

Broward school system for a job well done. Keep up the good work.

A REPUBLICAN SOLUTION FOR HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

(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. Madam Speaker, I am humbled and grateful for the overwhelming support by the people of South Carolina.

House Republicans have been developing commonsense reforms for our health care system. The Republican Study Committee, led by Dr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, has introduced H.R. 3400, a bill to make health insurance accessible, affordable, and portable. The bill gives small businesses the tools to provide coverage for their employees, it covers preexisting conditions, and promotes wellness and a healthy lifestyle.

The Republican plan does not impose taxes on individuals and small businesses, which will cost jobs. It does not add billions more to our Nation's debt. The American people have spoken, and their voices must not be ignored. We can work together for health insurance reform.

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

TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, the great debates in this Chamber often center around the question of whether and how much government can do to address a particular problem. There is one thing, though, that we can all agree on, which is that if our families act more responsibly on just about everything—education, energy, health—we are all much better off.

Madam Speaker, September is Emergency Preparedness Month, and as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, nowhere is this more true than when we think about our health and our security. Our families can do some simple things to make them safer and healthier: have a plan in the event of an emergency, have a place to meet, know how to contact each other.

As we think about facing the H1N1 threat this winter, there are some simple things we can do as families. We can wash our hands often. We can sneeze into a tissue. We can stay home if we feel ill. If we do these small, small things, we can take what is potentially a large problem and make it much, much smaller.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE FLOYD

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

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, Wednesday and Thursday mark the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Floyd, a storm that battered the east coast from North and South Carolina to New Jersey.

The damage from Floyd was estimated at \$250 million in New Jersey, including close to \$100 million in Bound Brook and Manville in my congressional district, when more than 13 inches of rain fell and flooded rivers into homes, businesses and streets, forever changing the face of both communities.

Ten years later, Bound Brook and Manville have implemented important flood control efforts in preparation for the next Floyd. A complex flood control system of walls and levees is being built around Bound Brook. Manville police and fire personnel now have boats and sirens to alert and assist residents. Bound Brook also has an emergency management team of 25 members that communicates with the community if a flood is coming.

On Thursday, I hope to join residents of Bound Brook in celebration of the reopening of the historic Brook Theatre, a century-old venue severely damaged by the flood. The Brook Theatre reopening is a symbol of triumph and rebirth of the towns devastated by Hurricane Floyd 10 years ago.

SWEEPING REFORMS LEAVE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BEHIND

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

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, last time I spoke, I pointed out that the health care reform bills currently being debated in the House and Senate do not include the United States territories. Today, I would like to discuss why these reforms are needed just as much, or more, in my district as in any other part of the United States.

There are only 80,000 people in my district in the Northern Mariana Islands, but the health care infrastructure there is struggling. There is only one surgeon for all three of the populated islands. Common equipment that is used to save lives every day across the Nation, like a hyperbaric chamber or a heart catheterization lab, is not available. Funding at the Commonwealth Health Center, the only hospital, is so strained that upfront payment is required before patients even see a doctor.

My constituents are proud Americans who honor and serve their country, so how can I explain to them that these sweeping reforms they have heard so much about will only leave them behind?

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

(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. Madam Speaker, experts have predicted that meaningful liability reform can save our health care system \$126 billion annually. What does \$126 billion in annual savings mean? We would not have to cut \$500 billion from our seniors' Medicare program over the next 10 years. We would not have to levy \$800 billion in job-killing taxes on our economy. We would not have to ask every American to give up their liberty because of a government edict to purchase government insurance that they may not be able to afford.

My colleagues, meaningful liability reform is the silver bullet in this debate. It can stop the practice of defensive medicine, save our health care system over \$100 billion a year, and protect the American people from the occasional greedy lawyer seeking a windfall.

As an OB/GYN who practiced medicine for over 30 years, I know how dire the consequences are if we continue our failure to act. It is time to put partisan politics aside and stand up for the American people. Meaningful liability change cannot wait. It must be included in any health care reform bill.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give my support to the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, a bill which will make historic investments in our Nation's higher education.

This legislation covers a broad array of initiatives to make college more affordable and accessible for everyone, and I am particularly glad to see that it does much to strengthen community colleges.

In this challenging economy, community colleges offer a crucial opportunity for students to fully prepare for the workforce. In 2007, there were over 156,000 students enrolled in Ohio's community colleges. I was pleased to see that this legislation provided the attention and funding that community colleges deserve.

This bill creates a new grant program that improves the resources and instruction at community colleges and emphasizes the partnerships between the colleges and local employers. In addition, it invests in the renovation and modernization of aging facilities.

In areas where many students can't afford a 4-year university, these community colleges provide a quality education and the training needed to succeed. These students deserve the increase in funding this legislation proposes. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

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LIABILITY REFORM IS NECESSARY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, as we debate health care reform, little attention has been paid to the impact that our Nation's broken medical liability system has on rising medical costs.

There are 125,000 lawsuits against physicians at any given time; 75 percent of the suits are closed without payment to the plaintiff, and in 83 percent of the cases going to trial, physicians are cleared. This means there is very little correlation between lawsuits and actual malpractice. More than that, the current system pushes doctors to overtest and overtreat to avoid being hauled into the courtroom, costing Americans billions of dollars in taxes and higher premiums. In a few cases in which there is a judgment, much of the money goes to pay lawyers, not the aggrieved patient.

Furthermore, the current system is driving physicians out of needed specialties. Recent studies show that one in seven obstetricians no longer delivers babies, and 49 percent of American counties don't even have an OB, largely because of high malpractice costs.

If the President and Democrats are serious about controlling high health care costs, they must call on trial lawyers to share in the sacrifice and to reform the medical liability system.

AN INCENTIVE FOR HEALTHY LIVING

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today out of concern that the health care reform legislation this body is considering lacks an important component: an incentive for healthy living. Encouraging a healthy population is one of the best ways we can reduce our Nation's health care costs over time and can improve our country's livelihood and prosperity.

A healthy lifestyle makes workers more productive; it helps people live longer; it helps people make smart choices about diet, exercise and tobacco use; it helps prevent and not just treat chronic diseases.

Madam Speaker, successful health care reform must include an incentive for Americans to live healthy lives. It is the surest way to decrease our consumption of health care over time, thus, lowering costs.

My legislation, H.R. 3472, will do just that. My bill provides for health insurance coverage premium discounts up to 20 percent for healthy behavior and for improvements toward healthy behavior. This means that Americans would have a tangible incentive to maintain healthy cholesterol levels, heart rates

and body mass indexes, which are vital indicators of a person's overall health and wellness.

Madam Speaker, it is good public policy to help Americans live well. It is good public policy to create positive incentives for wellness and to help people make healthy decisions in their everyday lives. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3472 and to create health care reform that actually encourages wellness.

CLEAR ACT

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, the Natural Resources Committee has the responsibility not only to take steps to encourage more nuclear, solar, hydropower, and wind energy but also to increase the production of domestic oil and gas. Such an all-of-the-above approach will lead to lower energy costs and to more jobs for American citizens while also serving to make our country safer.

Later today, the Natural Resources Committee will be holding a hearing on H.R. 3534, a bill which will simply erect more obstacles to job creation and energy production. This bill creates new levels of bureaucracy, which inevitably will slow new development of American sources of energy. Now is not the time to further delay the advancement of American energy.

Madam Speaker, it is simple: more roadblocks to energy development mean less energy for Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE OF MAINE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDING

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State of Maine for its efficient implementation of the Recovery Act funding for transportation infrastructure projects.

We in Maine have worked together to accomplish what this bill was intended to do—to create jobs and to put Americans back to work. A recent report on the Recovery Act shows that Maine is ranked number six in the country, having put 100 percent of the highway and bridge recovery projects out to bid. According to the State of Maine, 1,926 Mainers are now working and will be put back to work because of this Recovery Act funding.

While we still have a long way to go, I would like to thank those in Maine who continue to contribute to our State's economy.

DEFUND ACORN

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my outrage about corruption at ACORN. Illegal activities at the ACORN offices in Baltimore, in Washington, D.C. and in Miami show that corruption is not isolated. Already under suspicion for disturbing activities such as voter fraud in the 2008 elections, ACORN employers encourage prostitution, tax fraud and human trafficking. This culture of corruption must stop.

Madam Speaker, I, for one, will not sit idle and allow my taxpayer constituents to be swindled by an organization that receives millions in Federal funds.

Yesterday, I signed a letter to President Obama, asking him to disclose and terminate all taxpayer funding of ACORN. In addition, I have cosponsored a bill which will stop the Federal funding of this reprehensible enterprise. I call on Speaker PELOSI to bring this legislation to the floor for a vote so that we can stop subsidizing this outrageous and illegal activity. We owe it to our constituents.

ENACT REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to continue our hard work in enacting real health care reform and to not bow to the powerful insurance lobby, to the loud voices of opposition, or to the claims of the misinformed.

While we're aware of the work in the other body, that is not the work of this House. We know what our choices are; and as President Obama has said, it's time to make them. If we do nothing, health care costs for employers will rise 166 percent over the next decade.

A recent Kaiser Family Foundation survey showed that an estimated 8 percent of employers will drop their coverage altogether if the current trend continues. We need real reform with a robust public option based on the existing Medicare provider network and payment system, not illusory proposals meant to appease those who have no real intention of changing the status quo or in voting for reform. Let's hold to our goals of lower cost, competition, and accountability.

HOW OUR INVESTMENT IN NASA HAS BENEFITED AMERICA

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, yesterday we heard from Norm Augustine, the chairman of the Review of U.S. Human Spaceflight Plans Committee on the recently released options they