

Mr. Chabot; Mr. Toomey; Mr. DeMint; Mr. Graves; Mr. Schrock; Mr. Akin; Mrs. Capito; Mr. Shuster; Mrs. Musgrave; Mr. Franks of Arizona; Mr. Gerlach; Mr. Bradley of New Hampshire and Mr. Beauprez.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Petri; Mr. Boehlert; Mr. Coble; Mr. Duncan; Mr. Gilchrest; Mr. Mica; Mr. Hoekstra; Mr. Quinn; Mr. Ehlers; Mr. Bachus; Mr. LaTourette; Mrs. Kelly; Mr. Baker; Mr. Ney; Mr. LoBiondo; Mr. Moran of Kansas; Mr. Gary Miller of California; Mr. DeMint; Mr. Bereuter; Mr. Isakson; Mr. Hayes; Mr. Simmons; Mrs. Capito; Mr. Brown of South Carolina; Mr. Johnson of Illinois; Mr. Rehberg; Mr. Platts; Mr. Graves; Mr. Kennedy of Minnesota; Mr. Shuster; Mr. Boozman; Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Choccola; Mr. Beauprez; Mr. Burgess; Mr. Burns; Mr. Pearce; Mr. Gerlach; Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida and Mr. Porter.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Mr. Bili-rakis; Mr. Everett; Mr. Buyer; Mr. Quinn; Mr. Stearns; Mr. Moran of Kansas; Mr. Gibbons; Mr. Baker; Mr. Simmons; Mr. Brown of South Carolina; Mr. Miller of Florida; Mr. Boozman; Mr. Bradley of New Hampshire; Mr. Beauprez; Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida and Mr. Renzi.

Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. Crane; Mr. Shaw; Mrs. Johnson of Connecticut; Mr. Houghton; Mr. Herger; Mr. McCrery; Mr. Camp; Mr. Ramstad; Mr. Nussle; Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas; Ms. Dunn; Mr. Collins; Mr. Portman; Mr. English; Mr. Hayworth; Mr. Weller; Mr. Hulshof; Mr. McInnis; Mr. Lewis of Kentucky; Mr. Foley; Mr. Brady of Texas; Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin and Mr. Cantor.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING CLEAR THE RESOLVE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it was written long ago that without a vision, the people perish. Tonight, the President of the United States from this very Chamber will offer a vision of moral clarity and purpose and resolve for the American people and the world.

It will be resolve to see our war on terror through to its just conclusion and protect our people; it will be resolve against any rogue state who, through its weapons or associations, threatens our peace and security; it will be resolve to renew our economy during struggling recessionary times and resolve to renew our cities through a faith-based initiative; and it will be resolve to keep our promises to seniors in reforming and expanding Medicare.

The President will describe our challenges at home and abroad as clear; but this President, Mr. Speaker, will make the resolve of the American people to overcome these challenges clearer still.

WEAKENING TITLE IX NOT AN OPTION

(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, I rise today to condemn any weakening of Title IX.

This week a national commission will vote on various proposals to reform Title IX for the Secretary of Education, Rod Paige. Since 1972, Title IX has made landmark strides to prohibit sex discrimination in education and to reverse discrimination against women in collegiate sports. However, under one proposal, women would be given only 43 percent of collegiate scholarships versus the 55 percent of enrollment in universities.

Critics of Title IX are saying that the law should be revised according to female interest. However, since its enactment, athletic participation by women in college has increased five times, despite the lack of resources devoted to make it an attractive thing to do.

Title IX has been a cornerstone for improvements for women not just in sports, but in key areas such as standardized testing, higher education and math and science employment. Until women are equal in all areas, weakening of Title IX should not be an option.

TRIBUTE TO MONIQUE BROWN

(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, just last week a beautiful young woman named Monique Brown died and went home to be with her Maker. Monique worked in my office as my legislative correspondent.

A month ago Monique was released from the hospital just in time to get married, giving her husband Christopher the opportunity to love her and care for her at home. He did so with amazing integrity and dedication. But then Monique returned to the hospital, where she fell into a coma and soon passed away.

Mr. Speaker, Monique was only 23 years old. She had a strong faith, and, though she wanted to live, the prospect of dying did not frighten her at all.

In Psalm 39 David wrote, "Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life."

"You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before You."

"But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in You."

Monique's hope was always in the Lord, but she does not need to hope anymore. She is now with her Lord.

SADDAM HUSSEIN, A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE WORLD

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, when we think of terrorism, we often limit our thoughts to just Afghanistan, but we must not forget the despicable role Iraq has played in supporting, training and harboring international terrorist organizations.

There are many reasons why Iraq is no friend to the free world. There are many reasons why Saddam Hussein poses a detrimental threat to the United States and the entire world.

It has been said time and time again that Iraq possesses chemical and biological weapons and that Saddam is ready and willing to use his arsenal against innocent civilians, even his own people. Just imagine what would happen if Saddam gave these weapons, capable of killing entire populations, to terrorists like the al Qaeda.

We cannot bury our heads in the sand and say, "Oh, he wouldn't do that." Saddam Hussein has lied to the words for over a decade and continues to defy the United Nations. He not only provides a safe harbor for terrorists, but provides them with state-of-the-art training camps. He cannot be trusted. He poses a serious threat to the United States, and he must be disarmed to protect the freedom and lives of Americans.

COMMENDING ANOTHER YEAR OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S LEADERSHIP

(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, President Bush has shown courageous leadership on many fronts since his last State of the Union Address a year ago.

In November, the President moved forward in the war on terrorism by securing a unanimous vote by the United Nations Security Council to force Saddam Hussein to disarm. Day by day, these inspectors uncover more evidence of Iraq's noncompliance and continued threat to Americans and our allies. As a result, President Bush is building a coalition to secure a regime change in Iraq. On this issue, the President is not just leading America, he is leading the freedom-loving world.

The President continues to work with our allies to capture al Qaeda terrorists wherever they may be hiding, and he has pushed for the creation of a new Department of Homeland Security.

I applaud the President for his leadership and inspiration to the American people, and I know tonight's State of the Union Address will send a message to the world that America is strong, united, determined and prepared to take on the challenges of 2003.

RECOGNIZING THE MERCURY RED-BONE CELEBRITY TOURNAMENT SERIES AND GARY AND SUSAN ELLIS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Mercury Red Bone Celebrity Tournament and their founders, Gary and Susan Ellis, members of my Congressional district, for their outstanding commitment to the fight against cystic fibrosis.

On March 15 of this year, Mercury Redbone and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will hold their fourth annual 10K Walk to Pigeon Key. The walk will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, an organization dedicated to the fight and the cure of this disease. Cystic fibrosis is the number one genetic killer of children and young adults in our country, and thousands of people have it.

Please join me in thanking the Ellis family and Redbone for their commitment to this noble cause.

PROMOTING RURAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting efforts to adequately address one of the most vulnerable aspects of the health care system, rural America.

This very minute, over 60 million rural Americans live with the risk of being without critical health care services. We must make sure that we have meaningful health care reform, guaranteeing all Americans access.

In my home State of West Virginia, 50 of the 55 counties are designated as "medically underserved." In addition, physicians in our State, like many other States, are experiencing a medical liability crisis that threatens to deprive us of critical care specialists. This situation has the makings of a "perfect storm."

Whether you live in New York City or Moorefield, West Virginia, we should all have access to proper health care. From ambulance service to community health centers to hospitals to nursing homes, millions of Americans are counting on us to make sure that rural health care delivery systems will be there for us when we truly need them.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13, MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2003

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 29 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 29

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 13) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon receipt of a message from the Senate transmitting House Joint Resolution 2 with a Senate amendment thereto, it shall be in order to consider in the House a motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House disagree to the Senate amendment and request or agree to a conference with the Senate thereon.

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Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 29 is a closed rule providing for the consideration of a very straightforward 1-week continuing resolution. The continuing resolution itself, H.J. Res. 13, makes further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003. The rule provides that H.J. Res. 13 will be debatable in the House for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY). The rule waives all points of order in consideration of H.J. Res. 13, and it provides 1 motion to recommit the underlying measure.

I want to note that section 2 of the resolution provides that upon receiving a message from the Senate transmitting H.J. Res. 2 with a Senate amendment, it shall be in order to consider in the House a motion by the Committee on Appropriations chairman or his designee that the House disagree to the Senate amendment and request or agree to a conference with the Senate. This provision in this section of the report is necessary to permit the Committee on Appropriations chairman the authority to offer a motion to go to conference on the omnibus appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is a clean continuing resolution that will ensure that the United States Government remains open through February 7 and that all Americans who are expecting any kind of Federal benefit, a Social Security check, Medicare payments, or veterans benefits will continue to do so without interruption.

While we can debate the substance of the continuing resolution in subsequent general debate, I will note that as negotiations continue on the overall appropriations package, this continuing resolution will make sure that ongoing programs are continued at current rates under the same terms and conditions as fiscal year 2002, except for the defense and military construction bills that have already been enacted into law. Current funding expires at midnight on Friday, without action on the continuing resolution that this rule permits. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this rule so that we may proceed to consideration of the continuing resolution and ensure that the Federal Government remains open until February 7.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, two important things will happen today on the floor of this House. First, we will debate and pass yet another continuing resolution, the eighth temporary stop-gap measure for a fiscal year that began almost 4 months ago. This continuing resolution represents an abdication of responsibility that has become almost run-of-the-mill under Republican control. Today's resolution, which extends the date of the current CR through February 7, means that Republicans will be 4 months late in addressing priorities like homeland security and the economy. America is struggling through dangerous, uncertain times; but the Republican Congress may as well still be on vacation.

Republican leaders are hoping this shameful failure will be obscured by today's second important event: the President's State of the Union address. The Republican majority is expecting to hide behind the glib rhetoric we have all come to expect from President Bush.

But political slogans only go so far, especially in the face of the wide and growing credibility gap facing a Republican Party that has spent the past 2 years saying one thing and doing another. And no matter how eloquent President Bush may be tonight, words alone cannot fix the primary problem this Republican government has created for the Nation at this difficult time.

Simply put, there are two states of the Union in America today. For the vast majority of Americans, these are difficult and anxious times; but for the Republican politicians and the privileged few they represent, like the corporate lobbyists invited to the White House today for a special sneak preview of the State of the Union, the good times just keep on coming.

It is a tragedy, Mr. Speaker; but it is the truth. Just take a look around the country. We will see hard-working