

passed H.R. 1, which included the Pence amendment ending taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in America. Despite efforts to suggest otherwise, the Pence amendment does not reduce funding for cancer screening or eliminate one dime of funding for other important health services to women. If the Pence amendment becomes law, thousands of women's health centers, clinics and hospitals would still provide assistance to low-income families and women. The Pence amendment would simply deny all Federal funding to Planned Parenthood of America.

Over the past several weeks, Planned Parenthood has used its vast resources to launch slick Madison Avenue television ads portraying the Nation's largest abortion provider as an altruistic organization that provides health care services to the poor with only an incidental interest in the abortion industry. The truth is far afield from the image. The truth is that a major source of Planned Parenthood's clinic income comes from the abortion business.

Despite attempts by advocates for the abortion industry and ideologues on the left to portray efforts to defund Planned Parenthood as some kind of a "war on women," the issue here is big business, and that business is abortion. This legislative battle over the Pence amendment is about Big Abortion versus American taxpayers and American women specifically.

As Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood director, recently said, "Planned Parenthood's mission, on paper, is to give quality and affordable health care and to protect women's rights. But in reality," she said, "their mission is to increase their abortion numbers and in turn increase their revenue."

There is no doubt that Planned Parenthood's focus is on making Big Abortion even bigger. In 2009, the group made only 977 adoption referrals and cared for 7,021 prenatal clients, but performed an unprecedented 332,278 abortions. In fact, in 2009, a pregnant woman entering a Planned Parenthood clinic was 42 times more likely to have an abortion than to receive either prenatal care or to be referred to an adoption service.

According to their most recent annual report, the organization raked in \$1.1 billion in total revenue. Of that amount, \$363.2 million came from taxpayers in the form of government grants and contracts. This is about big business, and that business is abortion.

And for all the talk about how poor women would be harmed if taxpayers stopped subsidizing Big Abortion, it is telling to see how they have been spending their money. According to a June 2008 story in *The Wall Street Journal*, Planned Parenthood was flush with cash and using its profits to rebrand itself to appeal to more affluent American women. Their rebranding effort was designed to build their busi-

ness by increasingly targeting wealthy consumers to complement their existing targeting of poor and minority women.

While taxpayers underwrite their operations, Planned Parenthood is building large luxury health centers in shopping centers and malls designed by marketing experts with touches like hardwood floors, muted lighting, large waiting rooms and the like.

And Big Abortion routinely puts profits over women's health and safety. When women testify on behalf of improved safety standards at abortion clinics, Planned Parenthood opposes it and fights them every step of the way. And despite the fact that 88 percent of Americans favor informed consent laws that provide information about the risks and alternatives to abortions for women, Planned Parenthood opposes these efforts and works to keep women in the dark in jurisdictions across the country.

The reality is abortion on demand is an American tragedy, but public funding of abortion providers is an American disgrace. The time has come to deny any and all funding to Planned Parenthood of America and this week, as House Republicans reaffirm our commitment to H.R. 1, to reaffirm our commitment to make a down payment on fiscal responsibility and reform. Let us also seize this moment to reaffirm our commitment to defend the broad mainstream values of the American people in the way we spend the people's money.

I urge continued support by my colleagues on both sides of the aisle of the Pence amendment denying public funding to Planned Parenthood of America.

#### TRIBUTE TO GERALDINE FERRARO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate my colleague yielding me this time.

I have come to the floor to let the world know that during the time I have been in the Congress, from my view, one of my dearest friends has just passed away.

Geraldine Ferraro and I came to the Congress together as classmates some three decades ago. She was more than just a friend. She managed to have me serve on the same committee with her that first term. From the Public Works Committee, it wasn't very long before she convinced a cross-section of us to travel with her to New York to attempt to have us better understand the difficulty New York has in delivering potable water to the people of the great City of New York.

Geraldine was a really, really tough lady, according to some. I knew her as a wonderful friend. She was a woman who cared about her constituency and fought very hard to represent their interests; and, indeed, the initial role of any Member of Congress is to represent

or try to represent their people well, and Gerry and I learned together what that was all about.

So over these years as I look back on this service, the opportunity to serve with the woman who became the first major-party woman as a Vice Presidential nominee, it was always my privilege to say that Gerry Ferraro most importantly was my friend.

Mr. Speaker, when Gerry Ferraro and I came to Congress in 1979, she was one of just 16 women serving in the House of Representatives. It could be frustrating for my female colleagues at that time—my friend Congresswoman Shirley Pettis, who I had the honor of succeeding in the House, told stories of being asked on several occasions if she was someone's secretary when she got off the member's elevator.

But Gerry Ferraro, who had made a name for herself in the New York district attorney's office, soon caught the eye of Speaker Tip O'Neill. He named her to the Public Works and Transportation Committee and later to the Budget Committee. It was the beginning of a close relationship with Tip O'Neill, who eventually had a strong hand in putting Gerry in line to be named as the first female vice presidential candidate from a major party.

As a fellow member of the Public Works and Transportation Committee, I quickly saw that Gerry would be a very strong advocate for the needs of her Queens district. We both understood the absolutely essential priority of serving our constituents, and ensuring that federal dollars flowed where they could provide solutions to very major challenges.

I also found that although Gerry Ferraro had a pretty liberal reputation, she was ready and willing to work with members on both sides of the aisle to accomplish goals and serve the needs of her constituents and all Americans. She and I worked together often in recognition of the fact that 90 percent of the issues we confront here have nothing to do with partisan politics.

Her willingness to fight for her district and her ability to get things done brought her respect and admiration from people throughout New York and beyond. It also led Tip O'Neill to get her appointed to chair the party's convention platform committee in 1984. And that in turn led Walter Mondale to realize the great qualities of this hardworking, pragmatic representative from Queens. He asked her to be his vice presidential nominee, and history was made.

Mr. Speaker, today we welcome 74 women colleagues in the House and 17 in the Senate. That is without question an improvement to be applauded, although my old friend Gerry Ferraro would say there is still a lot of work to do. I do not doubt that many of those who serve with me drew their inspiration to run for office from Geraldine Ferraro's pioneering spirit, and I will always be proud that I served as her classmate.

So, with that, in memory of Gerry's service here in the Congress, I watched her grow as a human being and a public servant, and I am very proud of the fact that she is my friend.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: With the Psalmist we pray:

Those who put their trust in You, Lord God, are like the mountains that cannot be shaken. They seem to absorb all the turmoil and controversy. They stand tall and strong forever.

Just as the mountains, as well as the depths of the sea coasts, surround this Nation, so, Lord, Your love holds Your people now and forever.

You will not allow the power of lies and half truths to dominate the air breathed in by the just, nor will You allow fear to paralyze their hands when it comes to defending what is right.

Do good, Lord, for those who seek the common good and are openhearted. Drive away those who are so deceived they create only indecision and dissension among the virtuous.

Give us peace, Lord, now and forever. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

#### GOP AGENDA OF MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Members: Ignoring the facts, the experts, political reality, and the best interests of the American people, the Republican leadership continues to embrace a spending plan already rejected by the Senate that would destroy 700,000 jobs and derail the economic recovery.

The Republican spending plan is a doctrine of misplaced priorities. They want to lay off teachers, cut Pell Grants, slash programs for homeless veterans, and reduce Head Start, among other shortsighted and harmful cuts.

Incomes and consumer spending increased in February, helping to expand the Nation's economy. First time jobless claims decreased by 5,000 a week. The total number of people receiving benefits fell to the lowest level in 3 years, due, in part, to increased hiring.

The February jobs report shows a gain of 192,000 jobs, a significant employment increase that marks the 12th straight month of private sector growth and a drop in the unemployment rate to 8.9 percent, the lowest level in almost 2 years.

Let's don't hurt our fragile recovery by the Republican majority shutting down the government.

#### FOREIGN POLICY AND CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, we are in the midst of a foreign policy and constitutional crisis. The administration has committed our Nation to a war against Libya in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

The administration has said they do not have full information about the rebels they are assisting. But it is clear that for the last 30 years, U.S. intelligence has had a relationship with prominent elements within the Libyan opposition.

Further, The New York Times today reports that elements of the opposition may be linked to al Qaeda, and that we are considering arming them.

When it comes to the war in Libya, the administration has subverted Congress and the United States Constitution. Tomorrow, I will present to Congress a definitive 1-hour response to the administration's Libyan war in the form of facts and questions. Congress

must challenge violations of our constitutional principles relating to war and peace.

The critical issue today is not the defense of Libyan democracy but the defense of American democracy.

#### RECOGNIZING PROVIDENCE VA MEDICAL CENTER

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center for their outstanding service to the heroic men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

The Providence VA Medical Center is an award-winning health care facility in Rhode Island providing personalized outpatient and inpatient health care to our veterans. Recently the Providence VA received the National Center for Patient Safety's 2010 Cornerstone Recognition Program Bronze Award for successfully providing high quality health services to our veterans.

The men and women who serve in the Armed Forces put their lives on the line every day to protect the freedoms that we enjoy here at home. We owe our troops, veterans, and their families our utmost gratitude and respect, in addition to exceptional medical care for their great sacrifices on our behalf.

I commend the Providence VA Medical Center for their excellent service to our veterans. Congratulations on your achievements, and thank you for your commitment to Rhode Island's veterans.

#### LOAN MODIFICATION CRISIS

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, last year, I heard from a single father from Haverhill, Massachusetts, who put his life savings into purchasing a home. After a reduction in his salary forced him to modify his mortgage, his servicer stopped returning his phone calls, lost his documents, and refused to provide him with any information to help him modify his loan.

He wrote to me saying, "My bank told me that they had not received the application documents I had sent at the beginning of the modification process. It was ridiculous, as I have the original documents on file with the fax receipt. Nonetheless, I faxed everything again."

Over the course of an entire year, he called and re-sent his documents, speaking with multiple people, none of whom could give him an answer or even find that he had a modification in place.

This story represents just one of the many that I have heard from constituents. We should be doing far more to ensure that these lenders are playing by the rules.