

discount card. That is not a prescription drug benefit.

So for those seniors who leave and join an HMO, lose the choice of their doctors, lose the choice of their pharmacy, lose the choice of their drugs; for those seniors, they will get a prescription drug benefit of minimal coverage, of minimal coverage. When the HMO goes bankrupt or refuses to see them, they will come back and they will not have their drug coverage.

He wants to make whether or not your drugs are covered based on where you get your health care as opposed to what your illness is, as opposed to what the doctor says you need, as opposed to what all of the indices say you might need for a particular illness. His determination is whether or not you are in Medicare.

That simply does not comport with the health care needs of America's seniors. America's seniors today need prescription drugs, just as they need coverage for doctors' visits, for surgery, for outpatient and inpatient care. It is part of the continuum of health care.

The President should not, the President should not do a bait and switch with America's seniors so that they can get a prescription drug benefit. Every Medicare beneficiary should be covered for prescription drugs, and that is what the Democratic bill does that was introduced today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Norris A. Keirn, National Chaplain, the American Legion, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, You have been our shield and strength from the birth of our Nation to this present day. Our homeland has been preserved in the palm of Your hand. By inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, we have continuously moved to develop a more perfect union that would mirror Your divine purpose.

Through Your guidance these representatives have been raised to make laws and direct efforts for the enduring betterment of the peoples of this Nation and world. Grant great wisdom so that Your righteous purposes would be fulfilled. Afford each one the strength of will to be diligent dispensers of truth and justice. Bless them with soli-

arity that transcends personal views and political affiliations. Grant a bipartisan unity that would bring You glory.

Bless also those who defend this democracy and place themselves in harm's way. Dispatch Your angels to protect and to bring them home with victory over the evil forces that would attempt to destroy freedom. Enable them to break the bondages of oppression as You have so graciously granted in the past.

In the name of the Lord we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BEREUTER 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.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise honored to wear the special scarf today to highlight the global fight to stop violence against women.

We know that women account for 85 percent of the victims of domestic violence, but only half of all female victims of violence report an injury, and of those, only 20 percent seek medical assistance.

I will shortly be reintroducing legislation to provide women over 18 with domestic violence screening and treatment services. Routine screening by a health care provider for domestic violence would unlock options a woman might not otherwise pursue and allow her to see that shelter and advocacy services may be useful to her.

Mr. Speaker, this year, Lifetime Television recognizes the importance of including men in the dialogue to combat violence. This is critical.

I encourage my colleagues to participate in the week's events and reiterate the need for fathers, coaches and other male role models to teach boys early and teach them often that there is no place for violence in a relationship.

SIMPLIFIED FAMILY CREDIT

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks I intend to introduce a bill to create the simplified family credit, real tax relief for working families with children. My proposal would help grow the economy, simplify the IRS code by merging an array of tax benefits, the earned income tax credit with approximately 4.3 million families eligible Americans, including 1.7 million families with children, who, today, do not get, because of the complexity of the code, the child tax credit, the additional child credit, and the dependent exemption into a single credit, thereby shrinking well over 2,000 pages of the IRS Tax Code down to 12 easy questions.

This would also go a long way toward significantly reducing the marriage penalty, rewarding work and making the Tax Code more child friendly. Regardless of what political party we come from, we should all agree that these goals and that the Tax Code ought to reflect these values.

Despite the prospect of a war with Iraq, a stubborn recession, 2 million more unemployed Americans, urgent health care needs for the additional 4 million American that are without health care, we insist on debating a tax cut for the wealthiest in this country rather than focusing on those who need it most. A simplified credit in contrast is less, and far more responsive to the needs of working families.

PERMANENT PEACE

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, our Nation seems to be stumbling not just toward war with Iraq, but permanent war. We cannot end terror with bullets alone. If so, when do we stop shooting? When we find bin Laden? When we find Saddam? Or is there no end to war?

Instead, we should be talking about a permanent peace. We should be asking how to sustain societies before they crumble instead of asking how to destroy those that have already lost their way.

We should be asking how to educate children so they do not become terrorists instead of asking how we are going to kill those children once they do become terrorists.

We should be asking how to strengthen the United Nations instead of threatening to make it irrelevant.

As a Nation, we must emphasize finding alternatives to war. It is a matter of priorities.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings on motions to suspend the rules on which

a recorded vote or on which the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CONGRATULATING LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 106) congratulating Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators, and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 106

Whereas the Nation's Lutheran schools deliver high-quality education and challenge students to reach their potential;

Whereas there are 4,841 Lutheran early childhood centers, elementary schools, and secondary schools in the United States served by 40,076 teachers;

Whereas the Nation's total Lutheran school student enrollment is 572,877;

Whereas Lutheran schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, and morals by providing an environment that encourages honesty, trust, respect, and responsibility; and

Whereas the week beginning on March 2, 2003, has been established as National Lutheran Schools Week for the purpose of recognizing the vital contributions of the Nation's Lutheran early childhood education centers, elementary schools, and secondary schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of National Lutheran Schools Week, which is celebrated by several synods that have educational institutions, for the purpose of recognizing their academic achievement; and

(2) congratulates Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators, and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 106.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 106. This resolution honors Lutheran schools and their students, parents, teachers, administrators and congregations for their ongoing contributions to education.

I would like to thank the sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the

Chairman of the Committee on Education, and the Workforce for bringing this resolution to the floor today.

In 1524, Martin Luther said that a city's best and greatest welfare, safety and strength consists rather in its having able, learned, wise, honorable and well-educated citizens. Lutheran churches and schools have long been active in meeting this mission by providing education opportunities as early as 1640 in what is now Delaware, my home State.

In Delaware, I am proud of the contributions of the nine Lutheran schools, the names of which I will submit here for the RECORD.

Concordia Lutheran Preschool, 3003 Silverside Rd, Wilmington, DE 19610, 302.478.3876.

Faith Lutheran Preschool, 2265 Red Lion Rd, Bear, DE 19701-1849, 302.834.3417.

Our Redeemer Preschool, 10 Johnson Rd, Newark, DE 19713, 302.737.617.

Little Ones Lutheran Preschool, 7 Bay Vista Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE, 302.226.7860.

St. John's Elementary School, 1156 Walker Rd, Dover, DE 19904, 302.734.3767.

St. John's Early Learning Center and Day Care, 119 Lotus St, Dover, DE 19901, 302.734.1211.

Hope Lutheran Child Care, 230 Christiana Rd., New Castle, DE 19720, 302/328-7909.

St. Paul's Lutheran School, 701 S. College Ave., Newark, DE 19713, 302/368-0553.

Zion Lutheran Preschool/Kindergarten, 2101 Lancaster Ave., Wilmington, DE 19805, 302/655-7874.

Lutheran schools deliver high quality education where individuals are challenged to reach their full academic potential. The Lutheran school system is the largest Protestant school system in the United States and consists of 4,841 early childhood centers, elementary schools and high schools, over 40,000 teachers and more than 570,000 teachers.

Lutheran schools serve a diverse population. For example, in the schools affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, one-third of the students and one-quarter of the staff are persons of color, many of whom are not Lutheran. In Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod affiliated schools, 44 percent of elementary school students and 37 percent of high school students are not Lutheran.

Lutheran schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values and morals by providing an environment that encourages honesty, trust, respect and responsibility.

National Lutheran Schools Week, celebrated this year from March 2 to March 8, recognizes the vital contributions of America's Lutheran early childhood education centers and elementary and secondary schools. We congratulate Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may con-

sume, and I rise in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for introducing this resolution because it is a good resolution, and it gives me an opportunity to highlight the importance and value of education in our Nation.

H. Res. 106 recognizes the contribution of Lutheran schools to the mix of fine educational opportunities available to American children. We are very fortunate in the United States to have such a diverse system of education.

The goal of the education system in America, both public and private, is to give every child in every State the opportunity to succeed, and that recipe for success, Mr. Speaker, certainly includes Lutheran schools, as well as other religious schools, non-religious private schools and, of course, our public schools. It is this variety, this diversity that makes our education system a success and makes America a strong, strong Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize the educational contributions that Lutheran schools make to our Nation, let us recognize, too, the importance and value of all the many different types of schools in America and the contributions they make to the lives of our children and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank the leadership of the committee for bringing this resolution to the floor in such a timely fashion.

Mr. Speaker, as a graduate of a Lutheran Elementary School myself, St. Paul's Lutheran School of Utica, Nebraska, and an individual well acquainted with the many first-rate Lutheran educational institutions in his congressional district, this Member rises today to congratulate Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education.

Lutherans have long been active in providing education for children. As mentioned by the distinguished gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the first Lutheran school was established in the colonies in 1640 by Swedish Lutherans, and it was located in the State of Delaware. There is evidence that Lutherans from Salzburg, Austria, started schools in what is now the southern part of the United States in the 1730s.

Pastor Henry Muhlenberg, known as the patriarch of the Lutheran Church and father of two members of the 1st