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No. 105

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, at 10 a.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, JULY 22, 2013

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 22, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

END-OF-LIFE CARE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I arrived at my office this morning to a

Politico with the front page headline "Blumenauer's Death Panel Bill Lives on."

It's actually a terrific article by Joanne Kenen, but the terrible headline about nonexistent death panels symbolizes why, three Congresses later, we still have not helped families deal with the most difficult circumstances any of us will ever encounter.

This issue hit me with full force 10 years ago in the midst of the Terri Schiavo case, where we watched one family's tragedy turn into a national media circus and a political spectacle all because one 27-year-old woman didn't have a conversation with her loved ones to make her wishes known about what would she want if the unthinkable happened. And she was caught in the terrible circumstance of being in a vegetative state—brain dead—for 8 years with no likelihood of recovery.

It's not really unthinkable. It's just that many of us would rather not think about it. Too rarely do we have this conversation, yet virtually every one of us will be in these circumstances with ourselves or with a loved one unable to make their wishes known about health care because of permanent or temporary incapacity.

This is not just about end of life. It could be any decision: about whether or not to amputate a leg or to have an operation that carries with it significant risks. Who speaks for each of us when we're unable to speak for ourselves?

The public overwhelmingly thinks that people should have the informa-

tion and that their insurance or Medicare should pay for that conversation with a medical professional. Unfortunately, today, Medicare will pay tens of thousands of dollars for a 93-year-old man with terminal cancer to have a hip replacement who will never walk again but will not pay for a conversation with that same person and their family to understand the circumstances they face and what their options are, to understand their choices and have those choices, whatever they might be, respected, known, and enforced.

This actually won't cost us anything. The evidence is that people who know more use their information to choose wisely—very often less intense medical interventions. Overall, it could actually save money.

Doctors are perhaps the best example. They certainly can afford medical care. They certainly know about it. Yet, because they know what works and what doesn't, they make their wishes known and strategically choose their health care. As a group, they actually end up using less medical care in their last year of life, but arguably have a higher quality of life. Everybody should have the same choice as a doctor.

I'm in the process of visiting with each and every Member of the House to see if we can do something that will give people the care they want that is overwhelmingly supported by the public and that won't cost the Federal Government any net cost.

I urge my colleagues to examine the bipartisan legislation H.R. 1173, the Personalize Your Care Act of 2013, that

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Dr. PHIL ROE and I have introduced to help families in their time of greatest need. I think it's worth a look. I think it's worth your support.

HONORING TEACHERS AND CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we always remember why we're here and who we serve. And the best way to do that is by spending time with the people that we were elected to represent.

For the past few days, I've had the honor of showing some wonderful residents of New Mexico's First District around our Nation's capital, and this group includes my daughter Taylor Grisham and her new family: Ian, Kamen, Kwane and Kaden, the Stewarts.

These people are leaders in the community, they're model citizens, they're family members, and they're longtime friends. And today I would like to recognize two of these individuals for their service to New Mexico and to our Nation.

Lori Drury and Maureen Salmon, both of whom are here today, are exceptionally talented teachers and dedicated public servants. Teachers play an invaluable role in our society. Creating jobs, defending and expanding the middle class, growing the economy, and making sure everyone has a fair shot at the American Dream, teachers directly contribute to all of these noble missions. And they don't do it for the money and they don't do it for the glory. They do it because they care deeply about the students they teach.

So I rise today to thank Lori and Maureen, to thank my family, and to thank all the teachers and public servants in New Mexico and in America for the work they do each and every day to make this a finer and stronger America.

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 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given.

Encourage the Members of this House, O God, to use their abilities and talents in ways that bring righteousness to this Nation and to all people. Ever remind them of the needs of the poor, the homeless or forgotten, and those who live without freedom or liberty. May they be instruments of justice for all Americans.

May Your spirit live with them, and with each of us, and may Your grace surround us and those we love that in all things we may be the people You would have us be in service to this great Nation.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS 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.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the White House announced this week that President Obama will be returning his focus to jobs and the economy; but he's not planning to do this by removing red tape from job creators, withdrawing his opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline, or by repealing ObamaCare.

He's planning to do this by giving speeches. Speeches don't turn the economic tide. Speeches devoid of policy proposals won't help the 4.3 million Americans who've been without a job for more than 6 months. Speeches also won't undo the damage ObamaCare is already doling out to small businesses and working families.

The particularly lethargic recovery our Nation is trudging through is the economic signature of the Obama Presidency. Rather than blocking American energy or defending ObamaCare, the President should try something new—working with House Republicans to advance our plan for economic growth and jobs.

The American people deserve a thriving economy and economic growth.

House Republicans have a plan to get us there. The President should take note.

PRESERVING MEDICARE PATIENT ACCESS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this week the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health will begin a markup on legislation to fix a problem that Congress has been struggling with for over a decade, and that's fixing what's known as the "doc fix," or the sustainable growth rate formula.

The proposed legislation is bipartisan. Both sides of the dais agree that this must be done, and it incorporates the feedback we've received from over 80 stakeholder groups. The legislation replaces the problematic formula with an improved system to increase the quality of care for Medicare patients while streamlining the costly and complicated process in a fiscally responsible way.

Most importantly, the legislation ensures that Medicare patients will continue to have access to medical service. By providing incentives for doctors to continue to treat Medicare patients, we're putting the health of our seniors first.

I'm proud to be part of this common-sense solution, and I look forward to speaking to this House more about this in the weeks to come as it works its way through committee.

FIFTH UNANSWERED BENGHAZI QUESTION

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my fifth question about the terrorist attack in Benghazi that remains unanswered: Why was the CIA security team repeatedly ordered to stand down for more than 30 minutes after the attack began? Where did the order to stop the team from responding originate? Was it directed by the CIA or someone else in Washington? If the team had been allowed to respond immediately, could the lives of Ambassador Stevens and Sean Smith have been saved?

Last year, news reports indicated that the CIA security team in Benghazi was repeatedly ordered to stand down or not respond to the attack at the consulate by agency chain of command. Trusted sources have confirmed this report, saying that the security team was ready to respond within minutes after receiving the initial call for help, but the CIA repeatedly blocked their departure for more than 30 minutes. The team ultimately disobeyed, but by then it was too late to save Stevens and Smith.

Will we ever, ever find the truth? We need a select committee.