

and to represent these hardworking Americans who every single day are serving our Nation.

THE REPEAL OF OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, the Democrats told the American people that Congress had to pass the ObamaCare act so that we could learn what was in it. Well, 3 years later, we are just now learning what really is in the law and how it will cost American jobs and limit their health care choices.

It is no surprise to me that the administration has delayed the implementation of the employer mandate. Just as every honest observer said it would, ObamaCare is costing Americans full-time jobs and hourly wages as employers prepare to comply with the new mandates spawned by this law.

Later today, the House of Representatives will vote to delay imposing ObamaCare's crushing burdens on employers. For once, we agree with the President—this law cannot be implemented without significantly harming our economy. We will also go one step further and delay these same burdens from falling on the backs of individuals as well. I don't believe it is appropriate to protect one half of America from ObamaCare but not the other half. We will give American families the same reprieve from this law that the Obama administration is promising to employers.

The two votes we are taking today are important steps toward repeal. All of the regulations required by this law are still not written. With every day that passes, a new regulation is announced, revealing just a little more of what this bill will actually do. Each rule and regulation mandates new costs for employers, more restrictions for the insureds, and ultimately hikes the cost of health insurance for American families. This law is not ready to be implemented. There are too many questions, too many inconsistencies, and too many complications. Despite the promises of the Democrat leadership, the fact is that we still do not know what's in it.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents want to see this law repealed. I think it is bad policy, bad politics, and terrible for health care in America. I have supported every effort to end this law, and I will continue to support these efforts as long as I am in office.

Fundamentally, I do not believe that this law will ever be ready; so next year, if the President has not worked with us to delay it or to replace it, I will be back to argue for additional delays on both the individual mandate and employer mandate. I will continue to demand that Congress and the President repeal this law and replace it with one that puts patients first, that allows new and innovative paths for care and

coverage, and that does not put the government between patients and their doctors.

EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION ON FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I was going to talk about sequestration—and I will, Mr. Speaker—but I've got to respond to my friend on what he calls ObamaCare. It does everything he says he wants it to do, and I will remind those critics of ObamaCare that the individual mandate was a Republican idea; and far from putting government between patients and their doctors, it actually facilitates patients' care directly with their doctors and their medical providers.

Just 2 weeks ago, we celebrated our Nation's independence, and it reminded us of the full panoply of American history. American history, especially at the Constitutional Convention, is all about parties coming together for the common good and compromising.

The first great compromise created the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, allowing proportional representation here to protect the interests of the bigger States, but equal representation in the other body to protect all of the States. That was the first great compromise.

The second great compromise was between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. It involved the Federal debt and the location of the future Nation's Capital. They had a dinner, and they compromised. Hamilton got what he wanted in the Federal debt, and Jefferson got what he wanted in terms of the Nation's Capital. It was all about compromise. That's what we have to now remind ourselves of as we deal with the horrors of sequestration—yes, horrors.

On July 5, the EPA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the IRS completely shuttered their offices throughout the United States, furloughing 115,000 employees that day. It was the third such agency shutdown for those agencies. Last week, 680,000 Department of Defense civilian employees began a one-day-a-week furlough that will continue through the end of this fiscal year.

For my colleagues who are so fond of saying, Let's run government the way a business ought to be run, what business would furlough 85 percent of its workforce one day a week for 3 months? What CEO or chairman of the board would last one day advocating for that as a management practice? Yet my friends on the other side of the aisle think that's perfectly fine in order to manage the Federal Government.

I recently met with the members of the Federal Bar Association, who highlighted yet another unforeseen cost of sequestration, and that has to do with

\$350 million of cuts in the judicial branch.

Since July of 2011, spending cuts have forced the Federal court system to shed 10 percent of the total judicial staff through layoffs. Staffing of the court system is now at 2005 staffing levels, but the volume has only grown. Many Federal courts across the Nation plan now to close one day a week. Think about that. The American judicial system is looking at possibly only operating 4 days a week because of the lack of resources due to sequestration. This will result in the slower processing of civil and bankruptcy cases, which will have a ripple effect on local economies for individuals and companies all across this country. Court security will be cut by 30 percent, and we can only ask ourselves rhetorically what could go wrong with that. Probation will be affected.

These cuts will undermine our ability to fulfill the Sixth Amendment right of defendants to a speedy trial and representation for the indigent. Cuts to the Federal Defender Services program will lead to attorneys being furloughed up to 15 days for the remainder of this fiscal year. The office already is understaffed after losing 113 employees between last fall and spring as a result of budget cuts.

Mr. Speaker, the Judicial Conference of the United States recently called this situation an unprecedented fiscal crisis that will seriously compromise the constitutional mission of the United States courts—the same Constitution that so many of my friends on the other side of the aisle proudly hold up and say they believe in. It's just the latest in a string of what, I hope, are unintended consequences from sequestration and another reason we must act within the next month to resolve the situation and stop the mindless disinvestment in the important functions of government.

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 40 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

Reverend Robert Wagenseil, Calvary Episcopal Church, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, offered the following prayer:

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: thank You for the men and women who have been called to serve Your people in this House.

As they strive to chart the best possible course for our Nation, enable them to remember that we are all in the same boat when it comes to our love of this country and our desire to see the hopes and dreams of our fellow citizens fulfilled.

As they seek to walk the road of truth, help them to learn what it means to walk that road together on the common ground of respect and forbearance.

Bless their families and make their homes havens of kindness, encouragement, and love.

Finally, when they shall have served their final day as Members of this House, send them home filled with the true and lasting joy that always comes at last to those who have done their duty and done it well.

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. WILSON of South Carolina. 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. WILSON of South Carolina. 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 gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BEATTY 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND ROBERT WAGENSEIL

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to introduce to the House our guest chaplain today, Father Bob Wagenseil, the pastor of Calvary Episcopal Church in the beautiful town of Indian Rocks Beach, Florida.

Father Bob, as he is affectionately known, is a dear friend and a beloved

member of our community. He was ordained in May of 1981 and spent most of his 14 years serving churches in Long Island and New York City. By 1993, he was appointed archdeacon of Queens.

To our good fortune in Florida, he was asked to come to Calvary Episcopal in 1995, and it has been a true love affair ever since. In addition to serving the church, which just celebrated its 50th anniversary, Father Bob and his wife, Patricia, or PT as she is known, have served our community in many special ways.

He serves as chaplain of the Suncoast Fire and Rescue, where he is also a volunteer firefighter. He helped develop a computer learning center at the church, a critically important food pantry, and nearest and dearest to his heart, a community sailing program for the youth of the church and the local community.

Father Bob will retire from Calvary on September 15 of this year after 18 years of service to the church and 34 years to the priesthood. He and PT, who have been married for 35 years, will remain active members of our community and dear friends to the thousands and thousands of people whose lives they have touched, including Congressman BILL YOUNG and his wife, Beverly, and our two sons, Patrick and Billy.

Please join me in welcoming Father Bob Wagenseil and PT to the House today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RELIEF FROM OBAMACARE

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, the case for ObamaCare repeal was given a big boost by the administration's decision to delay the controversial employer mandate for another year. This House will vote we hope this week to support that much-needed action, as well as postpone the individual mandate for 1 year.

Delaying the burdensome employer mandate will allow companies to continue providing employee health care benefits without reducing work hours. Providing a 1-year delay from the individual mandate will relieve American families from thousands of dollars of additional taxes.

But postponing the two mandates are only the latest steps to repeal ObamaCare. Without complete repeal, Americans will face \$1.1 trillion in new taxes, \$716 billion in Medicare cuts, and huge health insurance premium increases.

Madam Speaker, we must all work together to finish the job by com-

pletely repealing ObamaCare so that small businesses and individuals will be permanently free from this onerous regulation.

CELEBRATING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of standing up for women and celebrating the 100-year anniversary of my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a sorority of more than 200,000 Black college-educated women founded in 1913, an organization where 22 African American women were the only women of color to participate in the women's suffrage march.

I thank Delta Kappa Chapter, where I was made, and the Columbus and Dayton alumni chapters, where I serve, for standing on their shoulders and continuing the legacy because they understand that we must continue to stand up for women in health care, in education, and in the workplace, because when women do better, our children do well; when women do well, our families do well; when women do well, our men do well; and yes, when women do well, America does well.

Thank you, women, and thank you, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

OBAMACARE DELAYS

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2667 and H.R. 2668, bills that would delay the employer and individual mandates in ObamaCare.

These mandates force businesses to provide health coverage to their employees and as well for individuals to purchase government-dictated health care or pay a penalty. President Obama cited the complexity of the mandate as the reason for his delay. A first-grader back home would say "no kidding."

Billion dollar corporations with access to the White House get excused from ObamaCare but the struggling American family gets left out. That's unfair, that's wrong, and more is coming.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support these two bills until we can fully repeal ObamaCare and give every American quality health care at a price they can afford with a doctor of their choice.

RIISING VIOLENCE IN OUR URBAN COMMUNITIES

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