

BUTTERFIELD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD 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.

SECURE OUR NATION'S TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest threats to our national security is the vulnerability of our Nation's technology infrastructure.

In this age where everything is becoming wired, computers oversee our bank accounts, military system, electric grid, communication systems, dams and power plants, air traffic control systems, and countless other vital parts of our society. These systems are attacked every single day. The fact is one of these systems is likely being attacked right now.

The President has said that securing our Nation's networks is a priority for his administration. However, I am concerned that, while Congress was away in August, two of our government's top cybersecurity officials resigned, and we still have no cybersecurity coordinator within the White House.

We must regain focus, fill these vacant high-level positions and implement a plan to secure our networks before an attack does irreparable harm to our Nation.

TWO REFORM AMENDMENTS

(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, during the August recess, I held four of the largest townhalls in the history of South Carolina: 1,700 in Columbia; 1,500 in Lexington; 1,500 in Beaufort; and 1,200 in Hilton Head. These were passionate events, full of honest patriots, and nearly 95 percent want us to work together for health insurance reform but not for a government takeover. During these events, I explained two health care bill amendments which were adopted.

The first was to exempt and protect TRICARE from the proposed mandates already included in the bill. TRICARE serves 9.4 million active duty members, National Guard and Reserve members, veterans, their families, and survivors. The second amendment urges Members of Congress who vote in favor of a government-run option to enroll in the program themselves. If it's good enough for the American people, it's good enough for Congress.

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

THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT MUST STOP DENYING THE RIGHTS OF THEIR PEOPLE

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 3, the Vietnamese police arrested blogger Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh.

This arrest followed an earlier arrest of two other Vietnamese bloggers. Fortunately, Quynh was released on Sunday. However, there was one condition for her release, and that was that she had to stop blogging. In order to be released from jail, she had to give up her freedom of expression, and I believe this is unlawful and is absolutely unacceptable.

The Vietnamese Government continues to deny their people's fundamental rights, and this must be stopped. Vietnamese citizens have the right to advocate their views whether it's on the Internet or in public protest.

For that reason, I have introduced House Resolution 672, calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to release these imprisoned bloggers and to respect Internet freedom. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor House Resolution 672.

GAZA STUDENTS AND THE HOLOCAUST

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in Gaza and the West Bank, the U.N. Relief Works Agency operates hundreds of schools, many of them controlled by Hamas-approved teachers' unions. When the U.N. considered adding the Holocaust to the history curriculum, Hamas wrote a vicious letter, denying the events and refusing to let their children hear about one of the most well-documented, horrific events of the 20th century.

Sadly, in typical fashion, U.N. officials have backed off their pledge, effectively ceding control of curriculum to Hamas.

It is hard to imagine that there can be a lasting peace agreement in the Middle East when the party that controls the Gaza Strip steadfastly denies even well-known facts. Hamas teaches the children of Gaza outrageous lies about Israel; and, unfortunately, the U.N. does little to combat this disinformation and hate speech.

It is far past time for the U.N. to take a stand against the hatred of Hamas extremists by ensuring that history is no longer distorted. Peace will only come when the children of Gaza are no longer taught that Israel has no right to exist.

IT IS TIME TO CHANGE OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out in favor of my constituents, like Jim from Green Bay, who says that every citizen should have health care: I have no insurance. I'm 60 years old.

It is time to fix that problem in a bipartisan way.

I am speaking out today for Sally from Kaukauna, who says: Our prescriptions cost \$1,000 a month. This is a very big issue for our family.

Well, Sally, hope is on the way. We have to pass legislation that allows the people to negotiate for lower prescription drug costs, to guarantee that if you're a citizen you should be in the risk pool, and insurance companies, well, they ought to be processing paper, not practicing medicine.

It is time to change our health care system and to move towards a market-based system that really works for everybody and that guarantees for every citizen that, if they have an opportunity, they should have it at the lowest price. Every business entity should show us their prices and then accept as payment in full the lowest price that is accepted from anybody else.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMERICAN TENNIS PLAYER MELANIE OUDIN

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendous achievements of 17-year-old American tennis player Melanie Oudin.

Melanie was born on September 23, 1991, in Marietta, Georgia, where I reside; and she captured the heart of America with her inspiring performance at the 2009 United States Open.

Melanie entered the United States Open as the youngest player in the top 100, numbered 67—the number three American behind Serena and Venus Williams. This was Melanie's second U.S. Open, and she played incredibly well. Melanie ousted the number four seed, the number 13 seed and the number 29 seed before losing in the quarterfinals to the number nine player. This series of wins comes on the back of her performance at Wimbledon this summer where she made the fourth round.

Melanie's sneakers, pink and yellow with the word "believe" stamped on the heel, sum up her attitude about life and sports, and she has shown all of us what can be achieved if you only work hard enough.

I know that I and the other residents of Marietta, Georgia, are proud to call her one of our own; and we look forward to watching her continued rise in the sport of tennis and in life.