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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

When we contemplate our lives and all the events that mark our time and all the feelings that make us human and all the hopes that move us forward, we pray, almighty God, that we forget not that You are the Creator of all and the Author of the Book of Life. As we meditate on our lives with all the joys and sorrows and opportunities, allow us never to overlook that our blessings are from above and that we ought respond to those blessings with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Bless every person this day, O gracious One, that what we do and say and think will be to Your glory and of service to people whatever their need. 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. The gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] will come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JONES 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

### STOP SCARE TACTICS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority is working hard to do what is right for all Americans—save Medicare from bankruptcy. And let us get one issue straight right from the start—accusations by Democrats here in Congress that we are cutting Medicare are absolute nonsense—baloney—we are increasing spending per senior; from \$4,800 to \$6,700.

Republicans have come up with a plan to ensure Medicare's solvency through the next generation not just through the next election. Our plan will increase benefits offer more choice to seniors and attack the waste and fraud in the system. Our plan offers real solutions to the real problems facing Medicare today.

I urge my Democrat colleagues to stop the scare tactics, stop listening to the special interest groups, stop playing politics and do what you know is the responsible thing to do: Save Medicare now.

### DEFEAT MEDICAID REFORM BILL

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, to reform means to make things better. The Republicans Medicaid bill, under the guise of reform, is a hypocrisy that not only makes things worse, but violates many principles Republicans claim to represent.

Republicans claim they support children yet they voted to deny poor children guaranteed health services.

Republicans claim they protect unborn children yet they voted to revoke access to prenatal care for poor women. Even though, every dollar spent on pre-

natal care saves \$3 in future health care costs.

Republicans claim they want to help people get off welfare, yet they voted to deny health care coverage to women and their children during their first year of work even though one of the main reasons women leave work and go back on welfare is the lack of health coverage for their sick children.

Under the guise of reform, Republicans are forcing women to choose between work and the health of their children, and they are unraveling the Nation's health safety net for the poor and the elderly.

We must defeat the so-called Medicaid reform bill.

### MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT PRESERVES MEDICARE

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, there are currently a lot of scare tactics permeating the media regarding Medicare. To me, the most frightening scenario would be if Congress and the President do nothing, Medicare will go broke in 7 years. If the program becomes insolvent, the Government can not pay the health care bills of millions of retirees.

The standard bearers of the status quo are suggesting that Medicare be saved only for the next election not the next generation. They have placed politics ahead of sound policy and they clearly care more about voters than the current and future retirees. Their so-called plan was thrown together only after the media called their bluff and exposed their demagoguery.

Our plan, the Medicare Preservation Act, preserves traditional Medicare for any retiree who wants it. Let me say that another way. Anyone who prefers the current Medicare system may keep it. Others will have the right to choose

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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