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No. 164

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 18, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MO BROOKS, to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 18, 2013 at 10:23 a.m.:

That the Senate agree to the House amendments to the bill S. 252.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). 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, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

OBAMACARE MISREPRESENTATIONS AND SOLUTION

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on January 15, 2009, in order to get ObamaCare passed, President Obama promised America:

If you like your health care plan, you'll be able to keep your health care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what.

On June 28, 2012, in order to get reelection votes, President Obama promised:

If you're one of the more than 250 million Americans who already has health insurance, you will keep your health insurance. This law will only make it more secure and more affordable.

President Obama, in his recent apology for his deceptions, has not stopped the cancelation of millions, millions of Americans' health insurance plans nor slowed the ObamaCare-caused skyrocketing health insurance costs.

ObamaCare forces families to, on the one hand, pay higher ObamaCare health insurance costs and cut spending for food, shelter, and clothing or, on the other hand, go without health insurance and pay tax penalties while risking health-caused bankruptcy.

Montana Democrat Senator MAX BAUCUS, the Senate sponsor of ObamaCare, warned us earlier this year that ObamaCare was a train wreck waiting to happen. Well, the verdict is in. ObamaCare is dysfunctional and threatens the lives and finances of millions of real hardworking Americans.

Mark Templeton of Huntsville, Alabama, writes:

I just received a notice from BlueCross/BlueShield of Alabama yesterday, indicating

my Total Blue plan was no longer available due to the Affordable Care Act. My family coverage increased from \$450 a month to \$1,187 for similar coverage. They were kind enough to offer the more affordable and considerably worse Silver plan for only \$937 per month. I don't qualify for any subsidies, so this will directly hit my household finances. Please make every effort to stop the Affordable Care Act from affecting any more Tennessee Valley families and businesses.

Jessica Moore of Ardmore, Alabama, writes:

I am writing about the not-so Affordable Care Act. My health insurance premiums are going up by 118 percent with BlueCross/BlueShield. The Health Care Marketplace will be of no help to me, as I make "too much" money. I am a single Iraq veteran. I am my sole income. I am perfectly healthy. The amount which my premium was raised is how much money I have left in the bank at the end of the month. I do not live beyond my means. I am a faithful taxpayer. The Affordable Care Act premium hikes are not affordable to me, nor to many other honest taxpayers. Please help the already "taxed to the max" middle class on this issue.

ObamaCare has caused millions of Americans to receive health insurance cancelation letters, leaving them to struggle with how to protect their families. Thanks to ObamaCare, a year from now, tens of millions more Americans risk losing their health insurance once ObamaCare's employer mandate kicks in.

Mr. Speaker, while ObamaCare is dysfunctional and threatens American lives, there is a better way. The American Health Care Reform Act, which I have cosponsored, unleashes the power of free enterprise competition to deliver quality health care at prices Americans can better afford.

Among other things, this bill, first, forces lower health care costs by legalizing interstate competition among insurance companies; second, reforms medical malpractice laws so that health insurance is paying for health care, not frivolous lawsuits; third, lets Americans deduct health care costs

□ 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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and gives Americans a standard deduction for health insurance costs; four, protects Americans with preexisting conditions by bolstering State-based high-risk pools.

Mr. Speaker, health care decisions should be made by doctors and patients, not Washington bureaucrats. Quite frankly, Big Brother bureaucrats have no business butting in and forcing Americans to buy health insurance. Americans cannot afford or do not want.

ObamaCare denies hardworking American taxpayers their right—yes, their right—to choose the health care policy best tailored to their needs. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare should be repealed, and America should debate health care solutions based on truth, not deception.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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 9 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. WOLF) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You, so that with Your Spirit, and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently, and act courageously in the belief that all noble service is based upon patience, truth, and love.

May they be great enough to be humble and good enough to keep their faith, always regarding public office as a sacred trust. Give them the courage and the wisdom to fail not their fellow citizens nor You.

May all that is done 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 the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLÁN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SABLÁN 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.

DELAYING A BROKEN PROMISE ISN'T AN HONEST SOLUTION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the panic and frustration felt by millions of American families is real. They all heard the promise:

If you like the health care you have, you can keep it.

And they believed it.

But families in my district are experiencing something different: canceled plans, premium hikes, and uncertainty.

Mark from Advance, North Carolina, tells me:

Both my wife and I are over 60, retired, and self-insured. We received letters notifying us that our health insurance policies are being canceled. The replacement policies cost more than twice as much. If we accept the policies, we will be paying \$798.20 per month for insurance.

Same goes for John from Advance. He writes:

My wife has had her premiums increase from \$200 to \$600. We have had this plan for 6 years and thought we could keep our insurance.

Mark and John were given a promise by President Obama. Telling them to wait 1 year before the promise is broken for good isn't an honest solution.

CONGRATULATING PACIFICA INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago, Jose C. Tenorio, a visionary businessman of the Northern Mariana Islands, founded Pacifica Insurance Underwriters.

1973 was an exciting time in our islands. The Covenant was being negotiated. Hotels, tourists, and investors were starting to appear. Yet we were still in our economic infancy. Insurance was hard to obtain. Many did not appreciate the value of insurance. It took commitment and courage for the late Mr. Tenorio and his partners to invest in Pacifica.

Over 40 years, the business flourished, and Pacifica has lived up to the great responsibility of every insurer: when the need arises, they have been there for their customers. Pacifica has also set an example of corporate re-

sponsibility with contributions to worthy causes and with the volunteer activities of its employees throughout our community.

We feel proud to witness a homegrown company do well. So join me in congratulating the owners and employees of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters on their 40th anniversary.

WHO SHOULD BE FIRED FOR THIS HEALTH CARE MESS?

(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, last week, I asked the question: What does it take for someone to get fired by this administration? We were faced with the serial incompetence of the rollout of the healthcare.gov Web site. Then, late last week, someone was fired—not for incompetence, but for daring to criticize the administration.

District of Columbia Insurance Commissioner William White criticized the President's rule on allowing people to keep their insurance. The next day, Commissioner White was fired for being public in his criticism of the administration.

If the President is so eager to see people lose their jobs over problems with his health insurance takeover, I have got some suggestions on where he could start.

What about the Director of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight? This was the individual who was supposed to oversee the building of the Web site, who in fact misled congressional committees not once, not twice, but three times over the past year.

What about the Chief Information Officer of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services?

Mr. President, what about the Secretary of Health and Human Services?

Instead of people losing their jobs for simply disagreeing with the President, we should be holding those people responsible whose overwhelming incompetence has caused these problems in the first place.

MAKING PROGRESS EVERY DAY

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Republicans just can't take "yes" for an answer.

The President addressed the unintended consequences caused more by insurance companies than the Affordable Care Act, a law that has benefited millions of people all across our country in Republican and Democratic districts.

No one is happy about the problems with the Web site, but I have been on some other Web sites recently that have been around a lot longer and run