

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the secret nuke deal with Iran over Thanksgiving is “alarming,” sayeth the Saudi prince.

Prime Minister (Neville) Chamberlain would have been proud after the West gave the snake oil salesman of the desert, Mr. Rouhani, exactly what he wanted—time and money—to pursue his quest for nuclear intimidation.

Although the former Czechoslovakia was not in the trade, it looks like the appeasement West was willing to sell out Israel and Saudi Arabia for “peace in our time.” Israel and Saudi Arabia, like the former Czechoslovakia, did not get to vote on this deal of the century. Neither country likes the bad deal because they are the meal in Iran’s hostile appetite.

To make matters worse, Iranian state news reports the United States unfroze \$8 billion in Iranian assets and reduced sanctions even before the United States gave away the farm and the mineral rights. Isn’t that lovely?

Iran left Geneva with a smile, pockets of money, and fewer sanctions. The United States got the promise that Iran will be nice and not nuke its neighbors. Oh, what a deal.

And that’s just the way it is.

#### OBAMACARE

(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, 4 or 5 years ago when health care reform was being talked about on the floor of this House, one of the ideas that the Republicans put forth was increasing competition, the sale of health insurance across State lines. We all see with the sale of automobile insurance, 15 minutes can save you 15 percent. Everybody knows that. Why not afford that same cost savings for people buying health insurance? But the Democrats have never accepted it.

But now the Affordable Care Act requires that some of my constituents in Texas purchase their insurance on the D.C. exchange; clearly, that is selling across State lines. The problem is it is not lower cost; it is higher cost. And the problem is it doesn’t increase your access to a physician; it decreases your access to physicians.

High deductible health plans, I have had a high deductible plan for 15 years. One of the highest deductibles I ever had was last year of \$3,500. That cost now is almost doubled in the bronze plans that are available in the exchange in my district, and we don’t allow constituents to pair that up with a health savings account. If we really wanted to get the correct market incentives, we would allow the pairing of these high deductible plans with the health savings accounts.

What about the fact that 47 percent of people are paying higher premiums,

according to eHealthInsurance? Why don’t we allow them the same deductibility in the small group market that we allow employers in the large group market.

These are just a few of the things that could have been done 4 years ago which were omitted by the Democrats in charge.

#### SMALL BUSINESSES ARE HURTING

(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, small business is the backbone of our economy. America’s greatness is heavily dependent on small businesses’ success in creating jobs.

In South Carolina, small businesses make up half of our economy. Sadly, these hardworking business owners have been suffering devastating setbacks due to the President’s job-destroying policies. More recently, the failed implementation of ObamaCare has forced higher taxes and extensive regulations on these employers. This unfriendly business climate has prevented small business owners from expanding and creating jobs.

When traveling around South Carolina’s Second Congressional District, I continuously hear from small businesses, local chambers of commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, and employees who are plagued with uncertainty. Smaller paychecks, inability to meet insurance requirements, and reduced hours are some of the concerns. Congress must work together to replace ObamaCare with commonsense solutions, as long proposed by Congressman TOM PRICE of Georgia.

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

Congratulations Connor Shaw, Jadeveon Clowney, Coach Steve Spurrier, and President Harris Pastides for the Gamecock victory Saturday.

#### EXTENDING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this countdown clock at democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov says 25 days and 10 hours, and it is ticking. That is the countdown to an immediate cutoff of emergency unemployment insurance for 1.3 million Americans. Without an extension of this vital program, they will lose their entire coverage—every dime of it.

Who are they? They are Americans laid off through no fault of their own, struggling to find jobs and recover from the worst economic crisis in 70 years. They are an estimated 20,000 veterans who have exhausted their State

benefits after leaving the military and are unable to find work. They are mothers and fathers to an estimated 2 million children. And they are counting down to December 28.

So far, the economic recovery has left them behind. Congress must not simply do so as well. We must extend this vital insurance.

#### IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this Thanksgiving as our family gathered joyfully for dinner, we thought not only of our happiness, but of the many families that can be torn apart by our broken immigration system. We gave thought to those who were gathered at that very moment here on The National Mall going without food, fasting for justice. And they have been doing that now for weeks.

Thanksgiving is about the first immigrants in this land, this land of opportunity. But today, we find too many of our neighbors are denied opportunity because of their immigration status. They can’t board a plane. They can’t come out of the shadows. They don’t know when they go to work in the morning if they will find their family members there at night. This is not right, and the time to fix that is right now.

The only thing preventing a bipartisan response to the immigration problems we have in this country is the unwillingness of the Speaker to permit a bipartisan vote on reform legislation.

And to those who are not moved by their heart, they should be moved by their pocketbook because of the economic potential of permitting these individuals, two-thirds of which, in Mexican families in Texas without documents, have been here for at least a decade. Let them contribute to America.

#### 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:

NOVEMBER 22, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Speaker, 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 22, 2013 at 10:52 a.m.:

Appointments:  
United States Commission on Civil Rights.  
With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1702

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### SPACE LAUNCH LIABILITY INDEMNIFICATION EXTENSION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3547) to extend the application of certain space launch liability provisions through 2014.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3547

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Space Launch Liability Indemnification Extension Act".

##### SEC. 2. INDEMNIFICATION EXTENSION.

Section 50915(f) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2013" and inserting "December 31, 2014".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3547, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill we consider today provides stability for our Nation's commercial launch providers so that they can remain competitive in the international market.

The bill extends the existing system, which requires commercial launch pro-

viders to purchase insurance up to the maximum probable loss. It then provides that the government will compensate up to \$1.5 billion, plus inflation, and any amount above that is the responsibility of the original commercial launch provider.

Two weeks ago, the Space Subcommittee heard testimony from industry experts about the need to extend the Commercial Space Launch Act's risk-sharing system. Two of the witnesses who testified deal with this law on a regular basis.

Mr. Stuart Witt, president of the Mojave Air and Space Port, is developing new launch systems and technologies that could revolutionize space by making it more accessible. He told the subcommittee that this law allows companies to continue to innovate and grow.

Another witness, Ms. Patricia Cooper, president of the Satellite Industry Association, represents companies that add billions of dollars to the U.S. economy as a result of the current risk-sharing system. Ms. Cooper testified that the system's continuation is "absolutely essential" and that her association "strongly recommends that it be renewed before it expires."

The committee also recently received a letter signed by DigitalGlobe, Boeing, Virgin Galactic, Lockheed Martin, American Pacific Corporation, Aerojet Rocketdyne, ATK, Ball, Honeywell, AMT II, and Orbital Sciences which advocated the renewal of the risk-sharing system in order to keep the U.S. competitive in the global market.

Last year, the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee held a separate hearing on indemnification and heard from the Federal Aviation Administration, the Government Accountability Office, DigitalGlobe, and the Aerospace Industries Association. At this hearing, Frank Slazer, with the Aerospace Industries Association, summed up his trade association's position by stating:

Many foreign launch providers competing against U.S. companies already benefit from generous indemnification rules . . . We cannot afford to drive away highly skilled technical jobs to foreign countries, where the regulatory frameworks provide better critical risk management tools. Lastly, a non-renewal could impede new U.S. entrants to the commercial launch market, discourage future space launch innovation and entrepreneurial investment. Without a level playing field for competition, new U.S. entrants could find it highly undesirable to begin their business ventures in the United States.

The FAA launch indemnification authority has been in place for over 20 years, and the American commercial space industry has benefited significantly over this time. Thankfully, the provision has never been triggered by a serious accident, but the stability it provides allows the U.S. to remain competitive in the global market and to push the boundaries of space technology.

The bill before us would extend indemnification for 1 more year with the hope that we can address a longer-term legislative solution. I would have pre-

ferred a longer extension. For instance, the NASA Authorization Act that the Science, Space, and Technology Committee passed last summer extended indemnification for 5 years, but we now have a bipartisan bill before us that provides stability to our commercial space industry by protecting companies against third-party liability claims.

This provision expires on December 31, so time is short. This bill buys us time to work on a long-term extension as part of the larger Commercial Space Launch Act renewal that we will take up next year. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 3547, a bill to extend the application of certain space launch liability provisions through 2014.

First established by Congress as part of the Commercial Space Launch Act Amendments of 1988, the commercial space transportation risk-sharing liability and insurance regime has been extended seven times since its original enactment. The current extension expires on December 31 of this year, so it is important for Congress to act now so that there is sufficient time for this legislation to make its way to the President's desk before the current authority expires.

The liability and insurance regime that would be extended by this legislation is three-tiered.

In the first tier, licensed commercial launch providers are required to purchase third-party liability insurance to compensate for possible losses from third-party claims by the uninvolved public up to the maximum probable loss level determined by the Federal Aviation Administration as part of its licensing process, or a maximum level of \$500 million.

In the second tier, for claims above those maximum probable losses, the U.S. Government may pay successful liability claims up to \$1.5 billion in 1989 dollars, or about \$2.8 billion in today's dollars, subject to funds being appropriated by Congress for that purpose.

In the third tier, for successful claims above the aforementioned \$2.8 billion, the licensee assumes responsibility for payment.

It should be noted that the U.S. Government has not appropriated a single dollar to pay for the third-party claims in the two-decade history of this program.

The existence of the liability risk-sharing regime has helped enable the development and the sustainment of a commercial space launch industry in the United States, including the emergence of several new companies in recent years. In addition, the regime has