

to a hospital in El Monte with flu symptoms, including flu, fever, congestion, and cough. She was sent away with cough syrup. Days later, Monica was admitted into intensive care, but it was too late, and Monica passed away on October 25 due to complications from the H1N1 virus.

Monica was a pregnant woman with flu-like symptoms that should have set off alarm bells. Despite multiple visits to the hospital, she was denied treatment that could have saved her life. The Centers for Disease Control issued guidelines for health care providers that said, "Pregnant women are at higher risk for severe complications and death from influenza, including both 2009 H1N1 influenza and seasonal influenza." If the El Monte hospital had followed these guidelines, her tragic death could have been avoided. Her husband, Jorge Gonzalez, wants others to know about his wife's death so that they can receive proper care.

In memory of Monica Rodriguez, I will introduce a resolution alerting people so no other person will needlessly die in this manner.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2009 EDINA GIRLS TENNIS TEAM

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Edina High School girls tennis team who won the Minnesota 2-A State Championship just last week. Their final victory, a 6-1 triumph over a strong Elk River team, continued a string of dominance by the Edina program that has clearly become one of the most successful high school athletic programs in the entire State of Minnesota.

The Hornets' victory marked the 13th consecutive State tennis championship, a streak in which Edina has impressively won 248 of their past 249 dual matches. Led by coach Steve Paulsen, the Hornets finished the 2009 season with a record of 24-0 in dual matches.

To all of the student athletes, to the coaches and the parents, I offer my congratulations on a great accomplishment and for an impressive run of championships that is truly a tribute to everyone involved. The streak is still alive, and I am proud to represent a school and athletics program with such a longstanding commitment to success.

BRANDON'S LAW

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

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Brandon Ballard of Taylor Ridge, Illinois, and to support testicular cancer education, the best medicine to fight the most common cancer in young men.

Madam Speaker, Brandon Ballard was a star high school basketball play-

er with a champion's heart. Although Brandon had been active in sports and had annual physical exams, his cancer went undetected for 2 years. During his illness, Brandon dedicated himself to raising awareness about the warning signs of testicular cancer. One year ago this month, Brandon lost a hard-fought battle with testicular cancer at the young age of 19.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today not only to share with you Brandon's story but to recognize the efforts of Jim and Kristen Ballard to carry on Brandon's work. With the support of Senator Mike Jacobs, the Ballards lobbied the State assembly to require health classes to teach the signs and symptoms of testicular cancer and encourage screenings of male athletes. I am proud to say that their hard work paid off in August when Governor Pat Quinn signed Brandon's Law.

Madam Speaker, I commend the Ballard family for turning the tragic loss of their son into an opportunity to save the lives of young men.

AMERICANS OPPOSE SANCTUARY CITIES

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, a recent Rasmussen Report shows that 68 percent of U.S. voters oppose the creation of sanctuary cities that give safe haven to illegal immigrants. And by a 5-2 margin, voters say sanctuary policies that protect illegal immigrants lead to an increase in crime.

Not only are sanctuary cities unpopular, they are illegal. They are specifically prohibited in the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. But the Obama administration has not held any jurisdictions that adopt and maintain sanctuary policies responsible.

It's no wonder that a recent CNN/Opinion Research poll found that 58 percent of respondents disapproved of the President's handling of illegal immigration while only 36 percent approve. And his poll numbers aren't going to be helped if taxpayers subsidize illegal immigrants in the health care bill that we are considering this week.

Rather than flout the will of the American people, the White House should heed their advice and enforce our Nation's immigration laws.

HEALTH CARE REFORM IS GOOD FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this weekend this House will be the scene of a debate on the most important bill that has faced this Congress and this country since 1965, and that is health care, putting out country on a path

where it should have been in the 20th century but catching up. The AARP has recently endorsed the bill because they know that it helps senior citizens. It will guarantee that the rates don't go up and the doughnut hole will be closed.

My local alternative paper, the Memphis Flyer, had a feature story, Young People and Health Insurance. Most young people don't have health insurance. They think they're invincible, they don't necessarily have jobs, and they can't stay on their parents' policy. When this bill passes, Madam Speaker, young people will be able to stay on their parents' health insurance policies until they're 27, filling a great void. Most parents don't like the idea of their children not having health insurance.

This will help the young and the old. It will help all of America. It is, indeed, America's bill. I will proudly vote for it.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TAX TAX TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, there are brand new ways to tax people in this Federal health care bill. According to the Americans for Tax Reform, these new health care taxes will affect everyone. There are at least \$700 billion in taxes in this takeover. It taxes small businesses; it taxes individuals.

For the first time in history, Congress is going to require individuals to buy something. If this health care bill passes, citizens will be required to buy government-approved health insurance. If they don't buy that government-approved health insurance, they are going to have to pay a criminal fine. That violates the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution, the due process clause.

If someone owns a small business, they will be required to pay about three-quarters of the cost of health insurance for their employees, whether they can afford it or not. Employees would be required to pay the rest of the

government-approved health insurance, whether they can afford it or not.

The government decides what a person can and cannot afford. Employers and employees who don't buy the government-approved insurance then have to pay this fine. This is a criminal penalty on citizens.

There is also a new tax hike on flexible spending accounts and health savings accounts. Right now people can put as much pretax money as they want into one of these accounts to help pay for insurance. These accounts will get a \$1.3 billion new tax. The new government-run health care bill won't let anyone buy over-the-counter drugs out of these accounts. All of the medicines that have been made easier to buy without a prescription are now going to be taxed. Now why, Madam Speaker, would the government discourage people from taking care of themselves and having these health savings accounts?

The new health care bill also makes other legal tax deductions now illegal. This new tax is called the economic substance doctrine. Under this new health care bill, the IRS would be able to decide what a person was thinking when they bought something and they deducted it from their income tax as a business expense.

What that means is my friend Sammy Mahan in Baytown, Texas, buys a new wrecker truck for his tow truck business, and he writes it off on his income tax as a business expense. The IRS would be able to decide what he was really thinking when he bought that wrecker truck. If the IRS decides he bought that new wrecker just to go fishing in it, they won't allow the tax write-off. And the IRS decides what he was thinking, not what he says. In fact, the IRS is presumed to know what he was thinking when he lawfully wrote off that truck as a business expense. These thought police may not approve his lawful tax deduction. This new rule not only penalizes Sammy for his thoughts, it penalizes him for what the government thinks his thoughts were; what Sammy was really thinking when he bought that wrecker truck anyway and claimed that lawful tax.

Having tax thought police is strange enough, but what this is doing in a health care bill in the first place makes no sense. This ought to be in a separate piece of legislation to begin with. Do the taxocrats really think people will go out and have a heart valve replacement just to write it off their income tax?

But there's also more. There is a new tax on medical devices, a 2.5 percent tax on things like pacemakers and wheelchairs and hip replacement devices and new heart valves, lawful tax deductions for medical expenses that will be outlawed under this bill. So the tax thought police could not only deny a tax deduction for that heart valve replacement, but they could turn around and tax that new heart valve as well.

Madam Speaker, people are hurting out there in their pocketbooks and we

can't afford a government-run health insurance policy at this time because it costs too much. The people can't afford all these new taxes and seniors can't afford to have a half trillion dollars cut out of their Medicare.

This government takeover of health care is just in time for Thanksgiving. Hopefully the American people won't be the turkey served up on the plate of government-run health care reform.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TOWNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LET'S HELP THE AFGHAN PEOPLE TO REJECT VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the last 8 years has taught us a very hard lesson. There is no military solution to Afghanistan. Escalating the war by sending in tens of thousands more troops will not defeat violent extremism in that country.

That's why I have urged President Obama to change the mission in Afghanistan. We must abandon the military-only strategy that has failed us and that we must begin to emphasize humanitarian aid, economic development, reconstruction, better health care and education. These are the tools that the Afghan people need to improve their lives and to reject extremism.

Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times wrote a column last week entitled, "More Schools, Not Troops." His article makes the case for changing our mission very well. In his column, Kristof writes that investments in education, health and agriculture "have a better record at stabilizing societies than military solutions, which have a pretty dismal record."

Education is especially important, he says. He argues that "schools are not a quick fix, but we have abundant evidence that they can, over time, transform countries."

He gave Pakistan and Bangladesh as examples of that. The United States has spent \$15 billion in Pakistan, Madam Speaker, since 9/11, mostly on military support. Yet Pakistan is more unstable than ever and al Qaeda has found a home there.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh, once a part of Pakistan, has made major investments in education, especially for girls. This has spurred economic growth, which has helped keep al Qaeda out of that country.

Kristof also writes that "when I travel in Pakistan, I see evidence that one group, the extremists, believes in the transformative power of education.

They provide free schooling and often free meals for students. They offer scholarships for the best pupils. What I don't see is similar numbers of American-backed schools. It breaks my heart that we don't invest in schools as much as medieval, misogynist extremists."

He then goes on to say that "for roughly the same cost as stationing 40,000 troops in Afghanistan for 1 year, we could educate the great majority of the 75 million children worldwide who are not getting even a primary education. Such a vast global education campaign would reduce poverty, cut birth rates, improve America's image in the world, promote stability and chip away at extremism."

Madam Speaker, I hope that President Obama will keep this in mind as he reviews his options on Afghanistan and makes his decisions in the coming weeks. America simply cannot afford to rely on our military power alone, because that strategy plays right into the hands of the extremists. Our heavy military footprint is feeding the insurgency in Afghanistan, not weakening it.

By changing the mission to emphasize education and the other tools that can give the Afghan people a real stake in peace, we can stop violent extremism in its tracks. And we can keep our troops safer and build a more peaceful world for our children and our grandchildren.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, the Democrat health bill is not about lowering costs or making health care more affordable, it's about government control and higher spending. It's about a government takeover of our health care system. It follows that it's about the Federal Government deciding how, where and when you get your health care.

At its most basic, the bill creates a government-run health insurance system that will end private health insurance options and, in doing so, will force Americans to purchase coverage only from a government-controlled program. The Federal Government would therefore decide which health care plans are acceptable. A Federal commissioner would decide which health care benefits are offered and how much is to be charged for those benefits. The proposed Medicare cuts would eliminate options for seniors and place recipients under a Medicare without