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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Eternal God and Creator of all we cherish and hold dear, help Congress finish its work for this week. Then, grant Members and staff peace of heart and relaxation in Your presence on the weekend.

May the fasting of Americans nourish a longing for peace and bring an end to violence on our streets and among nations.

May the sabbath of Americans bring contentment to families and greater respect among differing peoples.

May the worship of Americans strengthen faith, hope and love in the soul of the Nation and bring works of true compassion to those in need of help and consolation.

You alone are holy. You alone are the Lord of all, now and forever. 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 Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TERRY 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches on each side.

### ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, Medicaid waste, fraud and abuse is literally wasting billions of health care dollars and taking them away from elderly, blind, disabled and low-income Americans. For example, in California they found illegal billing for over \$20 million for tests never authorized by physicians. The State of New York identified some \$18 billion worth of fraud. Practices like this are unacceptable.

Yesterday the Committee on Energy and Commerce provided \$100 million in grants for health care providers who adopt electronic medical records. These advances in health information technology will help providers with large Medicaid populations, like community health centers and inner-city hospitals.

A Rand study reported that if we use electronic medical records throughout the Nation, it could save \$160 billion-plus in medical costs. The expansion of health IT promises to reduce errors and streamline Medicaid administration.

Mr. Speaker, health IT is the future. It is where we are going and applies this significant technology to save money, and, most importantly, lives. I urge my colleagues to visit my Web site at [murphy.house.gov](http://murphy.house.gov) for more information.

### PASS TRADE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2005

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. beef industry is a critical economic component of rural communities. The safety standards of the USDA allows the U.S. to provide the safest food supply in the world.

In 2003, Japan imposed a ban on U.S. beef products after the discovery of a cow infected with mad cow disease that never entered the food chain. Since

that time, USDA has implemented stronger, scientifically sound BSE controls, and has ramped up its enforcement, yet Japan continues to keep their borders closed to U.S. beef.

This unwarranted embargo by Japan has caused significant impacts to the U.S. cattle producers and beef processors. Today I am introducing legislation that will call on the U.S. Trade Representative to impose sanctions on Japan if they do not open their borders to our Nation's beef by December 31, 2005. Other Asian countries have since opened their borders to U.S. beef, and it is time for Japan to do the same. Therefore, I am asking my colleagues to support this legislation and bring an end to Japan's beef embargo.

### IRAN IS THREAT TO FREE WORLD

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this week Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called for the destruction of Israel in a speech in Tehran. He said, "There is no doubt that Palestine will soon wipe off this disgraceful blot from the face of the Islamic world. Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of Islamic nations' fury."

Mr. Speaker, this saber-rattling, rogue tyrant, terrorist-talking head of state and his comments are yet another example of his menacing threat to all people.

Now Iran, with nuclear capability, is a real concern to not only free Israel, but to the free world. Iran's neighbors should be on careful watch. Hopefully the people of Iran will keep this firebrand, drugstore gunslinger under some control.

The United States must reaffirm its commitment to the nation of Israel

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g.,  1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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