. That's a proposal that has been given life and that has actually passed the House of Representatives.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. It's part of the Ryan budget.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Indeed, it is. It has passed the House of Representatives twice—not once but twice.

So this is not just some idea floating in the ether. This is a real proposal that is sitting in the Senate. Fortunately, it's going nowhere there, but these kinds of programs are there.

The other program—and we've talked around this issue—is just a flat-out assault on the benefits. We're going to cut out drugs. We're going to cut out one or another of the benefits that are in Medicare. The package of benefits in Medicare is designed to provide a continuity of care so that something that is common is going to get covered—hospitalization, a doctor's care, and now, with the Affordable Care Act, annual visits to the doctor. It's very, very important.

Let me be clear that, as Democrats, we understand the necessity of reducing the cost of Medicare. We understand that. In fact, we have done it. The Democrats have done it. We have taken action to reduce the cost of Medicare and to simultaneously maintain the benefits and improve the benefits to seniors.

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That is what we have done, and we'll continue to do it. Things I talked about at the very outset are very real. We can take additional steps. We can do more. The President has proposed it, and the Democrats stand ready today to take up those issues and pass them out of the House, give them to the Senate and say we can do more to reduce the cost of Medicare and simultaneously maintain quality care for seniors and the benefits that they have spent their lifetime paying for, paying for those benefits. We can do it. We've done it.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. We can do it. And I hope that everyone will stand with our President who has said that we're not going to raise the age of Medicare and that the Republicans now first have to agree that we're going to ask the wealthiest people in our country to pay a bit more, and not to begin with the least able to pay more, the poorest adults, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Our colleague, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, before she left, she brought this issue up. In the House today is the tax program that would continue the tax reductions for the middle class.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. And for the first \$250,000 for everyone.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Exactly so. All we need to do is pass that.

The other alternative, which has been proposed, is to keep the taxes low for the superwealthy and to pay for that out of the pockets of seniors. We're not going there, and we shouldn't.

JAN, thank you for sharing this evening with us. This is an important issue.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Thank you.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of medical reasons.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 6156. An act to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 6, 2012, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 6634. To change the effective date for the Internet publication of certain financial disclosure forms.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on December 7, 2012, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 6156. To authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2012 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, ROBERT KAREM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 14 AND OCT. 21, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Robert Karem	10/15	10/16	France		155.00						155.00
	10/16	10/18	Senegal		204.00						204.00
	10/18	10/19	Mali		109.00						109.00
	10/19	10/20	Burkina Faso		184.00						184.00
Committee total					652.00						652.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

MR. ROBERT STORY KAREM, Nov. 19, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BELGIUM AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 14 AND OCT. 19, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Anne Thorsen	10/14	10/16	Belgium		546.00		32,076.90				2,622.90
Tom Wickham	10/14	10/16	Belgium		546.00		32,076.90				2,622.90
Kyle Nevins	10/14	10/16	Belgium		546.00		32,076.90				2,622.90
Anne Thorsen	10/16	10/19	United Kingdom		1,497.00						1,497.00
Tom Wickham	10/16	10/19	United Kingdom		1,497.00						1,497.00
Kyle Nevins	10/16	10/19	United Kingdom		1,497.00						1,497.00
Jo-Marie St. Martin Green	10/15	10/19	United Kingdom		1,497.00		1,164.40				2,661.40
Committee total											15,021.10

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Airfare all inclusive.

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, Speaker of the House, Nov. 16, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CANADA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 21 AND OCT. 26, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Ethan Lauer	10/21	10/26		2,729.86	2,765.80	1,627.81	1,649.25			4,357.65	4,415.05
Kirk Boyle	10/21	10/26		2,729.86	2,765.80	1,331.56	1,349.10			4,061.41	4,114.90
Committee total											8,529.95

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

MR. ETHAN LAUER, Nov. 14, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Tim Holden	6/30	7/01	Latvia		382.14		(3)				382.14
	7/01	7/03	Kazakhstan		720.00		(3)				720.00
	7/03	7/05	Kyrgyz Republic		402.00		(3)				402.00
	7/05	7/06	Tajikistan		198.00		(3)				198.00
	7/06	7/07	Uzbekistan		289.16		(3)				289.16
	7/07	7/08	Spain		323.55		(3)				323.55
Hon. Rick Crawford	8/02	8/04	Panama		354.97		(3)				354.97
	8/04	8/06	Columbia		824.33		(3)				824.33
Hon. Tim Holden	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05		(3)				496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00		(3)				1,050.00
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan				(3)				
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10		(3)				563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69		(3)				220.69
Hon. Terri Sewell	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05		(3)				496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00		(3)				1,050.00
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan				(3)				
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10		(3)				563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69		(3)				220.69
Committee total					8,154.49						8,154.49

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS, Chairman, Nov. 15, 2012.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8667. A letter from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Working Capital Fund, Treasury Symbol 47X 4540, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

8668. A letter from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Working Capital Fund, Treasury Symbol 47X 4542, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

8669. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Delayed Implementation of Certain New Mortgage Disclosures [Docket No.: CFPB-2012-0045] (RIN: 3170-AA32) received November 27, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8670. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0003] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8255] received November 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8671. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0003] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8257] received November 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8672. A letter from the Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Certain persons to the Entity List [Docket No.: 12100957-2527-01] (RIN: 0694-AF80) received November 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8673. A letter from the Acting Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 10-12 informing of an intent to sign the Capability Management Updates Project Arrangement pursuant to the memorandum of the Understanding between Australia, Canada, Denmark, Republic of Italy, Kingdom of Norway, United Kingdom, and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8674. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-145, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8675. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment (Transmittal No. RSAT-12-2912); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8676. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8677. A letter from the Associate Director, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cuban Assets Control Regulations received November 29, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8678. A letter from the Honorary Secretary, Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts, transmitting the 216th petition to the Prime Minister of Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8679. A letter from the Special Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Administration, transmitting the personnel report for personnel employed in the White House Office, the Executive Residence at the White House, the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Policy Development, and the Office of Administration for FY 2012, pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 113; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8680. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the semiannual report from the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8681. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8682. A letter from the Presiding Governor, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8683. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8684. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8685. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Benefit Payments Under Certain District of Columbia Retirement Plans (RIN: 1505-AC02) received November 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8686. A letter from the Special Assistant to the President and Director, Executive Office of the President, Office of Administration, transmitting accounting expenditures from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2012, pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 108; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8687. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General of the Federal Labor Relations Board for the period April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8688. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the

Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2012; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8689. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Interagency Acquisitions: Compliance by Nondefense Agencies with Defense Procurement Requirements [FAC 2005-62; FAR Case 2012-010; Item II; Docket 2012-0000, Sequence 01] (RIN: 90000-AM36) received December 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8690. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Updates to Contract Reporting and Central Contractor Registration [FAC 2005-62; FAR Case 2010-014; Item I; Docket 2010-0014, Sequence 01] (RIN: 9000-AL99) received December 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8691. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-62; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket: FAR 2012-0081, Sequence 7] received December 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8692. A letter from the Chief Information Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Update of Existing Privacy Act — NASA Regulations [Document Number NASA-NASA-2012-0005] (RIN: 2700-AD86) received November 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8693. A letter from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8694. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Coverage for Certain Intermittent Employees (RIN: 3206-AM74) received November 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8695. A letter from the Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2012, as required under OMB Circular No. A-11 and A136; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8696. A letter from the Vice Chairman, Postal Service, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period of April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8697. A letter from the Branch Chief, Endangered Species Listings, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Revised Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl [FWS-R1-ES-2011-0112] (RIN: 1018-AX69) received November 29, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8698. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric