

we can redefine the payment system any way you want, but if you do not have qualified doctors and nurses and technicians and therapists to provide the services then there is no health care access. And today we are facing tremendous retirements with the baby boomer generation of those health care professionals.

There are some real health care reform issues that we need to be addressing that just have not been, and I think this class is well prepared to bring that to the health care debate.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I look forward to that discussion. Another of our colleagues, Dr. BILL CASSIDY from Louisiana, in his practice, co-founded a health clinic to match uninsured patients with doctors who provide services free of charge. So we have some very qualified, very caring medical care providers and physicians in our class, and I'm proud to serve with them.

Of course, Doctor PHIL, you are among them. Would you please comment on this subject.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Just a couple of things that Congressman THOMPSON talked about. One, is accessibility to care, and that is the crisis of personnel. If you look in the next 20 years, over half of our registered nurses can and will retire. We'll need a million new registered nurses in the next 8 years.

In the next 10 to 12 years there will be more physicians retiring and dying in this country than we're producing in this country. We are not investing in the medical infrastructure to increase the class size, and I don't know where that anybody thinks who's going to provide this care. So that is very correct. It is a huge issue.

The challenge here is affordable health care, and that's accessible to people. It's not going to be easy. I've dealt with this for over 30 years, and this is going to be very, very complicated to do.

We do not need to do this fast. We need to do it right. And I think that's one of the worries that I have is that we're going to go and have this arbitrary deadline of 60 days from now. Who says 60 days from now we should have this right, have it done? We need to get it right. If it takes 6 months we need to get it right because it affects every American.

Let me just give you a couple of little examples. In this country, we have 47 million people that are uninsured. That's about 15 percent of our population.

In the State of Tennessee several years ago, about 15, 16 years ago, we had a Medicaid waiver. And for those out there that understand what Medicaid is for the uninsured and poor in this country, and Medicare is for our citizens over 65, this was a Medicaid waiver to form a managed care plan called TennCare. And what it did was, it was a very rich blended plan that provided a lot of care for not much money. And what we found in the State was that 45 percent of the people who

got on TennCare had private health insurance but dropped it.

Well, then I asked the providers, what percent of your costs does TennCare actually pay in our district, in our area? And I went to several different hospital systems. About 60 percent. And Medicare pays about 90 percent. And as you pointed out very clearly, and then the uninsured pay somewhere in between.

And what you pointed out very clearly was that what happens is that cost is shifted and more cost, so your private health insurance goes up each year, part of it not because of what you do, but because of what the government has done, which is not pay the freight. And my concern is, when we get a public plan that's "competitive", it also will offer a lot of benefits but won't pay the costs of the services, once again, causing a shift to the private health insurer, meaning they will be crowded out. And over time, I'm afraid you'll end up with a single-payer system. And a single-payer system is not what the American people, I think, want. And certainly that's something that's going to be discussed in great detail in the future.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I might mention the three officers of our freshman Republican class who couldn't join us this evening, and two of our more unique members who I hope will be able to join us if we have the opportunity to do this again. Our class president is STEVE AUSTRIA of Ohio. He was a force in getting Jessica's Law and the Adam Walsh Child Protection Safety Act passed into State law. Our representative on the Steering Committee, GREGG HARPER of, Mississippi, is an attorney with a child whom he has brought to share his unique health concerns with us. And we've all learned a lot from him.

And of course, our Policy Committee representative, JASON CHAFFETZ, who is a former Division I football player at Brigham Young University, my University of Wyoming's nemesis, but a dear colleague of ours, and two wonderful freshmen who are plowing new ground. The very first Vietnamese American to serve in the United States Congress, JOSEPH CAO, born in Saigon, Vietnam, escaped at the age of 8 to the United States, lost his home during Katrina, and fought to return electricity and telecommunications to Louisiana residents after Katrina.

We also boast the youngest Member of this U.S. House of Representatives, Aaron Schock, the youngest school board president, Illinois State Rep, and a Member of Congress with whom we are privileged to serve.

I thank the gentlemen for joining me this evening. I thank our Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia, who was very patient with his fellow freshmen colleagues from the other party, and look forward to the opportunity to have a bipartisan freshman discussion at an early opportunity.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. COURTNEY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today after 3 p.m., June 5 and 8.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. COSTA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. COSTA, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. GIFFORDS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GOHMERT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, June 11.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, June 11.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, June 11.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, June 9, 10 and 11.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, June 8, 2009, at 12:30 p.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2014. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Promoting Diversification of Ownership in the Broadcasting Services [MB Docket No.: 07-294] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2015. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to License Requirements and License Exception Eligibility for Certain Thermal Imaging Cameras and Foreign Made Military Commodities Incorporating Such Cameras [Docket No.: 0612242573-7104-01] (RIN: 0694-AD71) received May 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2016. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of T 37 Jet Trainer Aircraft and Parts from the Commerce Control List. [Docket No.: 090406632-9631-01] (RIN: 0694-AC74) received May 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.