

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are bound and determined to rush through this Congress an immense tax bill before Americans even begin to know what hit them. We need to speak up and inform families about this bill and its many bad parts.

I came here to the House a few weeks ago and said: All you need to know about this tax bill is that it is good for Donald Trump and his billionaire buddies. It rewards those multinational companies that have been shipping jobs and profits offshore for so many years and who think they have no responsibility to pay for our national security and other vital public services.

Well, I am here today to admit that I was in error. All of those things are true. It is about Donald Trump and his billionaire buddies and all the additional money they will pocket. It is about shipping the jobs offshore by multinationals who get a new incentive, a giant, new loophole in this bill, but I was wrong to say that was all that it is about. It also now begins to impact one family after another across America in their healthcare.

It is the same fanaticism that drove Republicans to try to take away healthcare 60-plus different times in the last Congress and the same fanaticism that has caused them to push forward with repeal effort after repeal effort. It is the kind of fanaticism that American citizens stood up to.

It was not only the courageous votes of JOHN MCCAIN, SUSAN COLLINS, and other Members in the Senate who stopped this wretched healthcare bill that passed through the House, but it was the fact that Americans kept saying: No, don't take the right that my family has to get access to a family physician. Don't take away my neighbors' or my church members' right to get access to protect their family with healthcare.

Today, we learn that this new tax bill is being changed to do just that. It is another assault on the Affordable Care Act.

In the beginning of the rush to force it through the House long before Thanksgiving, before Americans even get to give it attention, the first step that Republicans took here in the committee that I serve on that considered the tax bill last week was on what we call the Alzheimer's tax.

Currently, American citizens have a right that has long existed in our tax law that if you have really serious medical expenses of over 10 percent of your income, such as a family who earns \$50,000—which is now, today, a modest income—and they have over \$5,000 in medical expenses, they can deduct those from their taxes.

It is called the Alzheimer's tax because so many of the families that rely on disability to deduct medical expenses are older people who have a family member with Alzheimer's. They need long-term, special care, or they need someone with home health care to come and help them with this very serious problem.

Under the bill that is before us today, they will be denied any right to continue to do that. Under this bill, they will get an opportunity to pay a tax on the dollars they are having to expend for Alzheimer's care.

Of course, it is not just Alzheimer's care. It might be a young family that has a child with a serious disability who requires home health aides or physical therapy, or it might be a woman with breast cancer whose medical coverage does not provide all of the treatment that she needs.

Under this Republican bill, you will no longer be able to deduct one cent for all those serious, burdensome medical bills. No, they want to tax you on what you paid in excess of medical bills.

We have moved today to chapter two. The bill that the House will consider will be merged with a Senate bill. The Senate has declared they will end forever the individual responsibility portions of the Affordable Care Act. Those are the provisions that ensure all Americans will participate so that we will have the largest possible risk pool and that people don't sign up for the Affordable Care Act just after they are sick, after they have a problem. Everyone is there. It is just like you don't sign up for fire insurance after your house is on fire.

It is essential for everyone. We must reject this bill as the wrong way for America to go to deny healthcare coverage and impose more taxes on too many Americans.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 9 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Dr. Glynn Stone, Mobberly Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Thank You, Lord, for these times when our Nation has recognized her need for You. God, You are our help in ages past and our hope for years to come. You can see our trust in You is engraved throughout this very building. So before any speeches are heard or votes are cast or decisions are made, we recognize that our greatness comes only from Your grace.

So I humbly ask You to remind each of these, Your servants, of their special responsibility, to lead in Your way, to lean on Your word, and to listen to Your voice. As they represent constituents, may they defend the defenseless,

protect those in danger, and promote good, so that all Americans can reflect Your image and bring glory to You and accomplish Your will.

Your providential hand has promoted us to these lofty positions and will assuredly judge our stewardship of these responsibilities. So we submit this day and ourselves to You, Jesus, my Lord. 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 gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia 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.

WELCOMING DR. GLYNN STONE

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I welcome Dr. Glynn Stone to the House of Representatives today to serve as our guest chaplain.

Dr. Stone serves at Mobberly Baptist Church in Longview as senior pastor, where he takes part in influencing others for Christ. He is husband to wife, Angie, and together, they have the joy of raising three awesome sons.

Dr. Stone's call to ministry began when he was 16 years old, serving in churches throughout the Tennessee Valley. Under Dr. Stone's influence at Mobberly Baptist, several churches have been planted across the country as well as numerous mission trips across the world.

Apart from his pastoral services, Dr. Stone has had the privilege of teaching at several colleges and universities, including Southwestern Seminary, Dallas Baptist University, and Shorter College.

Knowing Dr. Stone as a friend and as a confidant is an honor and a privilege. His dedication to the church of Jesus Christ is something to be greatly admired, just as the vast number of our Founders did. He is a blessing to the multitude of people whom God has touched through him and his years of service to our Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). The Chair will entertain up to 15

further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. EUGENE E. WILLIAMS

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true servant to the people, Dr. Eugene E. Williams. He is a dedicated husband to his wife, Daisy, a wonderful father, grandfather, veteran, and pastor.

Sunday will be Dr. Williams' 59th anniversary as pastor of Mount Beulah Missionary Baptist Church in Ferriday, Louisiana. Over the course of his 59-year career, he has ministered to four other churches across Louisiana, which include Mount Sinai Baptist Church and Mount Olive Baptist Church in Ferriday, St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Jonesville, and New Hope Baptist Church in Ruston.

In addition to his service as a pastor, he was a teacher, community organizer, and the director of the LaSalle Head Start program for 28 years.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Williams is a model citizen for the people of the Fifth District of Louisiana, and I would like to thank him for his selfless service to the community and for making my State a better place.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to the Republican tax bill.

Mr. Speaker, how much can the American people take? How many alternative facts will we ask them to believe? How many broken promises will we ask them to overlook?

The proposed tax bill is camouflaged as a tax break for the middle class, but you and I both know the only permanent tax breaks are for the richest people and corporations in America. As a matter of fact, over 36 million families will see a tax increase.

Now, there is a new flimflam on the table. Mr. Speaker, you are well aware that Republicans have voted over 50 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act. All attempts failed. But now a repeal of the mandate that all Americans have healthcare has mysteriously been added to the tax bill. Is it possible that tax reform is just a ruse to repeal the Affordable Care Act?

Enough is enough. Mr. Speaker, I believe the American people are paying attention, and I believe the American people will hold those accountable who vote against them.

HONORING ERNEST WALLS ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE GEORGIA MILITARY VETERANS' HALL OF FAME

(Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual from my home district, Mr. Ernest Walls of Monroe, a 93-year-old World War II veteran who was recently inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame.

Private First Class Walls joined the U.S. Army in the midst of World War II at the age of 18. In a display of incredible valor, under the 22nd Infantry Unit, he was part of the wave of troops to storm Utah Beach, the westernmost beach of the five landing areas of the Normandy invasion, where they fought their way across a killing zone without hesitation. He was later wounded and captured by the Germans. He spent a year as a prisoner of war.

When asked about his heroic action, he said: "Only the grace of God helped us win the war, and America came back as the most blessed and most powerful Nation on Earth."

Due to an unfortunate clerical error, it took Mr. Wells nearly 55 years to receive his POW status and full benefits. Thankfully, since then, he has been rightfully awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, French Legion of Honor, and Prisoner of War Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Private Wells and to extend our personal and sincere appreciation to him, as well as all our men and women in uniform. We, as a nation, are forever grateful.

WHY THE HURRY?

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the tax bill.

Again, we find ourselves faced with a bill that will impact every American, but my Republican colleagues are rushing through. They won't even wait for the Congressional Budget Office to show us what the cost will be, to assess what this bill will do to our economy, to our children and our grandchildren.

Why the hurry, Mr. Speaker?

Is it in hopes that Americans won't notice the repeal of the estate tax, a tax that only applies to people so wealthy that entire States don't have someone affected by it in some years.

Is it so that Americans won't notice that this bill repeals the State and local tax deduction for families, but not for businesses?

Or is it so that Americans won't notice that it won't tax businesses earning income abroad, but it does tax individuals working abroad?

Eighty percent of the tax cuts in this bill go to the top 1 percent of Americans. Republicans may pretend to hope that the money will trickle down to the average American, but we know it won't work. Trickle-down does not work.

MEDIA WANTS TRUMP TO FAIL

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Pew Research Center recently studied how the media covered the first 60 days of each recent administration. Not surprisingly, 62 percent of the media coverage of President Trump was negative, compared to 20 percent for President Obama and 28 percent for Presidents Bush and Clinton.

As Investor's Business Daily put it: "The media from the get-go had decided Trump was a bad President—before any of his policies had a chance to take hold."

Now that his policies have taken hold and improved the economy, the media still does not want President Trump to succeed. You have seldom heard or read a word about our strong economic growth, the record-breaking stock market, high consumer confidence, and the record-high household income.

The liberal media seldom highlight this news because they would have to credit President Trump's successful policies. When the liberal media give the American people the facts and present the news objectively, they will have earned our trust. Until then, they just serve as another biased source of information.

CORPORATE TAX CUT SHOULD BE REJECTED

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, New York State contributes \$41 billion, annually, to the Federal Government in taxation. The House Republican corporate tax bill cut is being funded by tax increases on middle America and on western New York.

The elimination of the State and local tax deduction would be a major hit on local taxpayers. In fact, in Erie County, 89 percent of middle-income households claimed the State and local tax deduction in 2015, deducting \$1.6 billion in already-paid local taxes. The average State and local tax deduction in Erie County was \$12,866.

This corporate tax cut is being funded by tax hikes on middle America and on western New Yorkers and should be rejected.

TAX CUTS

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, this is a historic week, one that has been 31 years in the making. In a once-in-a-generation vote, we will vote to cut taxes for the middle class and unleash the power of the American economy.

Our Tax Code is more than 70,000 pages of opaque rules and regulations