House of Representatives

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

Mr. POE of Texas 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.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, today we will act on a uniquely American solution to health care reform. Our action will bring down health care costs for middle-income families, will help small businesses afford coverage for their employees, will improve coverage for our seniors, will rein in wasteful spending, and will provide access to 32 million uninsured Americans.

For those with insurance, starting right away, insurance companies will be prohibited from discriminating based on preexisting conditions, from placing annual or lifetime caps on coverage, and from dropping people for coverage when they get sick.

It is time to put American families back in control of their health care. It’s time to hold insurance companies accountable to keep premiums down and to stop their denial of care and coverage. And it is time to ensure that 95 percent of Americans have access to affordable, meaningful health care choices.

It’s time to finally fix the Medicare prescription drug gap, known as the doughnut hole, and to provide seniors with preventative and primary care.

And it is time to rein in the Federal deficit by reducing it by $1.2 trillion.

It’s time to vote “yes” on health care reform.