

Mr. Speaker, we can and must do better for our mothers and newborns. As a country, we must reach beyond our self-imposed boundaries and embrace a cost-effective, evidence-based model of maternity care that reflects our values and saves the lives of mothers and babies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring and helping to pass the MOMS for the 21st Century Act.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, there are probably very few issues that touch Americans, families, our States, and small businesses more personally than health care.

This House has dealt numerous times with addressing the Affordable Care Act. But when we talk about it on that very personal level—of a mom taking a sick child down to visit the doctor, to a senior citizen who's counting on that hospital being able to be there, to be able to deliver the care that they need—we need to recognize that the overarching view that Washington typically performs when passing a bill and delivering it to the American people, that it has very real consequences, very real impacts.

In my district in rural Colorado—and in fact throughout rural America—there is a looming health care crisis that is just on the horizon. That ability to be able to go to the doctor, to be able to have a hospital that's going to be there to be able to provide the service that's necessary—they're feeling that real impact right now at home.

We've had a lot of discussion about that big, overarching bill: the IPAB boards that are going to be making the medical choices for our senior citizens—indeed for all Americans—rather than that choice being made between the doctor and the patient; about the State mandates that are coming through; the Medicare payment cuts; higher health costs; the budget that is now going to be estimated at \$1.76 trillion in costs over a 10-year period, and rising, on a struggling American economy, on struggling families and small businesses; the 150 new boards that are being established; the better than 12,000 pages of new regulations that our hospitals, our doctors, and our families are going to have to be dealing with; and the short form, to simply be able to fill out and be able to apply for the Affordable Care Act, 21 pages just to be able to get insurance.

We need, Mr. Speaker, to be talking about those real impacts, not from the 30,000-foot view, but on the ground at home.

I recently went to Delta Memorial Hospital in my district, a small community hospital that's proud of their service. In fact, they've had multiple surveys that went through and rated

their service among the best. They are now being challenged by the Affordable Care Act in terms of that health care delivery.

They have a program called the Recovery Audit Contracts conducted by individual companies that don't even have to have health care background, but they're going back in and reassessing costs. And they're having to pay back money now, money that they simply do not have.

We're seeing reimbursements to doctors drop at Delta Memorial Hospital, making it harder for the physicians to be able to deliver that service.

These are small hospitals. They don't have big HR departments; they're there for the health of the community. But they are seeing real challenges in being able to continue. In fact, in many of our rural hospitals, they're beginning to wonder if they're going to be able to continue to deliver that service.

□ 1040

I've talked to doctors in Delta, Montrose, Grand Junction, Pueblo, throughout my entire district, who are frustrated that they are now seeing their reimbursements—money that they need to have to be able to conduct their business—being cut by the Federal Government, the Federal Government determining what the value of that service is going to be and saying you can afford it. That's not real life.

What we are seeing now are senior citizens who just became senior citizens by the virtue of a birthday over the last few months, they cannot find a doctor who is willing to take Medicare, simply because they can no longer afford it.

We have a system, Mr. Speaker, that completely forgot the original premise that every American, I believe, can agree on. We need to have real reform, but we need to go back to that initial premise of affordability and accessibility. The Affordable Care Act fails on both levels.

We are seeing right now, in my home State of Colorado, estimates for individual insurance policies this year are going to go up an estimated 23 percent or more. Small businesses, who are trying to provide group insurance, are seeing their costs going up this year estimated better than 17 percent.

Have we achieved more affordability, as was promised? We have not.

When we are talking about that accessibility issue, when that senior citizen in Delta, Colorado, walks into a doctor's office and is told that they aren't accepting any new patients, are we achieving that accessibility? We are not.

Mr. Speaker, we need to go back to that original premise, because so many small businesses right now that would like to be able to deliver that service are feeling the impact. I have a friend who owns several small Pizza Huts throughout the West, and she is dealing with those additional costs that are hurting her business and her ability to

be able to deliver that real service for her employees.

We have a challenge in this country, Mr. Speaker, and it can and will be addressed if we will go back to that original premise of affordability and accessibility. The Affordable Care Act fails on both points.

Let's roll up our sleeves and get the job done for the American people.

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 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Pastor Mark Turner, South Valley Community Church, Gilroy, California, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, what an incredible honor it must be for these men and women gathered in this Chamber today to represent the entire population of this country. I pray that they would not only feel the magnitude of this responsibility, but that You would give them the strength of character to carry out that responsibility in an honorable and Christ-like way.

I pray, too, for the guardians of freedom on duty today all around the globe, the men and women of our Armed Forces. May You sustain them and keep them safe. May we as a Nation never forget the tremendous sacrifice they have made on our behalf to ensure our freedom and democracy.

May it be upon these Members of this House that the lantern of hope and the light of liberty continue to burn bright in this land we call America.

Finally, Lord, it is with heavy hearts that we stand here today, each one of us assembled in this Chamber pray for the families in Oklahoma who have been affected by the devastating tornado that struck yesterday. Comfort those who have lost loved ones, strengthen rescue workers and emergency personnel, and may neighbor reach out to neighbor to assist in the healing and rebuilding process.

As the eyes of the world are upon the residents of Oklahoma, let them demonstrate dependence upon You and help them to display the resilience, the resolve, and the American spirit that made their State and this Nation so great.

We pray these things in Jesus' name. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT 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.

WELCOMING PASTOR MARK TURNER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Pastor Mark Turner of South Valley Community Church in Gilroy, California, as our guest who delivered this morning's opening prayer.

Over a decade ago, Pastor Turner left his career to answer a higher calling to serve his fellow persons in the ministry. In serving others, Pastor Turner has become a respected leader in our community, making a difference in people's everyday lives.

Working with local partners and businesses, Pastor Turner and hundreds of volunteers serve our community through outreach projects that feed children, seniors, and underprivileged residents. They help local children through programs that encourage them to be active and strive for success, and they bring compassion and services to people in need.

Answering a call to serve something larger than one's self is a trait we deeply admire and value as Americans. So it is a pleasure to welcome Pastor Turner to our Nation's Capitol today and to thank him for his service to our community and our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, our hearts go out today to those in Oklahoma who are suffering as a result of this storm. I've asked that

the flags here in the Capitol complex be lowered to half staff in honor of the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, this House is going to continue to be focused on the issue of jobs. It's the number one issue of concern to our fellow citizens. We're going to continue to be focused on the things that get in the way of job creation in our country.

Most notably, this week we will work on trying to get the Keystone pipeline approved that will create some 20,000 direct jobs and over 100,000 indirect jobs, and trying to make sure that those who have student loans won't see their interest rates double. That will be the work of the House this week.

But in addition to that, we have a responsibility to the American people to provide oversight of the executive branch. I think Americans understand and my colleagues understand that the American people deserve the truth. Whether it's Benghazi, whether it's the IRS, whether it's the Justice Department investigating journalists, the Congress of the United States and the American people need to know what the truth is—to hold this administration accountable.

Those of us in public office understand that our job is to serve the American people, and not the other way around.

SEQUESTRATION EFFECTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, newspapers in my district in Pennsylvania have reported that local housing authorities are facing a "nightmare" due to sequestration cuts in HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Speaker, fewer people are going to be able to access housing as a result of this Congress' nightmare policies.

In Northampton County, Pennsylvania, alone, 85 people are going to have to leave the section 8 voucher program through turnover or there will be evictions. In Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 900 people will be removed from the program's waiting list.

Our social safety net is disappearing. And what happens if these people fall into homelessness? According to HUD, the annual cost of a shelter bed funded by the Emergency Shelter Grants program is approximately \$8,067 more than the average annual cost of a section 8 voucher. This Congress is being penny-wise and pound-foolish.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEFFREY BAKER

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, last week, the EOD community lost one of

its best and brightest. Sergeant First Class Jeffrey Baker was killed 1 week ago today in an IED explosion that killed four of his fellow soldiers and injured multiple others. Sergeant First Class Baker was assigned to the 766th EOD Company out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, and was serving in Sanjaray, Afghanistan, at the time of his death.

EOD soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are the preeminent explosive experts in our Armed Forces. Our joint EOD forces lead the fight against the use of IEDs and protect their fellow servicemembers and our interests both at home and abroad.

Too often, the lives of these brave men and women are claimed by the very devices they are trained to neutralize. Sergeant First Class Baker gave his life along with four of his fellow soldiers in defense of our freedoms. It's important that we honor their sacrifice and the sacrifices of those who came before them.

Next week, as the Nation honors the veterans who have given their lives for this country, it's important that we take time to recognize the risks our troops take on our behalf every day and the need to support our veterans and their families.

Jeffrey Baker was from Hesperia, California, and was just 29 years old. He is survived by his wife and his young daughter. My thoughts and prayers are with Jeffrey's entire family, the families of his fellow soldiers who were killed, and the soldiers recovering from the blast.

God bless our Armed Forces, and God bless America.

WELCOMING LONGABERGER POTTERY BACK TO U.S.

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Democrats' Make It In America Working Group, I was pleased to attend a ceremony yesterday welcoming Longaberger Pottery to Niagara Ceramics Corporation in Buffalo.

In 2005, Longaberger moved its production line to China. Its return will create 22 American jobs. Under CEO Tammy Longaberger, this fifth-generation family business manufactures in the true American artisan tradition.

This story is further evidence that we are approaching what the writer Charles Fishman calls "the insourcing boom." American companies are reconsidering their decisions to move operations overseas. The issues of rising transportation costs, quality control, and the productivity of American workers is driving this trend. Congress should be working to ensure the new trend becomes a sustainable, large-scale movement.

And austerity is exactly the wrong response. We should be investing in our infrastructure, in education, and in science. We should adopt the House