

the women's effort to lay a wreath at the Women's Memorial at Arlington Cemetery, and I have in my mind a memory of Congresswoman DAVIS joining us on those many occasions, uniting around our effort to pay tribute to women members of the armed services of the United States of America.

So this evening I simply say that we will miss her, thank her for her pioneering spirit and her leadership, and I would like to say simply to her husband, Chuck; her children; and to thousands of her friends around the Nation and in her district our prayers and condolences are to your family and certainly to your community. So many lives were touched by your service. So we say to you, farewell, our dear friend. May you rest in peace.

□ 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

SCHIP

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, what kind of Nation are we, and is anyone really listening? We have over 47 million citizens in this country going without health care coverage; 47 million citizens have zero, and they've been left behind. Why? They don't have the money. They simply don't have the money to be able to afford the impossible cost of health care today. People cannot afford to pay for their pills; they cannot afford to pay their doctor bills or their hospital tests or their cancer treatments. These treatments now are out of their reach. And why? It's simple. They don't have the money.

And what kind of Nation are we when, in my home State of Wisconsin, in Shawano County, 19 out of 20 families filing for bankruptcy recently did so only because they couldn't afford their health care bills. We need a uniquely American solution to this crisis, and we need it now because my patients and my constituents cannot hold their breath any longer.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of Nation are we? Let's agree right here and right now that we need to come together in a bipartisan way and help to begin to

solve this national disgrace. My constituents are listening tonight, and so are yours. Let's end this national nightmare and guarantee access to affordable care for every citizen.

Now, we're very fortunate to have a Democratic majority in the United States today. We're fortunate because we have the SCHIP bill that will be coming back to the House floor on the 18th of this month, that's one week from this Thursday. We're hoping to get enough votes to override President Bush's recent veto of this essential piece of health care legislation.

The SCHIP bill is a State-run program. There have been a great number of misrepresentations about what it really is, and tonight for a few moments I would like to review with you what the SCHIP bill really is all about. It's a State-run, private program. It's aimed and focused at the poorest working families. It will cost \$3.50 every day to ensure a child, \$3.50 a day. Compare that to the millions and millions and billions of dollars we're spending in the sands of Iraq, \$3 billion per week, nearly \$400 million a day, and \$3.50 to guarantee access for a child to see their pediatrician or their family practitioner. What kind of a Nation are we to say no to that?

The eligible people will be those who are in the low-income group. Low-income is three times the Federal poverty level. People who earn \$50,000 or \$55,000 a year simply don't have the money to spend on health insurance policies, which are now averaging \$12,000 to \$14,000 every year.

It will cover up to 10.8 million children in our country. But don't take my word for it about health care. These are cards I've received from my constituents in Wisconsin. Joe from Hazelhurst writes, "I am more likely to die because I can't afford the medical care needed than I am in danger of being killed by terrorists. Fix this, please." He's not a child, but he needs our help today.

Megan and Eric from Appleton, Wisconsin, "We are a young family with four kids, 6, 3 and twins age 5 months. Our insurance is out of control. Our family earns about \$38,000 a year, and we pay \$520-plus each month to have health insurance. Our country needs to make affordable health care a priority."

And what about Pat from Green Bay, Wisconsin. "Health care issues are critical. We need to develop a plan to help the elderly and the uninsurable." For too long, insurance companies have been allowed to discriminate against citizens. Why? For their own personal and individual corporate profits. For too long, our insurance companies have been able to deny people access to affordable care because of a preexisting condition. We haven't addressed that yet, but we will and we must. Allan from Green Bay writes, "Universal health care. I need affordable medical insurance." Rhonda, from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, "Our middle-class in-

come cannot support the increase in medical premiums, copays and deductibles. What will be done for the middle class?"

The SCHIP bill is a great start. It's aimed at ensuring the children of our Nation, those who are most at risk of going without, become healthy once again.

What kind of Nation are we if we don't care for our own children? Our children, after all, we are dependent on their future. I thank you for listening.

THE REPUBLICAN VISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SESSIONS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us to be on the floor this evening to talk about very important issues.

And of course the House of Representatives, in recess right now, is beginning to prepare for the funeral for our colleague, JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, who passed away. Today, our colleagues came to the floor one by one to not only acknowledge the service that JO ANN DAVIS gave to the United States of America, but also in her representation of her congressional district JO ANN will be missed. JO ANN courageously fought cancer. JO ANN courageously went back home day after day, week after week, after serving the United States Congress, making sure that she talked about those things which she did in her job and her representation of people from Virginia, but perhaps more importantly, with the strength and character and courage that JO ANN, even in the midst of adversity, brought to this body was an inspiration to Republicans and Democrats alike. It is with a heavy heart that we all will miss her, and we say to her family, how much they know they will miss her, too, and to her constituents, they were well served. Mr. Speaker, we will miss JO ANN DAVIS from Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I come to the floor of the House of Representatives to talk about the things which I believe are important for so many people to understand, not just about what is happening here in Washington, DC between the two parties, the Republican Party and the Democrat Party, as we talk about public policy issues that are demanding on both parties, and certainly our President and the American people who want to, and do, recognize that America's greatest days lie in our future, but rather, not just understanding the philosophies which are talked about here, but they want to know more about them. What would those policies lead to? And tonight it is my intent, with several of my Republican colleagues, to talk about the Republican vision, the Republican vision that would be of a smaller, smarter,