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House of Representatives

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: We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

Please send Your spirit of peace upon this assembly on a day of great political moment.

The attention of millions of Americans is focused as the House considers legislation impacting the health care and coverage of so many citizens.

On this National Day of Prayer, please attend to the supplications of Your people.

May the deliberations of these days issue forth in legislation that indeed promotes the general welfare, one of the purposes of government articulated in the preamble to our Constitution.

And may all that is done within the people's House 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.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. 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.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. McNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNERNEY of California 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FLEXIBILITY TO PROVIDE LOW-FAT FLAVORED MILK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last Congress I introduced bipartisan legislation to give schools the flexibility to provide low-fat flavored milk as a part of the National School Lunch Program.

I am happy to announce that the omnibus bill we passed yesterday contains language from my legislation and allows the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to grant exemptions to schools that wish to provide students with flavored, nutritional, low-fat fluid milk at breakfast and lunch.

Mr. Speaker, milk is the number one source of nine essential nutrients in young Americans' diets and provides multiple health benefits, including better bone health, lower blood pressure, and reduced risk of cardiovascular disease or type 2 diabetes.

Consumption of milk in schools has been on the decline for several years, despite the fact that public school enrollment continues to grow. Not only is the declining consumption detrimental

to the health of young people, but it is adversely affecting our Nation's dairy farmers.

The bottom line is, if children won't consume milk, there is no way it can be nutritious. I am glad to see flavored milk back in our school cafeterias.

Mr. Speaker, on this National Day of Prayer, there will be today, with the bills being considered, many words and powerful words being spoken here today, but none more powerful spoken on this day, the National Day of Prayer, in our Capitol, than three words: Let us pray.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the so-called American Health Care Act is up today.

If you are over age 50, insurance companies can charge you five times the normal rate. This couple, 64 years old, \$30,000-a-year income, \$1,700 for a policy now. After this great bill passes, this big beautiful bill, \$15,000 a year for health care out of a \$30,000 income.

Now, how the heck does that work?

In the next 3 years, 24 million Americans will lose coverage. Among them, 153,000 in my district on the Oregon health plan so-called extended Medicaid. But that wasn't bad enough to get this bill through the House. The rightwing demanded more, so they have done away with the preexisting condition exclusion.

Now they say: Oh, no, it is still in there, but the insurance company can charge you whatever they want. You have cancer? Oh, that will be \$100,000 a year for your policy. Oh, but don't worry, don't worry, they are going to have a risk pool.

A few Members with weak knees went down to the White House to get a deal with the dealmaker, Trump, \$8 billion. A lot of money for people with

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preexisting conditions. Unfortunately, there are 130 million American adults with preexisting conditions, as described by the insurance industry. Over 5 years, that will be \$1 per month per person. That is going to buy a hell of a lot of health care; right?

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, this is National Small Business Week, and I rise to celebrate the more than 27 million small businesses in the United States of America and the 31,000 that are in my congressional district. The men and women who own these firms are truly the backbone of our economy.

Small businesses create most of the new jobs in the economy, supporting their families, employees, and communities. Small businesses want to grow and create jobs, but have difficulty accessing capital.

Furthermore, too many people remain out of work through no fault of their own. We must do more to fight high unemployment rates by helping to ensure that small businesses have the tools they need to succeed and thrive.

That is why I introduced H.R. 2313, the Small Business Relief and Job Creation Act. My bill provides tax credits for small businesses to hire people who were previously unemployed, and includes additional tax credits for small businesses located in high unemployment areas.

I welcome my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2313 to support small businesses across the country.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT WESTON C. LEE.

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Lieutenant Weston C. Lee of Bluffton, Georgia, who died on April 29, 2017, in Mosul, Iraq, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

First Lieutenant Lee died from injuries sustained while part of a train, advise, and assist mission in support of partner forces.

First Lieutenant Lee was assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy and condolences to his team, his family, and his friends who have suffered this loss.

Thank you, Lieutenant Weston Lee, for your service and sacrifice to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would use the remainder of my time in a moment of silence in honor of Lieutenant Lee.

OPPOSITION TO THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the so-called American Health Care Act. It was a bad deal for America before, and it is a worse deal today. It is an offense to working families. You are going to pay more for your premiums, co-pays, and deductibles, and you are going to get less.

Preventative services, gone. Mental and behavioral health services, no more. Prescription drugs, gone or, at best, a whole lot more expensive.

It is a life-and-death proposition for the 326,000 people in my district with preexisting conditions, segregated into expensive high-risk pools, facing mind-boggling premium increases if you happen to have asthma, diabetes, cancer, or become pregnant.

It is a broken promise to America. President Trump promised not to cut Medicaid; broken. He promised insurance for everybody; broken. He promised preexisting conditions would be covered; broken.

Mr. Speaker, I won't be complicit in this broken promise. I won't uninsure 24 million Americans. I am resisting. I am voting "no."

HONORING ARMY RANGER SERGEANT JOSHUA P. RODGERS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our Nation's heroes.

On April 27, Army Ranger Sergeant Joshua P. Rodgers of Bloomington, Illinois, was killed in action serving his third tour in Afghanistan.

At age 22, Sergeant Rodgers had already earned the prestigious Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, Marksmanship Qualification Badge Expert-Rifle, and many others.

Sergeant Rodgers leaves behind his parents, Kevin and Vonda; sisters, Emily and Hannah; brother, Ashton; and countless others whose lives have been forever changed by him.

I never had the honor of meeting Sergeant Rodgers, but those who knew him best remember him as a warrior, tenacious, humble, determined, a true inspiration to everyone who knew him.

We are forever grateful to Sergeant Rodgers and the men and women who put country above all else, a debt which we can never repay. It is because of Sergeant Rodgers and many like him that we live in the land of the free. It truly is because of the brave.

On Saturday, Sergeant Rodgers will be laid to rest as his family and friends gather to celebrate his life, a life filled with patriotism, honor, and service.

This House and his country will never forget Sergeant Rodgers' sacrifice.

May God bless his family and the brothers and sisters he served alongside.

HONORING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Small Business Week. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. This week is dedicated to celebrating and recognizing them and their contributions to our Nation. Because of this, I wanted to take a moment to recognize a few stellar small businesses in north central Florida.

Archer Automotive and Tire, founded in 2004, came about after a fleet mechanic of over 20 years decided he wanted to open his own shop. Thirteen years later, they have expanded into a state-of-the-art facility employing over eight families, allowing them to serve even more of their community.

Eat the 80, winner of the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce's 2016 Leading Women's Enterprise Award, is a meal delivery service specializing in health food that doesn't lack flavor or quality. They believe that everyone should have access to a healthy diet, and they built a business that could provide meals for working families.

Finally, I would like to recognize Endoscopy Replacement Parts, an aftermarket manufacturer established in 1997. Their 18 years of manufacturing experience, great customer service, and giving back to the community has led them to be recognized as the 2015 Manufacturers Association of Florida's Manufacturer of the Year, and the 2015 Small Business Administration's Small Business Exporter of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, it is businesses like that that keep our communities vital and growing.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2192, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT, AND PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1628, AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 308 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 308

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2192) to amend the Public Health Service Act to eliminate the non-application of certain State waiver provisions to Members of Congress and congressional staff. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill