

a reported net loss of almost \$16 billion." The Federal Housing Administration reported that its liabilities exceeded its assets by about \$15 billion.

Mr. Speaker, America is on a path to insolvency and bankruptcy, an event that will debilitate our country. America has incurred four consecutive, unsustainable trillion-dollar deficits and is in the midst of a fifth consecutive trillion-dollar deficit. America's national debt exceeds \$16 trillion. Interest on our debt is well in excess of \$200 billion per year. To put our debt service burden in perspective, that is more than four times what the Federal Government spends on all highway and transportation infrastructure projects in America each year. Unless Washington becomes financially responsible, future debt service will escalate and even more money will be spent on debt service rather than on programs that serve Americans.

America's Comptroller General issued a stern warning to President Obama:

The comprehensive, long-term fiscal projections show that, absent policy changes, the Federal Government continues to face an unsustainable path. Over the long term, the structural imbalance between spending and revenue will lead to the continued growth of debt held by the public as a share of GDP. This means the current structure of the Federal budget is unsustainable.

America's current path and Federal budget are unsustainable. Absent changes, Federal Government insolvency and bankruptcy are certain to result and cause an economic disaster unrivaled in America's history. This week, the House of Representatives faces a vote to increase America's debt ceiling. Pending legislation raises the debt ceiling by roughly \$300 to \$400 billion. What protection from the risk of insolvency and bankruptcy does America get in return?

Are there any spending cuts? No.

Are there policies that spur economic growth and result in revenue increases? No.

Does this proposal help fix in any way the trillion-dollar deficits that threaten America with financial ruin? No.

Mr. Speaker, I can only speak for me. I will not vote to raise the debt ceiling unless significant efforts are made to fix the underlying problem of deficits and accumulated debt that force debt ceiling votes and risk America's future. I will not vote to raise the debt ceiling unless, first, Congress passes a substantive balanced-budget constitutional amendment that solves the debt problem for future generations or, second, we implement sizable spending cuts that help get our financial affairs in order.

I take this stance full well knowing the adverse economic effects of a failure to raise the debt ceiling but also knowing, Mr. Speaker, that those effects pale in comparison to an insolvency and bankruptcy of the America I love.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Thank You, God, for giving us another day.

The people's House gathers today after a day of celebrating the greatness of our American experiment of self-government, and as the administration gathers for prayer even now at the National Cathedral, we gather here to ask Your blessing.

The difficult work of governing now resumes. Bless the Members of this assembly with wisdom, patience, and good will as they tackle the ongoing issues challenging our Nation.

We thank You again for the inspiration of our Nation's Founders and the legacy they left us with. May the Members of this assembly, and all Americans, be worthy of that legacy. And may all that is done this day be done 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.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida 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.

REMEMBERING THE HEROES OF APOLLO "1"

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 1962, at Rice University, President John Kennedy committed America to put a man on the Moon by the end of the decade.

Unfortunately, tragedy struck America at 6:31 p.m. on January 27, 1967. During a ground test of the *Apollo* crew module, a fire broke out. Within a few minutes, three brave space pioneers had lost their lives.

We lost Roger Chaffee, who was training for his first mission into space. We lost Gus Grissom, the second American in space behind Alan Shepard; and we lost Ed White, the first American to do a space walk, and the man my elementary school in Houston was named after.

Two-and-a-half years after the *Apollo 1* fire, Neil Armstrong put his left foot on the Moon. It was a giant leap for mankind, one that would not have happened without the sacrifice of the *Apollo 1* crew. May the world always remember these heroes.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision by the Supreme Court. This decision is the firewall that protects women's health and the turning point that moved women's health forward.

On this 40th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, we reaffirm the constitutionally protected right of every woman to safe and legal health care. Women are nurturers, but when life places a woman in the most difficult of circumstances, the choices she needs to make should be free from government interference.

Over the years, I have been proud to stand with many of my colleagues as we have beaten back repeated attempts to chip away at women's rights set forth in *Roe v. Wade*. Over the last 2 years, we have seen the most extreme and repeated attempts to take away a woman's right to her health care.

In the most recent Congress, we found ourselves defending a woman's right to access contraception. We opposed a bill that would have allowed women to die if the emergency room employee who came to her aid had a

“conscientious objection” to performing an abortion that would save her life, without even being required to refer her elsewhere for help.

We have insisted that politicians not place themselves in the operating room to judge the motives of a woman seeking a constitutionally protected medical procedure if they thought her decision may have been based on the gender or race of the fetus.

Mr. Speaker, we stand on the shoulders of giants of women who went before us on this, and we take up the cudgel to keep it safe and legal.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on 40 years since the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*.

Our President, in his inaugural address yesterday, recognized the fact that this Nation has long understood that we are all endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights. Chief among them is the right to life and the recognition that it's rooted in, that every life is precious and deserving of dignity.

Today, I took the first of what will be many steps in my congressional service to protect life by cosponsoring H.R. 217, the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, to ensure that family planning grants are used for their intended purposes and not by organizations like Planned Parenthood to provide abortions.

Mr. Speaker, as a Nation, we must do better. Our children deserve better. My hope is that with hard work, persuasion, and prayer we will once again become a Nation that recognizes the dignity of every human being and recognizes again our God-given unalienable right to life.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 40th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and the freedom of reproductive choice that this historic decision provides for all women in America. This is a very personal and private choice.

When I gave birth to my son, Ben, it was the most precious moment in my life. His life has brought me great joys and great responsibilities. The decision to bring Ben into this world was made by his father and me. It was our choice. We didn't call the Governor. We didn't call the Congress. It was our choice.

And so today, I proudly honor the 40th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and

thank those who have fought so bravely to ensure that women have the right to make those life-changing personal decisions that affect them and their families. As we celebrate, we must be mindful that there is more work to be done to protect reproductive choice for our daughters and our granddaughters.

□ 1210

HONORING COACH TODD MCDUGALL

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. My wife, Paula, and I live about 500 yards from Olympia High School and its baseball field, and every spring we wander over and watch the team play. For the past 20 years, it's been coached by Todd McDougall, and he's a great coach.

Todd's just 42 years old. He's taught his entire career at Olympia High School. He is one of those—and we all know them—great teachers, as is his wife, Julie, a middle school science teacher.

So you can imagine the community heartbreak a few weeks ago when he was diagnosed with glioblastoma grade 4 brain cancer. Coach McDougall could use our prayers right now, as could Julie, their 11-year-old daughter, Marlee, and their twin 9-year-old sons, Andrew and Dylan.

I hope you'll find out more about this remarkable man at Friends for Todd McDougall on Facebook.

ALAMEDA COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the great work done by the Alameda County Family Justice Center, a nonprofit organization in California's East Bay, which represents my district.

I was an Alameda County prosecutor, and it was during my tenure that the Justice Center was founded by my former boss, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley. Prior to its existence, people in my area subjected to domestic violence, human trafficking, or sexual assault had to navigate a complicated bureaucracy and go to many different places to obtain much-needed services.

The Justice Center changed that by coordinating and centralizing critical programs in just one place. It operates as a one-place location for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, offering services like counseling, job training, and housing. Those suffering at the hands of abusers now have a place to rest, recover, and restore their lives.

As a prosecutor, I saw the horrible damage that these crimes cause, and I

am grateful that the traumatized victims of the East Bay have the Justice Center to which they can turn.

In a few days it's holding its sixth annual fundraising gala called One. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone involved good luck with the event and continued success in helping all victims of the East Bay.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Obama struck several important themes. None was strategically more vital than making America energy-independent again. Then he referenced the related challenge of climate change and its impact on life on our continent and world. Only fools would fail to pay attention to the necessity of change to meet the needs of a new era.

Our dependence on importing foreign oil cost America over \$321 billion last year, racking up a \$140 billion trade deficit in petroleum and energy alone. With that lost income comes lost jobs by the hundreds of thousands. So many more people could be employed here at home, developing domestic energy sources rather than defending exploitation and extraction abroad.

And on climate change, the President recognized the reality of fierce and expensive weather incidents like Hurricane's Sandy and Katrina, or our declining lake levels and river levels, like the Mississippi, or the 2-foot drop in Lake Erie over the last year. We must anticipate and adapt our lives where possible.

Yes, as the 113th Congress begins, our primary aim will be to welcome the challenges of change, not cling to the past. Working together, as the President challenged, America can meet the test of a new day. My brother, Steve, the inventor, innately grasps this challenge. So must we.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. This landmark decision granted American women the right to make their own personal health decisions, in consultation with their family and their faith, and without government intrusion.

However, this right has been under steady attack in recent years, with a clear goal: to make it so difficult to obtain a safe and legal abortion that it's become *de facto* illegal. But I'm among those who remember what it was like when women were pushed into the