

### PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I represent New York's Hudson Valley, where small businesses are absolutely critical to our local economy. Our local small business owners and self-employed workers have repeatedly confirmed to me that the recent tax cuts are working and helping our small businesses create new jobs in our communities. But they also tell me time and again that one of the toughest challenges they face is being able to have affordable health care coverage for themselves and their workers.

This is frustrating, because we have passed the Small Business Health Fairness Act in the House to address this very problem, yet the politics of obstruction in the other body have kept the bill from passing into law.

Solving the problem of America's uninsured begins with helping small businesses. The facts are clear: Six out of 10 small businesses don't offer health insurance because they can't afford the high costs on their own in the private market.

The Small Business Health Fairness Act would provide them with lower costs, giving them the same group health insurance purchasing power already utilized by unions and large corporations. It will give 8 million currently uninsured small business workers the affordable health insurance they need.

Let us work with the other body to give small businesses on Main Street the same health insurance coverage as large firms on Wall Street.

### CONGRESS MUST STEP IN TO EXTEND DEADLINE ON MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN REGISTRATION

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, if the Bush administration does not act within the next 2 months, seniors who sign up for the Medicare prescription drug plan will be severely penalized. In less than 60 days, seniors who have not yet signed up for the plan will face a Bush Medicare drug tax for the rest of their lives.

The President has shown no interest in extending this arbitrary deadline. If the President won't act, Congress must.

House Democrats did not support this debacle of a prescription drug plan, but we don't want to see seniors penalized because the Republicans voted to create a confusing plan that most seniors believe won't work. Seniors need more time to make the right decision. They are understandably confused.

If the President won't act, House Republicans must join us in extending the deadline for seniors to sign up for the new drug plan. Democrats have introduced legislation that would give seniors 6 additional months to decide on the best plan for them. What is fair is fair. We simply cannot allow the Bush Medicare drug tax to take effect.

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### A BUILDING BLOCK IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA

(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. Madam Speaker, today we will witness another important building block in the development of the strategic partnership between the United States and India.

By introduction of bipartisan legislation to amend the Atomic Energy Act, Congress will begin the important process of authorizing peaceful nuclear cooperation between two great democracies that share similar values of goals and hopes for the future.

While the title of this agreement focuses on nuclear cooperation, the scope of this proposal reaches far beyond nuclear issues. Improved strategic relations with India will promote non-proliferation, will increase our energy independence, will provide environmental protection, strengthen our national security, and create thousands of new jobs for American workers.

As the global economy becomes increasingly competitive and the threat of terrorism endangers all free nations, America faces a historic opportunity with our friend, India. Our countries should take advantage of this unique chance to deliver tremendous mutual benefits to both Indian and American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

### THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AND EDUCATION CUTS

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, at the beginning of the 21st century, America stands as the greatest economic and military power in the history of the world. We have been blessed with tremendous resources, wonderful natural resources. But the most precious of all of our resources is the human potential of America's workforce.

But we have to sustain the investment in that potential. Today, half of our students will not graduate from high school. And here we have a budget proposed by the President that has some of the deepest, most dangerous cuts ever proposed, eliminating voca-

tional education, eliminating 36 other programs designed to help teachers and students, cutting billions of dollars from college student loan programs.

In fact, 3.7 million children will not even get the reading and math help they were promised under the Leave No Child Behind Act. This is not going to sustain our economic power, Madam Speaker. It undermines our economic strength, and, in fact, it is bound to shortchange our children's future.

### EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH AND THE EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, the demise of once-renowned South Korean embryonic stem cell researcher, Hwang Woo-Suk, has been well publicized. Once the darling of the research community, Dr. Hwang has since been disgraced, his research exposed as fraudulent, his methodologies shown to be unethical.

The fact that Dr. Hwang fabricated much of his research made big headlines. What was less noted, though, was that he coerced female members of his research team to donate their eggs for experimentation. This brought attention to a relatively unknown fact about embryo research.

It requires an enormous amount of human eggs, and the likelihood of women being exploited is great. This issue has brought together a coalition of pro-choice and pro-life women who are taking a stand against the exploitation of women by the biotech industry.

They point out that the egg extraction techniques required for this research can lead to infertility and even death. They are right to take such a stand against such exploitation, and we ought to stand with them.

### PRESIDENT BUSH NEEDS TO SHAKE UP THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, how low do the President's poll numbers have to go until he finally realizes that it is time to make some changes in his administration? Either he is to blame for all of the incompetence that we have seen out of the White House over the last couple of years, or he finds it a perfectly acceptable attribute in his key advisors.

With the ever-increasing violence in Iraq, it simply defies logic why Defense Secretary Rumsfeld still has a job. How many mistakes does Rumsfeld have to make before President Bush says enough is enough?

Then there is Secretary Chertoff. The White House can blame Michael Brown all they want for a tragically slow and