

through fiscal discipline, so, too, must this Congress.

House Republicans are passionately committed to creating jobs and getting the American people back to work.

□ 1030

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, reproductive self-determination is one of the most fundamental civil and human rights a woman can have. And this right is under attack in the health care reform debate. Let's be clear that the real goal of the anti-choice opposition is not to maintain the status quo. Rather, they want to extend Federal prohibitions into private pocketbooks. They hope to make abortion coverage so unattractive that insurers eventually stop offering coverage for an otherwise legal medical procedure.

Women do not plan to have unintended pregnancies or pregnancies with complications. Unfortunately, these do happen. It is deeply insulting to tell women that if you want to guard against these unplanned situations, go buy additional coverage.

Essentially, health insurance companies today already treat being a woman as a preexisting condition, and they charge us more for it. The men of this country would rise up in protest if they faced this kind of unequal treatment based on conditions particular to their gender.

JOB RECOVERY

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

Mr. SIREN. Mr. Speaker, today Congress is faced with one of the greatest economic challenges of our time: high unemployment rates. It is a challenge that we must be determined to meet. While current unemployment numbers are still too high, the continued decline of job losses is a promising sign of economic recovery that we must build on.

We have already taken bold steps to lift our Nation out of recession. Since January, we have stabilized the financial system, revived lending to small businesses, prevented home foreclosures, cut taxes for the middle class, extended unemployment insurance, and created and saved more than 1 million jobs.

We must now build on this progress for continued job growth. Yesterday, the President outlined a frame of action to produce the greatest number of jobs while generating the greatest value for our economy. His top priorities include helping small businesses grow and hire new staff, additional investments in our roads, bridges, and infrastructure to create shovel-ready jobs, and increased investments in clean energy to spawn more green jobs.

In order to face our unemployment crisis head-on, Congress must follow the President's lead by passing a comprehensive jobs recovery package.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, for 8 years, President Bush's administration looked the other way as Wall Street exploited our financial system and ignored mounting risks. This failure to regulate our markets led to Wall Street gambling with America's livelihood and compromised our families' futures and savings.

Here we go again, making the tough choices that are necessary to bring our economy back from the brink of disaster. This great Nation is suffering the consequences of a period in our history where living beyond our means plagued not only American consumers but also those on Wall Street whose greed compelled them to take indefensible risks. The market failed us. It certainly wasn't a free market. It's beyond a "minor adjustment."

Wall Street reform is a critical step as we turn the tide and change not only how we deal with our financial sector but also where we lay to rest 8 years that marked the most fiscally irresponsible period in our Nation's history.

As we rebuild our economy, we must put in place commonsense rules to ensure Wall Street cannot jeopardize our recovery again.

STUPAK AMENDMENT

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in objection to the Stupak-Pitts amendment that was added to our Affordable Health Care for America Act 1 month ago. It represents an overreach that denies women the right to buy abortion coverage with their own money. It will eventually deny all but the wealthiest women in America access to reproductive choice.

Were it up to me and many of my colleagues on both sides of this issue, abortion would never have intruded into our health care debate like this. But sadly, the Conference of Catholic Bishops had other ideas. They chose to hold comprehensive health care reform hostage to the abortion issue. They lobbied for this legislation in a manner that was unbecoming to our faith, and in doing so, they failed their obligation to help the poor and heal the sick.

Nonetheless, I'm heartened to see that, yesterday, our colleagues in the other body rejected a similarly overreaching amendment. I hope that we will get back to a common ground approach when it returns from conference. America's women need a

health care bill that ends discrimination against them, not encodes it ever further into our system of law.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4213, TAX EXTENDERS ACT OF 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 955 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 955

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4213) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASCRELL of Arizona). The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCURI. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4213, the Tax Extenders Act of 2009. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 and 10 of Rule XXI and against the bill itself. The rule provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervening motion except 1 hour of debate and one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule to assist American families and small businesses with needed tax relief in a time when American citizens and American small businesses are beginning to turn the corner. This rule will allow us to bring legislation to the House floor later today that will not only strengthen our economy by directing tax relief to middle class families and creating jobs at small businesses, but will also do this in a deficit neutral, fiscally responsible way.