

before. Again, it is a bipartisan solution. It is a plan to save Medicare. Unlike the gentleman's party or his President, we are actually proposing a solution to the problem and saving the program for this generation and the next.

Again, I'm sure the gentleman disagrees with my characterization and I with his. But to answer his question, to get back on track as far as the schedule and the fashion in which these bills are going to be brought to the floor, yes, consistent with precedent, we will be allowing full substitutes to be offered on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comment.

The last thing I would ask the gentleman: Am I correct that the agreement that was reached between our parties, which led to the passage of the Budget Control Act in a bipartisan fashion, does not reflect the substance of that agreement as it relates to the discretionary spending number for fiscal year 2013? Senator McCONNELL is quoted, as you know, as saying that that was an agreement that was reached and that he expected it to be pursued.

I want to make it clear that he was not referring to the action of the Budget Committee, but he was referring to the agreement on the discretionary number.

Am I correct that the agreement that was reached, in order to get a bipartisan vote on the Budget Control Act, which we passed, which made sure that this country did not default on its debts for the first time in history, am I correct that that number is not the number that is reflected in the budget?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I respond to the gentleman by saying it is our view that the agreement reached in August at the top line was that, a cap. We all know we've got to do something about spending in this country, and the top line, or 302(a), within our budget resolution will reflect that top line provided in the budget resolution for the second year of the budget that we posed last year.

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Again, we view it very much that we need to continue to try—at least try—to save taxpayer dollars when we are generating over \$1 trillion of deficits every year, and I think the taxpayers expect no less.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments, but I will tell the gentleman that if we're going to have negotiations, and we have one number and you have another number, and we agree on a number, and then we pass a bill which reflects that number, put it in law—it doesn't say it's a cap; it says that will be the number. As we pass the budget, we said that will be the number. Now this is the law. And as was observed by others on the other side of the Capitol, but I will observe it here as well, if we're going to have those kinds of negotiations, it's sort of like

the guy who comes up to you and says, look, I've got something to sell you, do you want to buy it? And you say, yes, let's negotiate on price. And you come to a price of \$100. And then you come to settle, and the guy says, well, that was my top number. I'm going to give you \$92 for that item. You don't have a meeting of the minds as a contract requires.

Very frankly, nobody on our side, and frankly I don't think anybody on your side that negotiated the deal—I don't mean that didn't vote for it—and as a matter of fact, I know for a fact the Speaker, and I believe yourself, have been quoted that that was the number and we ought to stick with it. Clearly, Mr. ROGERS believes that's the number that was agreed to.

Now, we're not going to be able to agree on things if all of a sudden it becomes, well, that was a notional thing that we did, not an agreement. A lot of our people voted on that to make sure, A, we didn't go into default as a country, and, B, that was not the number we wanted. It clearly was not the number your side wanted. But it was a number we agreed upon. And it seems to me that if we're going to try to keep faith with one another and with the law that we passed that we should stick with what we agreed to.

I understand that we want to bring the budget deficit down. As a matter of fact, on this side of the aisle, I've made those comments, and I've been criticized by some on my side, as you well know. Yes, we do need to get a handle on the budget. We're going to have a real debate on the deficit and debt, and I've been working very hard on that. We're going to have a debate, a fulsome debate, hopefully, on whether or not your budget does that. We've had disagreements all the years I've been here on that, and performance has not reflected, from my standpoint, that the representations made have always worked out, perhaps on either side.

But I regret, I regret deeply, Mr. Majority Leader, that we've reached an agreement, and based upon that agreement, this House took an action, it took a bipartisan action, and it passed a piece of legislation that was critically important to make sure that America did not go into default. And now we see 7 months later, crossed fingers, well, we really didn't mean that, it was a cap. Nobody on our side—there was no mention in the law nor was there any mention in the negotiations that that was a cap, not a number.

Unless the gentleman wants to say something further, I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I'd just say to the gentleman this is somewhat of an academic discussion given that the Senate is not going to pass a budget. And I remind the gentleman, again, it takes two Houses to go and reconcile a budget, and it takes two Houses and two parties to actually go forward. So we look forward to working with the gentleman. I told him it is our belief that we need to respond to the urgency

of the fiscal crisis and do everything we can to bring down the level of spending in this town. I look forward to working with the gentleman towards that end.

Mr. HOYER. I look forward to next week debating how we bring that deficit down, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRIMM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

REPEAL IPAB

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5, the legislation to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB. As we've heard, this unelected board of 15 was created under the administration's health overhaul to take critical decisions on Medicare spending and hide them under a bureaucratic veil. As a result, it has the power to step between seniors and their doctors with no accountability.

Even Medicare's Chief Actuary indicated that the payment reductions required of IPAB are unrealistic and could drive doctors out of Medicare and limit seniors' access to care. That's hardly an answer to rising costs.

Today's legislation repeals IPAB and reduces costs through bipartisan medical liability reform. This common-sense reform curbs junk lawsuits and stops forcing doctors to practice costly, defensive medicine. This important bill eliminates IPAB and protects health care for America's seniors. I'm really glad that it has passed this House, and I hope that the Senate will take it up.

JUSTICE FOR TRAYVON MARTIN

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I promised that every day I would come to the floor of this House and announce to America just how long justice for Trayvon Martin has been delayed. As of today, Trayvon Martin was murdered 26 days ago, and still there has been no arrest. There has been no arrest, and everyone is suffering. His parents are suffering, his classmates are suffering, and his whole Miami community is suffering.

A psychologist once described to me what it feels like to lose a child. She