SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE FIX

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

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss the issue of Medicare and Medicare reimbursement payments to doctors who provide health care for our seniors.

Currently, the reimbursement formula for our doctors who provide these services is one that has become so low that many doctors in America aren't providing services and care to our seniors.

It brings me to a bill that is coming up tomorrow in the House. It is the doc fix. It is a fix to the SGR. What that means is, there is on the horizon a 24 percent cut coming to Medicare reimbursements for our doctors who provide care for our seniors.

If that cut goes into effect, it is going to have a devastating impact on the care that our seniors can receive. So tomorrow we are going to have a fix on the floor that takes away the threat of the 24 percent cut, and we pay for it. What we do is we bring certainty to the doctors who provide this care for our seniors and stability to the payment system.

Now, this isn't the first time this issue has been brought up. This has been an ongoing problem, and so today, on throwback Thursday, we are going to take a trip down memory lane. Four years ago, during the ObamaCare debate, House Republicans brought up this very issue and said: Listen, let's not hold our seniors hostage. Let's actually come forward together and have a doc fix that is paid for to make sure our seniors don't get cut in regard to reimbursements. My colleagues across the aisle said ''no'' to this fix that was paid for, and in the end we have had to have short-term fixes that I think threaten the care for our seniors.

I hope all my colleagues tomorrow will stand with us to have a long-term fix to this program, to make sure our seniors aren't held vulnerable to potential inaction by Congress.

I also want to talk about what happened in regard to our seniors in the ObamaCare debate. Instead of fixing payment in Medicare to our doctors for our seniors, instead of shoring up a plan that helps our seniors, instead of doing that, what my friends across the aisle did in ObamaCare is they looked for a pay-for, and they saw a pot of money in Medicare, and they took almost a trillion dollars out of Medicare to use for ObamaCare.

News flash: the CBO, and the President, everybody acknowledges that Medicare is on a pathway to going broke. Twelve years from now it runs out of money. So instead of shoring up the fund, making sure that we meet the promise to our seniors, my friends across the aisle took almost a trillion dollars out of it, making it more vulnerable.

Then, a program that works well, especially for my seniors back in Wisconsin, Medicare Advantage—taking money out of Medicare Advantage, a program that actually works, giving some choice and control to our seniors. I think our seniors deserve better than this. The war on the seniors should stop, and is going to stop hopefully tomorrow with a bipartisan effort that does what we should have done in the ObamaCare debate but fixes payments to doctors so they can continue to provide lifesaving health care to our seniors.

Let's stand together as a House. Let's stand with our seniors. Let's get this done tomorrow.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning we are now in the midst of Women's History Month. I want to associate myself with the women's history Special Order that was on the floor last evening. I look forward through the rest of the month of March to continue or to acknowledge women from my own congressional district.

This morning, however, I wish to comment on a woman who has loomed large in our political eyes, and I thought out of fairness to give the record of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a fair shot. The reason I chose to do that, Mr. Speaker, is over the weekend, as many occurrences occur, political meetings abound in this Nation, and the Conservative Political Action Conference met.

Interestingly enough in the reporting, the newspaper noted that Hillary Rodham Clinton had a presence at the Nation's largest gathering of conservative activists. Interestingly enough, former Secretary Clinton was not there, obviously not invited. I think it is important to take note of some of the comments that were made that really require some kind of addressing.

One comment was that women should not be used. Another came from the former Speaker and charged that if Secretary Clinton decided to run for President, it would be like a prison guard for the past. Words I think that may be political rhetoric but really do a great disservice to a woman with a very strong historical record.

Early in her life, former Secretary Clinton met Dr. Martin Luther King, born in Chicago to parents whose political beliefs, or part of their political beliefs, were different from Secretary Clinton's today. She was an active young woman and through her church had the opportunity to meet Dr. Martin Luther King. You can imagine her thoughts a few years later when Dr. King was assassinated. It may have had a major impact on her belief in serving her country and helping America.

Hillary Clinton is a graduate of Wellesley College and Yale Law School. She worked on migrant worker issues for Walter Mondale's staff. Also, she was on the law editorial board—I would suggest, at that time, certainly one of the pioneering women at Yale Law School.

Of course many of us know that she worked for the Children's Legal Defense Fund and really honed her skills of concern about making children our number one priority. I would offer to say that when I came to the United States Congress, former Secretary Clinton was First Lady. At that time I organized and founded the Congressional Children's Caucus. During the 1990s it was very clear that the First Lady at that time was very concerned still with children's issues and held one of the first conferences on 0 to 3 months, and how a baby could learn and how we should be nurturing that infant. It was a very major conference to focus our legislative agenda on that issue. It was during that time that Marian Wright Edelman continued to work with the former Secretary of State on the issues of dealing with the whole comprehensive child, what a child needs from 0 on to adulthood. Even today I would argue that we do not have a children's agenda.

I will soon be offering a briefing promoting a children's budget that came out of the efforts and collaboration with the former Secretary of State during her tenure in the White House as First Lady. As First Lady she traveled to emphasize the importance of freedom for women around the world. She was not yet Secretary. One of the first acts that we remember, among the acts that we remember, is her going to China and declaring that women's rights are human rights.

I would venture to say that the words at the CPAC convention do not in any way characterize the leadership of Hillary Rodham Clinton. Certainly she has gone on to many other successes, which include her leadership as Secretary of State, the constant work of freeing women, women's rights. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that she is a fine example of a mother, a wife, a leading national figure, a historic figure who represents Women's History Month.

USA CAN'T POLICE THE WORLD

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy, in a 1961 speech at the University of Washington, said:

> We must face the fact that the United States is neither omnipotent or omniscient—that we are only 6 percent of the world's population—that we cannot impose our will upon the other 94 percent of mankind—that we cannot right every wrong or reverse each adversity—and that therefore there cannot be an American solution to every world problem.

□ 1045

The major difference now than when he spoke in 1961 is that we are only 4 percent of the world's population, and