

up with, say, 10 safe and effective compounds. The best one, after 8 more years of clinical trials, might receive FDA approval. And then, and only then can they begin to bring this medication to market.

This research is costly, but vitally important. At every step along the process the research might prove to be noneffective, and the process would have to start over again. It is not easy; it is not cheap. These companies spend more money on research and development than any other industry.

I often point out that we in the United States fail to invest sufficiently for research and development in every sector of our economy, with the possible exception of pharmaceuticals.

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Let us not punish these companies for their very success and research that will be to the possible benefit of nearly every person in America.

While we must ensure that all Americans get the full benefit of that research, and that is part of what today's legislation was about, it is essential that we do everything in Congress we can to ensure that America maintains its innovative edge and continues to grow as a leader in research and development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLEIN of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TIAHRT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Speaker of the House, Speaker NANCY PELOSI; our leader, STENY HOYER; our whip, JIM CLYBURN; our chair, RAHM EMANUEL; and our vice chair, JOHN LARSON, for allowing us this time to commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Mr. Speaker, like Dr. King, I love America. I love the ideals expressed in

the Declaration of Independence, all persons are created equal; and the Pledge of Allegiance, liberty and justice for all; and the Constitution, government of the people, by the people, for the people.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I stand here in the well of the United States House of Representatives as a proud American, and I pay tribute to a great and noble American, Dr. Martin Luther King.

Dr. King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929, at a time when some Americans could buy a hat but they couldn't try it on; at a time when some Americans had to step off the sidewalk so that other Americans might pass; at a time when of the people, by the people, for the people did not include all of the people; at a time when liberty and justice for all did not include all; at a time when all persons are created equal, but some people were more equal than others.

So I thank God for Dr. Martin Luther King, because he refused to use the back door. He refused to sit in the balcony. He refused to drink from a colored water fountain. He refused to allow his name to be "Boy." He was a man among men.

He stood up for the least, the last and the lost. He stood for the least, those who were born into a legacy of poverty; the last, those who were the last hired and the first fired; the lost, those who were lost in poverty in a land of plenty.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. King and the many others who made it possible for me to be here. Because, you see, they fought for and secured the Voting Rights Act. Before the passage of the Voting Rights Act, we had five African Americans in Congress. This includes the House and the Senate. Now we have 43. We had four Hispanic Members of Congress. Now we have 30. We had three Asian Americans in Congress. Now we have nine.

Because of Dr. King and others, Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL has Ways and Means; he is the Chair of Ways and Means. Because of Dr. King and so many other countless faces, Homeland Security is securely in the hands of Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON. Because of Dr. King and those who fought for civil rights, Intelligence is intelligently chaired by Congressman SILVESTRE REYES, and the Judiciary Committee is in the hands of Congressman JOHN CONYERS.

Because of Dr. King and the great sacrifices that were made by the civil rights workers, women have made great strides, because the House is not only a woman's place, it is a place where a woman can be speaker. Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI is the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

So I thank God for Dr. King. I thank God that he was born, and I understand that had he been born in Europe, he could have been Pope. Had he been born Muslim in the Middle East, he could have been a prophet. In another

time, he could have been President. I thank God that he was born when he was, however, because had he not been born when he was, I would not be in the United States House of Representatives.

Thank God for Dr. Martin Luther King.

THE DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time, and I appreciate the leadership, our House Republican leadership designating the time for us to be able to use today. We want to continue our discussion with the American people and put the emphasis on what has happened since we gaveled in for the 110th session of Congress.

It is going to be such an interesting Congress, we know that. There is a lot of work to do, and our constituents are depending on us to get the job done for them. We all look forward to that. We are excited about representing our constituents.

What we are not real excited about are some of the things that the majority has pushed forward and the way in which they have gone about it this week. What was to be openness, what was to be transparency, has devolved into a Rules Committee not being put into place, our regular order not being recognized, bills not going to committees, opportunities to amend those bills not being given, and it has made for quite an interesting 54 hours and 48 minutes as of this morning.

I am joined by a couple of my colleagues, and they are going to give some of their thoughts. I would like to recognize first, Mr. DAVIS from Tennessee, who is new to the House this year. He is a Member of the freshman class. He served in the Tennessee General Assembly, and we are so delighted that he did.

When I was in the State Senate in Tennessee, he served in the State House, and he has given to the process of open government, and to government reform and was a leader on those issues in this State.

At this time I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS), for some comments.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Thank you, Congresswoman BLACKBURN, thank you for your leadership, your friendship through down through the years. You have been a great friend of mine in the State General Assembly, and it is an honor to be on this distinguished floor with you tonight.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Good to share the floor with you.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. It is a great opportunity. As we get ready to conclude this second week of the 110th Congress, I look back over this time, and I think of the elections. We look