

number on that order of magnitude, if they have a plan to restructure Medicare, to reform it, to bring the spending in total below 45 percent of general revenue, they can submit their plan to the chairman of the Budget Committee. The chairman of the Budget Committee will hold hearings to certify that the plan does, in fact, meet the Medicare trigger recommendations. And if it does, my understanding of the law is that those plans have to be brought to the floor; they have to be voted on by the House of Representatives. Now, I'm not clear exactly the procedure for the rules for bringing these proposals to the floor, whether every proposal is given a vote on the floor or whether there are only certain proposals that are certified by the Rules Committee, but my understanding is that all proposals that meet the budgetary cutoff do get an up or down vote on the House floor.

So, if you're a member of the majority, of the Democrat Party, and you've got an idea and you can get 70 Members to support it, your plan can be voted on. If a bipartisan group of Members bring a proposal, that plan can be voted on. If the Republican leadership, whom I'm doing this Special Order for, has a plan, it can be voted on. If the President can get 70 Members to sign under his plan, it can be voted on. I personally don't see any problem with having different plans on the floor. The bottom line is to vote on some plan that begins to restructure and reform Medicare. Again, not trying to cut people off the program, not trying to tell our senior citizens we're going to do away with Medicare; what we should be telling our senior citizens is that we want Medicare to be there not just for another 11 years, but we want it to be there for another 50 years, another 60 years, not for people that are just now over 60 and over 70, but for our children and our grandchildren.

This is a program that, again, in 1965, my recollection is it cost less than \$1 billion a year. This past year it cost over \$400 billion. And by 2018, it's going to cost over \$800 billion. And by 2036, it's going to cost more than the entire Federal budget today, which is over \$2 trillion.

So this is not something that we can just put on the back shelf and not do anything about. It is something that we need to take action on. And again, because of the Medicare trigger, we have the ability, under expedited rules, to put these proposals to the Budget Committee, the Budget Committee certifies its proposal will meet the cost savings requirement, those plans will come to the floor and be voted on sometime this year before we go home in October for the elections in November.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House the Medicare trigger language and that it does require the President to submit a proposal. He has done so. It does require the Budget Committee to meet on that

proposal and any other proposals that 70 Members of the body can put before the Budget Committee. And it does require that the House vote on the bill, or the bills, later this year.

We need to address it. The Medicare trustees have pointed out that for 2 years in a row the spending has exceeded 45 percent of the general revenues going into the program, and so it is time for us to begin to address it.

Mr. Speaker, I see no other Members present. So with that, I would humbly suggest that everybody begin to think about what to do to protect and reform Medicare.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1424, PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

Ms. CASTOR (during the Special Order of Mr. BARTON of Texas), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-538) on the resolution (H. Res. 1014) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1424) to amend section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act, and section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require equity in the provision of mental health and substance-related disorder benefits under group health plans, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2857, GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION (GIVE) ACT

Ms. CASTOR (during the Special Order of Mr. BARTON of Texas), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-539) on the resolution (H. Res. 1015) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2857) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADMINISTRATION'S DISREGARD FOR CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I will discuss some serious examples of how this administration's contemptuous disregard for the authority delegated to Congress by the Constitution has impacted on how we do business here in Washington. This bad attitude has consistently manifested itself in a sophomore resentment of Congress' constitutional role as an equal branch of government.

Ironically, Congress has proven itself far more willing to cooperate than

what Ronald Reagan found during the Cold War. The executive branch, however, seems too insecure to let Congress do its job, as the executive branch sees Congress basically, even with a Republican-controlled majority, as a rival. And they see us as a spoiler rather than as elected representatives of the American people playing a rightful role in establishing policy for our great country. So, unfortunately, we see that in this President of the United States.

But let me add that I have worked in the White House before. I worked in the White House at a time when Democrats controlled both Houses of Congress. And I have witnessed times when Congress itself, yes, has sought to undermine foreign policy initiatives of Presidents who are watching out for America's national security interests in a tumultuous time. That is not what I'm referring to and will be referring to tonight. But I mention this only to note that, yes, while I am condemning our President tonight, I recognize that in the past, many liberal left Democrats have been obstructionist in their relationship with the White House as today that I see the White House is being obstructionist to Congress.

Many congressional Democrats, especially those on the far liberal left of the party, fought President Reagan every step of the way as he maneuvered to thwart Soviet expansionism during the waning days of the Cold War. Whether it was building a missile defense system, which now, I might add, protects us from rogue states such as Iran, Korea and China, or whether it was supporting resistance movements against Soviet puppet regimes in Afghanistan and Nicaragua, many congressional Democrats not only voted against the policy, which of course is their prerogative, but went far beyond that in an attempt to actually undercut and undermine the implementation of President Reagan's Cold War strategy. Liberal left Democrats in the U.S. Congress, for example, visited Nicaragua to encourage that Soviet ally regime to hold firm against Ronald Reagan's pressure to democratize.

Even as the Soviets poured billions of dollars of military equipment into Nicaragua, Congress, at a very crucial moment, restricted aid to the resistance fighters who were struggling to pressure the Sandinistas, to what? To have democratic elections.

In order to save Central America from a hostile takeover, Reagan had to overcome Soviet support for these rogue regimes, like the Sandinistas and different insurgencies that were supported by Cuba and the Soviet puppets in Central America, but the President also had to overcome congressional undermining of this stand that he had taken.

In the end, of course, Congress, after 1 year of eliminating all aid to the freedom fighters, or he would say the "democratic resistance" in Nicaragua, after 1 year, which drew, threw the entire Reagan strategy into a chaotic