

House Republicans know that health care run by government bureaucrats doesn't work, because it has been tried and failed in other countries. Tragedies result when government controls health care and makes decisions best left to doctors and their patients.

Republicans will offer a better plan for health care reform, one that provides patients and their families with the peace of mind that comes with having the care they need when they need it.

DEVELOPING A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE FOR MAINE

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, in Maine we are witnessing the birth of an industry, a clean energy industry that will create the jobs and supply the renewable energy we will need to grow our economy. In Maine, we have the people, the technology and the resources to develop and grow this industry.

Last week, Maine hosted the International Energy Ocean Conference, where hundreds of clean energy experts from around the world gathered and saw firsthand how serious our State is about developing renewable energy.

Also last week the Maine Wind Industry Initiative went public. MWII has organized the complete wind power industry supply chain, from large organizations like Bath Iron Works to smaller companies that specialize in precision composite manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, Maine has an important role to play in Maine's clean energy future, and Maine people are ready to be part of it.

WHY ARE AMERICANS FORCED TO PAY FOR THE HEALTH CARE OF ILLEGALS?

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the government control crowd is pushing for universal government takeover of health care. They say only Dr. Uncle Sam can cure the high cost of medicine.

Well, one way to keep down the high cost of health care that no one dares mention is to secure the borders. The flood of illegals coming here for free health care services costs taxpayers billions every year. California spends \$1.5 billion a year in medical costs just for illegals. No wonder they are going broke. Texas spends \$700 million a year. Virginia spends \$100 million a year, and they are not even a border state.

That doesn't count the cost to hospitals that treat illegals. Hospitals aren't allowed to check citizenship, so illegals use expensive emergency rooms to treat minor ailments. The hospital then must charge more to citizens and

legal immigrants just to stay in business. Illegals also drive up the cost of medical insurance for everybody else.

Mr. Speaker, if we stop paying for medical coverage for illegals, then citizens and legal immigrants could obtain affordable health care. Americans should not be forced and coerced to pay for the health care of people illegally in the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 0915

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3082, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 622 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 622

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3082) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read through page 58, line 6. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, except as provided in section 2, no amendment shall be in order except the amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for ten minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. In the case of sundry amendments reported from the Committee, the question of their adoption shall be put to the House en gros and without division of the question. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. After disposition of the amendments specified in the first section of the resolution, the chair and ranking minority

member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees each may offer one pro forma amendment to the bill for the purpose of debate, which shall be controlled by the proponent.

SEC. 3. The Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee. The Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII).

SEC. 4. During consideration of H.R. 3082, the Chair may reduce to two minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order against H. Res. 622 because the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act.

The resolution contains a waiver of all points of order against consideration of the bill, which includes a waiver of section 425 of the Congressional Budget Act which causes a violation of section 426(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The gentleman has met the threshold burden to identify the specific language in the resolution on which the point of order is predicated. Such a point of order shall be disposed of by the question of consideration.

The gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration. After the debate, the Chair will put the question of consideration, to wit: Will the House now consider the resolution?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, there may well be unfunded mandates in this bill, but that's not why I rise today. I rise because it's about the only mechanism we have to talk about the fact that we are bringing appropriation bills to the floor under closed or structured rules, which violates basically every precept we've had in this House about openness and transparency on appropriation bills.

For years—and decades—appropriation bills have been brought to the floor under an open rule, allowing Members to offer amendments to various sections of the bill and not be precluded from that. But these bills are being brought to the floor all year under closed or structured rules, allowing very, very few amendments. Let me tell you why that's important.

Here, in the past, when Republicans were in the majority, we were lacking a lot of transparency on earmarks. I would come to the floor and offer sometimes a dozen earmark amendments on the floor to strike earmarks, and I had no idea most times when I would come to the floor whose earmark I was challenging. I would simply come and challenge it. And sometimes the sponsor of the earmark would come down to the