

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Paul Taylor, St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

We stand before You, O Holy God, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware that we gather in Your name.

Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts. Give us light and strength to know Your will, to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by Your wisdom, support us by Your power, for You are God, our God, the holy God.

You desire justice for all. Enable us to uphold the rights of others. Do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favor.

Unite us to Yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in Your name, may we temper justice with love, so that all our discussions and reflections may be pleasing to You and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants.

We ask this of You who live and reign forever and ever.

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 one, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TSONGAS 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 DR. PAUL TAYLOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and introduce a good friend and community leader in my home State, Reverend Paul Taylor, and to thank him for offering today's invocation. Reverend Taylor made the trip to the Nation's Capital from the great city of Latrobe, Pennsylvania. I know my colleague, TIM MURPHY, joins me in welcoming Reverend Taylor to the House of Representatives.

For the past 17 years, Reverend Taylor has dedicated his life to the students and faculty at Saint Vincent College. As a member of the college, he has held several prominent positions, including dean of admission, dean of

students, and his current role as executive vice president.

Reverend Taylor's civic engagement and enthusiasm for improving the lives of others is not limited to higher education. Reverend Taylor also serves on the board of directors for the Latrobe Area Hospital Charitable Foundation and assists as a weekend parish priest.

In his personal life, Reverend Taylor is an avid hunter and serves as the chaplain to the six-time Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers, and he performs mass every Sunday for every home game.

Reverend Taylor is a warm and welcoming leader. He has helped build a strong foundation at Saint Vincent College that will last for decades to come. I am proud of the work he has done in the Pennsylvania community and am privileged to call him my friend.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

FRACKING

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2728, the Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act, is a commonsense bill that promotes energy independence, protects jobs, and preserves states' rights.

The 25th District of Texas contains the Barnett Shale, a major job creator, energy provider, and economic driver in the oil and gas industry. Reports this month showed that 825 out of the 1,762 active rigs in the United States are located throughout the State of Texas. That is almost half the Nation's active drilling rigs.

The shale oil boom in Texas contributes to our Nation's overall ability to cut reliance on foreign oil and get one step closer to energy independence. I will tell you one thing that can stop this progress dead in its tracks, however, and that is red tape and Federal bureaucracy.

For 60 years, States have regulated their own hydraulic fracturing operations, but the Obama administration is attempting to step in and add duplicative and costly regulations. For example, on average, it takes a State 30 days to approve permits for drilling. The Federal Government's Bureau of Land Management takes an average of 228 days.

Subjecting States to this is senseless, harmful, and unnecessary. H.R. 2728 will prevent this and many other destructive regulations from stifling energy production and job creation.

IRAN AND DIPLOMACY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as the diplomats gather in Geneva today, I applaud their hard work in moving toward an interim agreement on the Iranian nuclear challenge.

After years of confrontation, today marks an important moment for all of us who support a diplomatic solution. We have spent a great deal of time to get to this place: taxpayer dollars, political capital, and global influence. We must not turn back now.

Right now, we have the maximum amount of leverage for a deal vis-a-vis Iran without fracturing the international coalition. Therefore, we should focus 100 percent on reaching a deal in Geneva under the P5+1 framework. It is absolutely critical.

Like using a wrench to tighten a nut, you can strip it if you push too hard. We have pushed to exactly the right point, and I hope that we will be successful.

We must, however, remember Mr. Reagan said, "Trust, but verify." It is possible to prevent nuclear problems if we trust, but verify. That is what these diplomats are doing.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, I have heard from thousands of people in the Dayton area who have been affected by the unilateral and irresponsible spending cuts known as sequestration, which I have strongly opposed. Among those are numerous business owners who have contacted my office with details about the need to cut hours and eliminate full-time jobs in an effort to keep their doors open in this time of budgetary uncertainty.

Because of this continued uncertainty in contracts and the military's ability to make commitments, thousands of jobs in the Dayton area are at risk as we head into the second year of sequestration. Many of these subcontractors are critical to the training and further education of our military personnel. As a result of these cutbacks, our readiness and the ability to deal with global conflicts are greatly diminished.

Hundreds of hardworking civilian employees are struggling to pay their personal bills as a result of furloughs, and many more will suffer in 2014 as reductions in force will be necessary if the burdens of sequestration are not lifted.

I encourage those members of the Budget Committee to find targeted and meaningful spending cuts that will alleviate the pressure that sequestration is having on Dayton and similar communities across the country that serve as strong supporters of our military.

EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, as we mark National Transgender Day of Remembrance, I rise in support of H.R. 1755, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Earlier this month, the Senate made history by passing employment protections for transgender workers for the first time ever. This bipartisan legislation is about one thing: ensuring that all Americans, regardless of who they are or who they love, are treated with the dignity and equality that they deserve.

Last week, I heard from a teenager constituent in New Hampshire who would be deeply impacted by this bill. This courageous young man is just beginning to search for his first job, but he is worried that he will be at a significant disadvantage right off the bat because he is transgender.

Finding a job in tough economic times is hard enough without the obstacle of discrimination. We must work toward becoming a country that rewards the hard work of every person, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, another preventable tragedy: a young man searching for psychiatric help is turned away. According to news reports, just 24 hours before this deadly incident, the young man underwent an emergency psychiatric evaluation but could not get the inpatient treatment he so desperately needed. His story ended like too many others suffering from serious illness—in a violent death.

Why did the system fail him? One, there were no psychiatric beds available. In 1955, there were 550,000 beds; today, there are fewer than 40,000. Two, the standard to make sure a mentally ill person gets treatment is unworkable. Three, Federal laws like HIPAA and FERPA prevent information from being shared.

I am introducing legislation next month to fix the problems that have plagued the Nation's mental health system for decades. It will increase inpatient options and make sure people get the treatment they need. We have to advance this so we have a key to unlock the door.

I ask my colleagues to join me in working for these mental health reforms so that families can share the joy of recovery instead of the sadness of loss.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

One of my constituents, Alan Holbrook of Groton, Massachusetts, lost his wife this year after their family endured her 8-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. Bernadette Holbrook was diagnosed with Alzheimer's at 57. Alan left his job to lovingly take care of her.

He is not alone. For every person with Alzheimer's, there are approximately two to three others that generously give unpaid care.

Alzheimer's is a disease that disproportionately impacts women. Nearly two-thirds of those with the disease are women, and that number is growing. Today, 5 million people in this country suffer from the disease, and it will likely be an estimated 15 million by 2025.

This disease not only exacts a tremendous physical and emotional toll, but a financial one as well. In 2013, the estimated direct costs just to take care of those with Alzheimer's were \$203 billion.

Mr. Speaker, for the Holbrooks and the millions of those who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, we must dedicate ourselves towards curing and preventing this disease.

IF YOU LIKE YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN, YOU CAN KEEP IT—WITHOUT THE FINE PRINT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, if you like your health insurance plan, you can keep it—without the fine print.

The American people were told repeatedly by the President that if they liked their health insurance plan, they could keep it. This pledge didn't come with an asterisk, a footnote, or other fine print. Now, after millions of Americans are receiving cancellation notices from their preferred health care plans, the White House is doing its best to insert fine print into this pledge where none ever existed.

The original pledge wasn't that most Americans could keep their health care plan or that others would lose their plans and be given coverage that the government thought was better for them. Instead, the White House is making excuses for why thousands of people in my district are losing their preferred coverage.

I ask for the administration to stop making excuses and looking for ways to take my constituents' policies away. My constituents deserve the truth and real solutions.

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PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I welcomed Rhode Island volunteers from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network to the United States Capitol and discussed their concerns about our commitment to fighting this terrible disease.

According to the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health, 45,000 new cases of pancreatic cancer will be diagnosed this year. About 38,000 men, women, and children across our Nation will die from this disease over this same period of time.

While our scientific and medical communities have made enormous strides in the fight against other forms of disease, the fact is that more than 90 percent of pancreatic cancer patients will die within 5 years of diagnosis.

We have to do more to make it easier for doctors to catch this disease early and develop treatments that will improve the prognosis for patients with pancreatic cancer. I applaud the men and women of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network today for their ongoing work in the fight against this disease, and I look forward to working with them to support continued research and the development of new forms of treatment that will benefit all those whose lives are touched by cancer.

WHERE ARE THE OBAMACARE SAVINGS?

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Steven from Salisbury, North Carolina, wrote to tell that the insurance that has served his family well is going to be canceled. In its place, he has been pointed to an ObamaCare alternative. However, it will cost \$523 more each month. Steven finds that unbelievable. He writes:

In return for this increase, I get coverage I do not need. This one-size-fits-all insurance is paternalistic and restricting the choices of American citizens.

Doug, who is also from Salisbury, was told his health insurance plan doesn't pass ObamaCare muster either. A similar government-sanctioned policy will cost him 200 percent more each month. Doug wants to know:

Where is the savings President Obama told me I would enjoy? As a single male with a suffering small business and a monthly mortgage, I simply can't afford this.

Steven and Doug know better than Washington bureaucrats what coverage will best meet their family and individual needs. They want the freedom to continue making that choice, the freedom to keep the plans they like, for good.