



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2014

No. 6

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 13, 2014, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

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.

We ask today that You bless the Members of this assembly to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve. Purify their intentions that they will say what they believe and act consistently with their words.

Help them, indeed help us all, to be honest with themselves so that they will be concerned not only with how their words and deeds are weighed by others, but also with how their words and deeds affect the lives of those in need, and those who look to them for support, help, strength, and leadership.

May all that is done this day in the people's House 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILMER 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 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AMEND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week I introduced legislation that will amend the Affordable Care Act, better known as ObamaCare, to prohibit a bailout for the insurance industry that is currently authorized under section 1341 and section 1342 of the Affordable Care Act.

The American people have had enough of bailouts for Big Business. It is time for this culture of corporate cronyism that has become a dominant part of Washington, D.C., to stop. My legislation, No Bailouts for the Insurance Industry Act of 2014, would amend the Affordable Care Act to repeal section 1341, the "reinsurance" fund, and section 1342, the "risk corridor" provision.

Together, both can provide for a massive taxpayer bailout to cover the in-

surance industry losses. The taxpayers should not be on the hook for the failures of ObamaCare. Any reasonable person can see that this scheme isn't going to work, and the American people should not be forced to bail it out once it fails.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of the No Bailouts for the Insurance Industry Act of 2014.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXTENSION

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the devastating loss of unemployment benefits for 1.3 million Americans already and 1.9 million more at risk of losing benefits if Congress fails to act soon.

I have heard from constituents across my region who will be impacted by this, including a veteran who has been unemployed for 8 months. Losing benefits will make it harder for him to complete the training program that he is enrolled in with the hopes of finding a new job.

While our economy has made progress since the depths of recession, we still have too many people around this country struggling to find work. Congress needs to get focused on job creation, but withdrawing support to unemployed people as they seek work is no way to boost this economy.

In fact, the Council of Economic Advisors estimates that failing to extend

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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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unemployment benefits will cost my State, Washington State, nearly 6,200 jobs. That is worth repeating. Doing nothing will cost us jobs. For the sake of middle class families who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, for the sake of the economic recovery, we need to extend the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program immediately.

OBAMACARE—HOW IT AFFECTS A SINGLE MOM IN TEXAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week I got a call from a concerned father in Crosby, Texas. His daughter is a single working mom with 3 young children ages 3 through 13. She recently received bad news from her health insurance provider. She and her children will be dropped from their current plan.

The new plan required under ObamaCare had a 40 percent more expensive premium. As a result, she and her children had to move out of their home and in with their father and mother. She no longer can afford to make it on her own.

The father said: “Texans are suffering. It hurts us. She got a 40 percent increase in her premium payments while she’s already struggling to make ends meet. Her policy was great before, but now it’s gone.”

Mr. Speaker, this single working mom in Texas is being punished under ObamaCare. The President sold ObamaCare to the American people on the false promise that if they liked their plan they could keep it. Now, this single mother and her children and others are learning the hard way that this was just one more Washington lie. And that’s just the way it is.

BENEFIT CUTS TO MILITARY RETIREES

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, during my first year in office, I have made it a priority to put politics aside and focus on working with both Democrats and Republicans. My goal is to find commonsense solutions that benefit the people of my region of Illinois.

I was encouraged to see both parties come together last month to pass a bipartisan deal that prevented another government shutdown, eased the harmful impact of sequestration, and protected Illinois jobs and the economy.

Compromises are rarely perfect. This budget is no different. It is not perfect. That is why I helped to introduce the Military Retirement Restoration Act. It would repeal the military retiree cost-of-living adjustments included in the budget deal. This bill is fully paid for and would repeal those costs to

military retirees by closing unfair tax loopholes for offshore corporations.

As someone who will always honor and support those who have given their lives in service to our country, I will continue to oppose proposals that aim to balance our budget on the backs of the brave men and women who have served us.

I urge Democrats and Republicans to join me in supporting this common-sense effort to ensure our military retirees get the benefits that they have earned and deserve.

EXCHANGE AND COMMISSARY PROGRAM

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the military exchange and commissary program.

The Defense Commissary Agency in the Department of Defense operates an efficient, worldwide chain of commissaries providing affordable groceries to military personnel and their families, and retirees. This benefit is critical for the men and women of the military and their families. It helps military personnel adequately provide for their families’ nutrition and well-being, both here at home and across the globe.

While our Federal budget is under pressure, the benefits to our military personnel must not be targeted as a means to reduce our national debt. The exchange and commissary program is essential for retention, well-being, and our Nation’s military readiness. This is a vital service, and I will continue to fight for these services to be preserved here, and especially across the globe. This program is critical to our Nation’s military readiness and must be maintained.

CARE ACT

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

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have a solemn duty to protect the privacy of all Americans. I think all of us here believe that, too.

I am committed to helping southern Arizonans have access to the Affordable Care Act through the healthcare.gov Web site, and we must ensure that their personal and medical information is protected.

That is why I will be introducing the CARE Act, which will require that the Department of Homeland Security develop the highest cybersecurity standards for healthcare.gov, and for Department of Health and Human Services to implement these standards within 90 days.

In a recent hearing in the Committee on Homeland Security, we learned that too little has been done to protect the

privacy of Americans accessing the Web site. My constituents and the people across this country deserve to know that when they interact with this Web site, their personal information will be safe and secure. That is what my bill ensures.

I urge my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans alike, to join me in support of this critical legislation.

AAPS ENDORSEMENT

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, nearly 4 years ago, the President signed into law his massive takeover of our health care system, and now Americans are seeing the lies and deceptions of ObamaCare. They deserve better. Now, more than ever, they are looking for a solution. Fortunately, there is a solution. It is H.R. 2900, my Patient OPTION Act.

The Patient OPTION Act is the only health care bill that completely removes the government from the doctor-patient relationship and puts patients back in charge of their health care decisions. It will make health insurance cheaper for everyone. It provides access to good, quality care for all Americans, and it will save Medicare from going broke.

This week, I am honored to announce that the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons has endorsed my Patient OPTION act. With the support of associations like AAPS and through the voice of “we the people,” we can work to put in place true conservative solutions like my Patient OPTION Act.

REPEAL MILITARY COST-OF-LIVING CUT

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, although the recent budget compromise has given our economy a measure of stability—and we are all thankful for that—it did so at the cost of vital benefits for our military and their families.

The budget deal cut \$6 billion by reducing the crucial cost-of-living adjustment, or COLAs, for thousands of veterans in south Florida and across the country. This is a minuscule part of the Federal deficit—less than 0.1 percent—but it makes a huge difference for those who have given so much.

Cost-of-living adjustments help seniors and veterans keep up with the rising costs and basic needs like groceries and clothing. There are a lot of places to cut the Federal deficits, but it shouldn’t be in aiding those men and women who have sacrificed so much.

That is why I have cosponsored legislation to repeal this cut, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of our Nation’s heroes.