

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MARCH 18, 2013

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING

(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, a durable medical equipment supplier recently sued the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services over Medicare's competitive bidding program. In February, the judge dismissed the case, stating the supplier had no jurisdiction because Congress prohibited judicial review of the program in 2003.

The court was, however, "deeply concerned about the unjust consequences of its order"; so concerned, the court was compelled to issue a memorandum prior to its full opinion:

Every citizen is entitled to equal justice under law, which is not measured by incidence of death or hospital admissions, but rather by the right to receive medically necessary treatment and to live each day with dignity. To the extent that a civilized society is measured by the manner in which it protects its most vulnerable members, it has failed today.

Congress has a responsibility to beneficiaries to ensure CMS is transparent and the competitive bidding program is truly competitive and does not prevent access to these critical services.

I will not be complacent, Mr. Speaker, and this body should not be content with a culture of insecurity for providers and the vulnerable populations that they serve.

The American people deserve better.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. DINA STALLINGS

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to Dr. Dina Stallings, a professor of forensics at Riverside Community College, beloved by her students and whose passing my community mourns deeply. This Sunday, my community will join together to celebrate her life, which was devoted to teaching the art of persuasive speaking.

Dr. Stallings achieved national recognition during her 26-year career at

RCC directing the Forensics and Debate Program. She was the first woman to be named a full professor at RCC. In the 1960s and 1970s, she coached teams that won national competitions.

After retiring, Dr. Stallings continued a deep involvement with Friends of Forensics, a group she founded to promote speaking activities for students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Mr. Speaker, we count ourselves fortunate to have had Dr. Stallings as a leader in our community. Her commitment to faith, family, and forensics has left a profound impact on the Inland Empire and our Nation. As Dr. Stallings said herself, you measure yourself by the service you give to others.

Let us measure up to her legacy in both our service to America and our democratic discourse.

LET'S PASS A RESPONSIBLE
BUDGET

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it's the job of this Congress to pass a responsible budget that protects our seniors and offers a future for our generations to come, the same future that you and I enjoy today.

Like Goldilocks, the American people have three choices:

We have the Senate Democratic plan, which raises taxes, increases spending, and never balances. That's too much government.

Then we have the President's plan, which—wait. No. We don't have the President's plan yet, although it was due last month. He keeps talking about a balanced approach, but he leaves out one key component in his budget. It doesn't actually balance. That's not governing at all.

Finally, we have the House Republican plan, which takes a balanced approach to deficit reduction and job growth. A balanced budget isn't some fairytale. It's not just another Washington talking point. It offers real results for the American people. It will grow our economy, it will create 5 million new jobs, and it would increase the median income for Americans to over \$80,000.

Republicans are offering a middle way to move forward, and I think the American people will find that this proposal is just right.

CLEAN ENERGY AND EXTREME
WEATHER

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, we've come a long way with clean energy over the last 4 years. We've doubled the production of clean renewable energy like wind and solar. And the new tailpipe standards for automobiles will

double the fuel efficiency of our passenger vehicles.

Still, there's much that needs to be done. Study after study has shown that the effects of climate change are occurring sooner and with greater effect than expected. Superstorm Sandy, the devastating drought that hurt farmers in the Midwest, last summer's heat waves, and forest fires—scientists tell us that these are signs of climate change, and it is going to get worse if we don't act to address it.

Over the last 2 years, the United States has experienced 25 weather disasters that have caused more than \$180 billion in damage.

It's time to get serious about clean energy. The consequences are too grave to do otherwise.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, this week Senate Democrats introduced a budget that will never balance—ever. But it does raise taxes by \$1 trillion, so that will be helpful to working families.

The good news is next week we will have an opportunity to consider the House budget proposal which properly addresses the spending problem and makes commonsense reforms in order to pay down our debt.

Keeping with the committee's theme of balancing the budget within 10 years, I've introduced my own balanced budget amendment, House Joint Resolution 36, which also balances within 10 years.

We don't want to balance the budget on the backs of taxpayers. That's why we require a three-fifths majority to raise revenue and the debt limit. It also requires agencies and departments to justify their funding.

We are living in modern times, so it is allowed to be waived during times of war, during military conflict, or during natural disasters. Forty-nine States, including Pennsylvania where I live, do this. Single moms, families, cops on the beat, working folks do it, and Washington should do it too.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak against the Ryan budget.

Mr. Speaker, here we go again, another House Republican budget filled with the same gimmicks and fuzzy math that the American people soundly rejected last fall during the Presidential election. It's another budget that slashes critical economic investments, undermines job growth, and attempts to reduce the deficit on the backs of our seniors, disabled, women, and low-income families.