

HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, this morning, The Washington Post reports that States across this country are forced to start preparing to cut hundreds of thousands of children off of children's health care because Republicans in this House and President Bush have put children's health care on the bottom of their priority list. Unfortunately, we've seen this movie before. When States faced shortfalls and health care for children was threatened earlier this year, States were forced to take steps that would have denied hundreds of thousands of children health care. And once again, the administration failed to lead, and only Democratic efforts to fund the State children's health care in the supplemental appropriations saved us from that catastrophe.

From day one, the administration has adopted a policy of benign neglect when it comes to children's health care. In fact, the President's current plan would cut 1 million children from health care.

Now Republicans in this House have a chance to change that policy. On Thursday, Republicans can join Democrats and Republicans and give 10 million children the care that they need for the future. In fact, I always find it amazing that Republicans will give \$480 million to the war in Iraq, no questions asked, but when it comes to 10 million kids' health care, they have a lot of questions.

The choice is simple, 10 million children in States across the country are counting on the House Republicans to make the right choice for their future.

RESTORE ACT WILL HAMPER EFFORTS OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

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

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, our intelligence community and military officials should have every tool available to them as we continue to fight the global war on terror.

While we all agree that proper oversight is necessary, oversight does not equate to needless red tape, and it should never prohibit our men and women in uniform from doing their jobs, especially when it comes to rescuing American lives.

The article in yesterday's New York Post is a startling depiction of how the current system has failed our men and women. After a young American soldier was captured by al Qaeda insurgents last May, lawyers in Washington debated the legalities of electronic eavesdropping connected to his rescue for over 10 hours. That is completely unacceptable. Unfortunately, the RE-

STORE Act that the Democrat leadership is bringing to the floor this week will only continue to hamper the efforts of our intelligence community and place our men and women at risk.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to reconsider the RESTORE Act. We should focus our efforts on a bipartisan approach to our national security, not on legislating defeat. We should fight for the right to listen to al Qaeda and stop these plots.

BUSH TRYING TO SHOW FISCAL DISCIPLINE WITH CHILDREN'S HEALTH BILL—RHETORIC VS. REALITY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, President Bush and congressional Republicans know they have a perception problem with the American people when it comes to being fiscally responsible.

The fact is, they inherited a record surplus from President Clinton back in 2001, and over the next 6 years they turned that surplus into record deficits. In fact, it's so bad that President Bush has the distinction of borrowing more money from foreign nations than all of his 42 predecessors combined. That is not a record to brag about. And so now the President and some Republicans are attempting to wipe away 6 years of fiscal mismanagement by opposing a bipartisan bill that would provide quality health care coverage to 10 million children.

The problem is, the bill that they are opposing is completely paid for. You see, when we took over the House in January, we restored pay-as-you-go rules so that we could finally tackle our Nation's deficit. The bipartisan children's health care bill would not add one cent to our Nation's deficit. And House Republicans need to realize that this bill is bipartisan for a reason.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO COVER THE POOREST KIDS FIRST

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, let me just talk to my colleagues. A new Gallup Poll just came out yesterday, and it really shows what we on this side have been talking about.

The poll indicates that over 55 percent of Americans are worried that the expansion of the SCHIP program would create incentives for families to drop private health coverage and switch to the public program. This goes to the very core of what we've been saying.

I was here in 1997 when Republicans created the SCHIP program. The Democrat leadership is creating a future entitlement train wreck, and they would be wise to listen to the American people before tying the hands of

our Federal Government with more spending.

The poll goes on further to state that over 52 percent of Americans believe that most benefits should go to families making 200 percent below the poverty line. This was the original intent of the law.

The American people are asking Congress to follow the original bipartisan plan for the SCHIP program. The American people want to cover the poorest kids first; we do, too. The Democrat leadership needs to understand they're not doing the American people a favor with this program.

CHIP BILL AND BUSH'S VETO: FACT VS. REALITY ON THE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, many House Republicans have mistakenly bought into President Bush's false rhetoric about the CHIP program and its reauthorization. I would hope that they would listen to their Senate Republican colleagues who are willing to see past the White House rhetoric.

Republican Senator CORKER from Tennessee said, "What will move our country towards socialized medicine is not this bill, which focuses on poor children, but the lack of action to allow people in need to have access to private affordable health care."

Republican Senator ROBERTS of Kansas said, "I'm not for excessive spending and I strongly oppose the federalization of health care. And if the administration's concerns about this bill were accurate, I would support a veto. But, bluntly, they are not."

And Republican Senator HATCH from Utah thinks the President "has been sold a bill of goods" on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, the House Republicans should not buy into the administration's falsehoods. This week, we have an opportunity to ensure 10 million children have access to quality health insurance. They should join us in overriding the President's veto.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, what I'm hearing from my constituents is they are still very concerned about our national security, about border security, about the security on their streets and in their communities. That's why I would like to raise one issue with the House this morning.

For the second time in the last several months, a mobile foreign consulate has traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, on the western edge of my district, to issue government IDs and passports, the latest courtesy of the Guatemalan Government.