

It gives employers the legal cover to force employees to work more and to pay them less. What would improve the lives of working families would be an increase in the minimum wage. What would provide flexible workplaces would be to give adequate leave options under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Flexible workplaces provide competitive living wages for employees. Flexible workplaces provide sufficient sick-pay leave.

H.R. 1406 does nothing to advance any of these proposals.

□ 1510

GIVING WORKERS MORE CHOICES

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

Mr. HARRIS. This week the House is going to take action on a bill that's going to give the American workers in the private sector the exact same rights that Federal Government workers have, and that is that if you're going to choose to work extra, you get a choice whether to take overtime pay or to get time off to go to your child's school.

In my district we have Patriot Days during the school day at elementary schools where parents would love to have the time to go and spend that time with their child. This bill will get the parent the choice, not a Federal law. This will allow the parent to take that time off as comp time instead of getting overtime. It just gives everyone more choice.

HONORING SYED HASAN-ASIF

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a sad opportunity to rise to acknowledge the loss of one of Houston's distinguished citizens—not only Houston, but recognized in places far away from this great Nation—Mr. Syed Hasan-Asif, a great leader and the father of a wonderful family, sons, and many extended family members. I am saddened that this great man has been lost, but I offer the words:

Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised.

This gentleman leaves his wife, Tahseen F. Begun. But he was a great man that was a father to many. He was a businessman, trained his family to be able to be sharers of their opportunities that they had. And the prosperity that they were able to achieve they did not keep to themselves. He was a friend to many. He loved many. He stood strong. He took care of his family. He brought joy, and he was generous. I'm so very pleased that so many got a chance to know Mr. Syed Hasan-Asif and to know of his generosity and his spirit and to know that his reach was

not only here in the United States, but also in faraway places.

I offer to his family my deepest sympathy, my respect and admiration for having such a great leader in our community, who generated businesses and created an economic engine of opportunity wherever he was able to come. Now as he rests in peace, may it be, as I indicated, for us not to fear and not to grieve, but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised. May blessings be upon him and his family.

RECOGNIZING THE JEWISH STATE OF ISRAEL

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have just come back from a bipartisan trip to Israel where we met with top officials and really celebrated the alliance between the U.S. and Israel. Israel obviously is in a very dangerous neighborhood, and they were absolutely justified to carry out the bombing strikes in Syria where Hezbollah terrorists were attempting to get arms from Iran.

What happens is Iran sends the weapons, the missiles through Syria into Lebanon to arm the Hezbollah terrorists. No nation would put up with having terrorists prepared to attack them without striking back. So I think it is very, very important that we support Israel in its quest to rid itself of the scourge of terrorism.

Peace in the Middle East will come about when both sides recognize the other's right to exist. The problem has been that many of the Arab nations do not recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State, and I think that really needs to change. I am glad President Obama said that he supports Israel in doing whatever it needs to do for its own self-defense, and I'm pleased that talks are being started with the help of Secretary Kerry to try to get peace talks online again. But again, in my estimation, peace will only happen when the Arab nations recognize the Jewish State of Israel.

DOCTORS' CAUCUS: HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAMER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the Speaker. The hour we are going to spend with our Physicians' Caucus is going to be on health care today. I'm joined by numerous colleagues here on the House floor from the Doctors' Caucus to discuss this extremely important issue.

When I was elected 4 years ago to the House, one of the burning issues at that time was health care reform in this country, and the greatest problem

with health care in America was the cost. Certainly I could see it every day. I practiced for 31 years as an obstetrician-gynecologist in Johnson City, Tennessee, a small town in northeast Tennessee. I saw where it was becoming harder and harder and harder for my patients to afford care. The major problem was that.

Number two, we had a problem with access. We had working people out every day. Maybe one was a carpenter, maybe the wife worked at a local store that didn't have health insurance coverage. Together they made a living that was livable in northeast Tennessee, but certainly not enough money to pay \$1,000 or \$1,500 a month for a health insurance policy.

Thirdly, we have a liability crisis. When I began my practice, I thought about it, I began in 1977. I know this is hard to believe, but we would take care of a woman who was pregnant for 1 year and see her for a 6-week checkup and stay as long with her as we needed to when she was in labor, and that cost was \$360. And if you had a Caesarean section, it cost another \$100. So it was very affordable. Even young families could come in and make payments and pay for it. The hospital bill was more than that, but it certainly wasn't the exorbitant prices that we see today.

The malpractice premium I first paid, and obstetricians and neurosurgeons and others are very high risk, was about \$4,000 a year. Five years ago when I retired from my practice to run for Congress, the malpractice premiums had ballooned to the mid-\$70,000s, and the patients didn't get anything more for that. They didn't get better care. They just got a higher bill. It didn't improve the quality of their care. So we can see, number one, cost.

I remember when we had the debate down here. I stood in the well of the House the night we debated that bill, in March of 2010, to vote on it. I was one of the last people to stand down here, and I remember the President's remarks: If you like your health insurance, you can keep it. And your costs are going to go down by \$2,500.

Now 3 years later, let's see what the reality is. Many of us here in the Doctors' Caucus brought decades, and I do mean decades. I look around, and I wish each speaker as they step up, would tell how many years they practiced medicine. You'll see the experience that's on the floor today. So what happened was the cost has gone up; it didn't go down. And I'm not even sure after this is all implemented that access is actually going to increase because as we discuss during this hour, you'll see that for some people there's more access, but for others it may be cut off; and I think it was unintended. I don't believe that they wrote a bill to actually do that, to actually cut access. But I think the reality is it's going to happen.

Before I continue, I want to introduce one of my colleagues, Dr. PHIL