

piloted by a Republican Governor in a Democratic State, and that served as the basis of the Affordable Health Care Act, which is the law of the land?

The Affordable Health Care Act was not, in fact, what many Members on my side of the aisle support—a single-payer plan or a Medicare-for-all approach. But the law of the land is based on the Heritage Foundation idea and a Republican Governor from Massachusetts' formula for making sure that we could provide care to all of our citizens.

Although the health care act has become politically driven and charged, what the American people want to see is a Congress that's serious about solutions, solutions that are workable on behalf of the American people.

So let's start where we all agree. PAUL RYAN has stated over again, very eloquently, that the rising cost of our debt and deficit is due to health care. I agree with him. When it comes to making sure that quality is improved for patients and care is coordinated more effectively, these are not Republican or Democratic ideas; these are American ideas, and why we need to move forward.

We have no less than 10 separate studies—studies from the Institute of Medicine, Reuters, the Commonwealth Fund, among others, that show that there is between \$750 billion to \$800 billion in waste, fraud, abuse, and lack of coordination within our health care system. Why, then, would we consider, with that kind of waste, taking any money out of Medicare or taking any money away from the beneficiaries who use that to pay for their hospitals, their medical devices, their pharmacists, their doctors?

What we need to do is face what the reality is. The reality is that the United States spends 18 percent of its gross domestic product on health care. We need to drive those costs down. By doing so, as businessmen will tell you, any model that is that inefficient, when the rest of the world is at 8 and 9 percent for health care and provides universal access to health care, and we're at 18 percent, with millions of our people still uninsured, if we drive that down and wring out all the inefficiencies, the waste in the system, then we can have health care for our constituents that's both coordinated and essential and drives down the national debt.

All we have to do is recognize a simple fact. Take the very best of our public health system. Take the very best of science, technology and innovation. And then take the very best of our private sector and its entrepreneurs and have this body come together in a coordinated fashion to bring that about.

It's happening without us. It's happening in the private sector, where leaders like Mark Bertolini from Aetna and others around this country are taking steps to drive down the cost of health care. They're doing it by coordinating care with the Mayo Clinic, with

the Cleveland Clinic, with Sloan Kettering, with labs like Jackson Labs in my State. All of this is focused on making sure that we're going to have better outcomes for our people.

We can do this together. Let's work toward solutions. This Congress is capable of doing it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Guide the Members of the people's House by the spirit of understanding, which will lead them ultimately to eternal wisdom. Since we live in a world of human failure and broken promises, may they be tolerant of the faults of others because they are so aware of their own unfaithfulness. All of us are yet to realize our own full potential as being truly the free children of God.

Bless all with a quiet respect for the diversity of opinions. Through honest dialogue and contemplative listening, may Your servants, gathered in this assembly, search all the avenues open to them to meet today's challenges of integrity and justice.

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 New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SLAUGHTER 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.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS SUPPORT ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY POLICIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are focused on solutions that will give our economy the boost it needs to fully recover and help put Americans back to work. Our Nation has an abundance of energy resources that, if accessed, would create jobs, promote our energy independence and lower prices at the pump.

Today, the President will once again abandon his claim to support an all-of-the-above energy stance and will unveil a new plan focused on waging a "war on coal" with Big Government regulations destroying jobs.

In contrast, this week, House Republicans will have the best interests of American families at heart when we vote on two key pieces of legislation included in our all-of-the-above energy plan. Increasing our offshore energy production, introduced by Congressman DOC HASTINGS of Washington, and lifting moratoriums on exploration and development, introduced by Congressman JEFF DUNCAN of South Carolina, are necessary to provide American families with a more secure future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations, former Chief of Staff Eric Dell and his wife, Torry, on the birth of their son, Noah Isaac Dell, on Sunday, June 23.

BOBBY (BLUE) BLAND

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

Mr. COHEN. Bobby (Blue) Bland, a Memphis and American music and blues idol, passed away at the age of 83 on Sunday.

Bobby (Blue) Bland was born Robert Calvin Brooks in 1930, and in the forties he moved to Memphis. In 1949, he joined a group called the Beale Streeters, which was a loose-knit group and it included Johnny Ace, Rosco Gordon, Earl Forest, and B.B. King—giants. He later worked for Junior Parker and B.B. King, two other giants. Then he went on his own way and became one of the great blues singers of all time.

His four top singles were "Turn on your Love Light," "Call on Me," "That's the Way Love is," and "Ain't Nothing You Can Do." He had top 100 hits almost every year for 40 years. His songs were covered by the Grateful Dead, The Band, and Van Morrison. He influenced Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, and the Allman Brothers. He has been in every music hall of fame you can think of, including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the initial class of the Memphis Music Hall of Fame.

He served his country in the Army from 1952 to 1954. He is survived by his wife, Willie Mae, his son, Rodd, his daughter, Patrice, his four grandchildren, and by millions of disks and CDs that people will be loving forever.

WAR ON COAL

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

Ms. FOXX. Allow me to quote from one of President Obama's climate change advisers, Dr. Daniel Schrag:

The one thing the President really needs to do now is to begin the process of shutting down the conventional coal plants . . . A war on coal is exactly what's needed.

My goodness. Where are the Obama administration's priorities? Not on jobs. Not on affordable energy.

President Obama's war on coal is already a threat to thousands of American jobs, many in my home State of North Carolina, where 17 coal units are already being shut down, in part, because of EPA policies.

Americans want energy independence, more affordable gas, and jobs. The Keystone pipeline, coal, and coal-fired plants have jobs to offer and can play a role in bringing our country closer to energy independence.

The President and his regulators should be less invested in declaring a war on American coal and more involved in supporting American energy producers and the jobs they already provide.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

(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 rise today in strong opposition to the majority's proposal to slash funding for the Nation's lead poisoning prevention efforts.

At a time when we should be working to eradicate lead poisoning, the majority's Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations package cuts funding to the Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control by over 60 percent. We need to be focusing more on our efforts of ensuring that children live, play and learn in healthy environments free from the lead hazard and not less.

The number of children in the United States who are suffering from lead poisoning remains unacceptably high. A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control found that 1 in every 38 children has dangerous blood levels. Those levels lead to cognitive and behavioral problems, a loss of IQ points, and a lifetime of adverse health effects. It is estimated that lead exposure costs the Nation more than \$50 billion in lifetime productivity losses.

Over the past two decades, HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control has successfully treated 168,000

units for lead hazards and has improved the lead safety. This is no time to backtrack.

THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER TO RESULT IN LOSS OF JOBS

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

Mr. BURGESS. We are 6 months and 6 days away from the full weight of the President's takeover of American health care. It's like a train that's careening down the tracks on a collision course with the American economy. Last week, Gallup released a survey of small business owners, and it's even worse than it looks:

Almost half of small business owners reported that they have frozen hiring because of the Affordable Care Act. Another 20 percent said that they have already had to lay off workers because of this law. So that's one out of every five small businesses laying off people because of legislation the administration has forced on hardworking Americans. That's a staggering number of people who are going to have to suffer because of the administration's shortsighted policy.

The President and his allies are under the faulty impression that educating people about the Affordable Care Act will suddenly make it popular and make it work. The truth is that people are already finding out far too much about this law as it costs them and their family members jobs. We have to continue highlighting the destructive parts of this law before it destroys an already weak economy.

□ 1410

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROCARBON AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1613, the Outer Continental Shelf Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreements Authorization Act.

Over 3 years have passed since President Obama and then-President Calderon agreed on the need to finalize a transboundary hydrocarbon agreement which now needs to be approved by Congress. This agreement would establish a cooperative process for managing the Gulf of Mexico to promote joint utilization of transboundary reservoirs.

The transboundary hydrocarbon agreement set to be enacted after decades of indecision between the Republic of Mexico and the United States allows oil and natural gas production on 1.5 million acres that was previously

off limits because of border issues. The Mexican Legislature has already acted on this agreement, and we are now waiting on Congress to act.

The transboundary agreement is good for the United States and is good for our relationship with the Republic of Mexico and is good for economic growth and good for environmental protection.

This agreement would allow the American industry to work directly with PEMEX, instituting cutting-edge technologies.

I ask Congress to approve this.

JOBS AND ENERGY

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, after over 4 years with unemployment at or above 7.5 percent, it is no wonder that the American people do not have faith in this administration's ability to lead.

Of the nine counties I represent in North Carolina, seven have unemployment rates above the national average. And in several of those counties, the unemployment rate is above 10 percent.

Madam Speaker, North Carolinians, like all Americans, deserve better. We need to seize opportunities for economic growth and job creation, and one of those focus areas should be energy independence.

More domestic production would not only increase our country's competitiveness in the energy field, but would create jobs, Madam Speaker. It would also lower prices at the pump for American families who should not have to worry about busting their budgets to fill their gas tanks. Unfortunately, the President's energy plan will only make American energy more expensive and hinder job growth.

Madam Speaker, the American people are focused on jobs and the economy, and this administration needs to do the same.

LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, two-thirds of the American people want the border secured before other immigration reforms are implemented.

The Senate bill ignores them.

Most Americans feel that legalizing millions of illegal workers would take jobs away from U.S. citizens.

The Senate bill ignores them.

Most Americans want to stop illegal immigration.

The Senate bill only reduces illegal immigration by 25 percent.

Most Americans feel that legalizing millions of illegal immigrants would be a drain on government services.

The Senate bill ignores them.