piloted by a Republican Governor in a Democratic State, and that served as the basis of the Affordable Health Care Act, which is the law of the land?

The Affordable Health Care Act was not, in fact, what many Members on my side of the aisle support—a single-payer plan or a Medicare-for-all approach. But the law of the land is based on the Heritage Foundation idea and a Republican Governor from Massachusetts' formula for making sure that we could provide care to all of our citizens.

Although the health care act has become politically driven and charged, what the American people want to see is a Congress that's serious about solutions, solutions that are workable on behalf of the American people.

So let's start where we all agree. PAUL RYAN has stated over again, very eloquently, that the rising cost of our debt and deficit is due to health care. I agree with him. When it comes to making sure that quality is improved for patients and care is coordinated more effectively, these are not Republican or Democratic ideas; these are American ideas, and why we need to move forward.

We have no less than 10 separate studies—studies from the Institute of Medicine, Reuters, the Commonwealth Fund, among others, that show that there is between $750 billion to $800 billion in waste, fraud, abuse, and lack of coordination within our health care system. Why, then, would we consider, with that kind of waste, taking any money out of Medicare or taking any money away from the beneficiaries who use that to pay for their hospitals, their medical devices, their pharmacists, their doctors?

What we need to do is face what the reality is. The reality is that the United States spends 18 percent of its gross domestic product on health care. We need to drive those costs down. By doing so, as businessmen will tell you, any model that is that inefficient, when the rest of the world is at 8 and 9 percent for health care and provides universal access to health care, and we're at 18 percent, with millions of our people still uninsured, if we drive that down and wring out all the inefficiencies, the waste in the system, then we can have health care for our constituents that's both coordinated and essential and drives down the national debt.

All we have to do is recognize a simple fact. Take the very best of our public health system. Take the very best of science, technology and innovation. And then take the very best of our private sector and its entrepreneurs and have this body come together in a coordinated fashion to bring that about.

It's happening without us. It's happening in the private sector, where leaders like Mark Bertolini from Aetna and others around this country are taking steps to drive down the cost of health care. They're doing it by coordinating care with the Mayo Clinic, with the Cleveland Clinic, with Sloan Kettering, with labs like Jackson Labs in my State. All of this is focused on making sure that we're going to have better outcomes for our people.

We can do this together. Let's work toward solutions. This Congress is capable of doing it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Guide the Members of the people's House by the spirit of understanding, which will lead them ultimately to eternal wisdom. Since we live in a world of human failure and broken promises, may they be tolerant of the faults of others because they are so aware of their own unfaithfulness. All of us are yet to realize our own full potential as being truly the free children of God.

Bless all with a quiet respect for the diversity of opinions. Through honest dialogue and contemplative listening, may Your servants, gathered in this assembly, search all the avenues open to them to meet today's challenges of integrity and justice.

May all that is done 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SLAUGHTER 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.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS SUPPORT ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY POLICIES

(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, House Republicans are focused on solutions that will give our economy the boost it needs to fully recover and help put Americans back to work. Our Nation has an abundance of energy resources that, if accessed, would create jobs, promote our energy independence and lower prices at the pump.

Today, the President will once again abandon his claim to support an all-of-the-above energy stance and will unveil a new plan focused on waging a ''war on coal'' with Big Government regulations destroying jobs.

In contrast, this week, House Republicans will have the best interests of American families at heart when we vote on two key pieces of legislation included in our all-of-the-above energy plan. Increasing our offshore energy production, introduced by Congressman DOC HASTINGS of Washington, and lifting moratoriums on exploration and development, introduced by Congressman JEFF DUNCAN of South Carolina, are necessary to provide American families with a more secure future.

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

Congratulations, former Chief of Staff Eric Dell and his wife, Torry, on the birth of their son, Noah Isaac Dell, on Sunday, June 23.

BOBBY (BLUE) BLAND

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

Mr. COHEN. Bobby (Blue) Bland, a Memphis and American music and blues idol, passed away at the age of 83 on Sunday.

Bobby (Blue) Bland was born Robert Calvin Brooks in 1930, and in the forties he moved to Memphis. In 1949, he joined a group called the Beale Streeters, which was a loose-knit group and it included Johnny Ace, Rosco Gordon, Earl Forest, and B.B. King—giants. He later worked for Junior Parker and B.B. King, two other giants. Then he went on his own way and became one of the great blues singers of all time.

His four top singles were ''Turn on your Love Light,'' ''Call on Me,'' ''That's the Way Love is,'' and ''Ain't Nothing You Can Do.'' He had top 100 hits almost every year for 40 years. His songs were covered by the Grateful Dead, The Band, and Van Morrison. He influenced Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, and the Allman Brothers. He has been in every music hall of fame you can think of, including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the initial class of the Memphis Music Hall of Fame.