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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

At the beginning of a new workweek, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

May they be led by Your Spirit in the decisions they make and be mindful of the millions of Americans who rely upon them to consider the welfare of the Nation in the negotiations of this day.

All this day and through the week, may they recall Your words spoken through the prophets, to be mindful of the most vulnerable among us, and so to do their best to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation.

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.

Ms. FOXX. 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.

Ms. FOXX. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GARDNER 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONSTITUENTS PLEAD FOR REPRIEVE FROM OBAMACARE

(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, every day, I appreciate concerned constituents reaching out to me and expressing their very real experiences with the health care takeover.

Jennifer from Chapin says:

ObamaCare will put us out of business and make health insurance unaffordable for our family.

Charlotte from Batesburg writes:

I do not feel our economy can afford ObamaCare. I am retired, with a history of lung cancer, and my followup care would be denied under this plan.

Terry from Aiken pleads:

Do whatever you can to stop this. It will be an oppression of the people of this country both in terms of health care and jobs.

Sarah from North Augusta has valid concerns for the Nation's future:

Our company has already spent time and money to be compliant with the plan, but there are many "what ifs." This cannot be a funded plan.

Melissa of nearby Greenwood is correct:

Free ticket, no show, putting people in need at risk.

I am grateful the House is making every effort to protect the American people from the unsustainable, unaffordable health care takeover law, which destroys jobs.

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

THE FIRST NAME IN OUR COUNTRY IS "UNITED"

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, 12 hours. In about 12 hours, we threaten to shut this government down.

Now is the time to exhibit leadership, Mr. Speaker. You are the leader of this body. It has Democrats and Republicans, so we've got to take the best ideas out of both parties. Negotiations can't take place just between conservative Republicans and Tea Party Republicans.

I stand here ready to work with you, Mr. Speaker. We've got ideas. Let's take the best ideas out of both parties. Let's put them together, and put the American people first.

This is the United States of America. The first name in our country is "United." We've got to stop fighting, and we've got to start fixing these problems. We've got to come together and put we, the people, first—the American people.

Take the best ideas from Democrats and Republicans, and let's start working together. Mr. Speaker, my office is open, and I stand ready to work.

□ 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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OBAMACARE NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, as I travel around my district and travel around the country, the American people are worried about their jobs. They are worried about their incomes rising because they are all under pressure. The economy is not growing.

Why isn't it growing?

One of the issues that is standing in the way is ObamaCare—the fact that nobody knows what the rules are. Employers are scared to death to hire new employees and are cutting the hours of many of their current employees.

And for what reason?

This law is not ready for prime time.

The House has done its work. We passed a bill on Saturday night—and sent it to the United States Senate—that would delay ObamaCare for 1 year and would eliminate permanently the medical device tax that is costing us tens of thousands of jobs that are being shipped overseas.

The Senate decided not to work yesterday.

My goodness. If there is such an emergency, where are they?

It's time for the Senate to listen to the American people—just like the House has listened to the American people—and pass a 1-year delay of ObamaCare and a permanent repeal of the medical device tax.

CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published their latest report, confirming that climate change is happening and that it is the result of human activity.

The report was produced by 259 scientists from 39 different countries over the last 6 years, and it is the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment of the Earth's changing climate. The report shows that climate change is real, and it shows the urgency to reduce humankind's CO₂ emissions. The scientists now have 95 percent confidence that their findings are correct.

Mr. Speaker, the science is not up for debate. Human-caused climate change is happening. The evidence is overwhelming. Science shows that, if we fail to curb our carbon emissions, we will face catastrophic consequences.

We cannot continue to ignore this overwhelming scientific consensus. Let's work together to reduce our CO₂ emissions and prevent the most severe weather events.

THE SENATE NEEDS TO HUSTLE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, just hours before a critical deadline for this country, the Democrat Senate is MIA.

On Saturday evening, House Republicans sent them a second legislative proposal to keep the government open, and the Senate is sitting on it. They have yet to take action or to even come in to work.

Make no mistake—the House is committed to keeping the government open. We are open to compromise. We know that's required of a Congress comprised of a Republican House and a Democrat Senate. That's why we have taken steps to come to the middle and find common ground. Our most recent proposal to keep the government open fully funds critical services, protects troop pay, provides fairness for all Americans under ObamaCare, and permanently stops ObamaCare's medical innovation tax.

There is so much potential for bipartisan efforts to advance this legislation in the Senate, but Senator REID needs to bring up the proposal and adopt an attitude that is broader than “our way or the highway.” There is time left for us to work together. The Senate needs to hustle.

REPUBLICANS: CYNICAL, NOT SERIOUS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the government shutdown Republicans manufactured by sending a proposal to the Senate they know is unacceptable and is not workable, there is an opportunity for Republican colleagues to show that they are serious and not cynical:

They could eliminate from their budget the savings of a half trillion dollars that ObamaCare would generate;

If they are serious and not cynical, they could bring their own spending bills to the floor. Remember, they abruptly stopped working on the spending bills last summer as they figured out that the T-HUD bill was so bad that their own Members wouldn't vote for it;

If they are truly serious about working in a cooperative fashion and negotiating out differences, then the Republicans should allow a conference committee to be appointed to work out the differences between the House and the Senate Budgets.

If you are serious about working together to solve problems, why don't you work together to solve problems?

IN HONOR OF JANE CALVO

(Mr. MEADOWS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor one of my constituents from Henderson County, Jane Calvo, on her retirement after nearly 26 years in a career with the Federal service.

Mrs. Calvo spent the early part of her career in the Foreign Service with the State Department. For nearly 4 years, she served in the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica. After some time away, she served as an exceptional district caseworker for one of my predecessors, former Representative Charles Taylor, for the entire eight terms of his service in Congress. Most recently, since 2007, Mrs. Calvo has worked at the Social Security Administration in western North Carolina.

Mrs. Calvo first moved to Henderson County 35 years ago, and her exemplary record of service to our Nation in her various roles merits the highest commendation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent.

Madam Speaker, today, I wish Mrs. Calvo all the best in her retirement, where she will have more time to spend with her husband of 40 years, Alfredo, and her two adult sons, Al and Michael. On behalf of the 11th District, I thank Mrs. Calvo for her distinguished career of service to this great country.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, instead of working with Democrats to prevent a shutdown, House Republicans have passed two bills that have no chance of becoming law. They are the 42nd and 43rd votes on undermining the Affordable Care Act.

While the old saying goes, “if at first you don't succeed, try, try again,” I say to my colleagues across the aisle: stop trying to shut down the Government of the United States of America.

Democrats have offered a compromise in which Republicans get the spending levels they want. It is time to stop pandering to the Tea Party and to do what is right—pass the Senate compromise and avoid a shutdown driven solely by radical Republicans.

SUPPLEMENTAL OBAMACARE

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, about a week ago, one of the chief proponents of the President's health care bill in Colorado said this:

Your health insurance plan is being cancelled, and that's a good thing.

Yet President Obama said, If you like your health plan, you will be able to keep your health plan—period.

Over the past month, thousands of people around Colorado and this country have started receiving letters, notices, that their health insurance plans