

One cable news host already is on record as saying it's his job as a journalist to ensure that this presidency is successful. The media can provide a valuable service, but we need to hold them accountable and need to insist on objective reporting.

SCHIP

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, today is a great day.

This morning, I woke up with great optimism, knowing that, today, the House will once again take up the Children's Health Insurance Program that will cover 11 million children.

Providing health insurance to children whose families simply cannot afford it has been a top priority for the people I represent in Missouri. With rising unemployment, covering children is even more important than ever, and the need grows each day. No longer will children be forced to visit an emergency room to receive basic medical care. This is commonsense legislation at its best. Now children will be better prepared for learning and for success in today's world economy.

The broad coalition of supporters behind this bill will soon have a friend in the White House. President-elect Barack Obama is committed to making health care readily available to every American, starting with America's children.

This bill will not be voted on today without the leadership of Chairman WAXMAN, Chairman Emeritus DINGELL and Congressman PALLONE. I thank them for their continued leadership. America's children are on the threshold of a healthier future.

□ 1015

WEYERHAEUSER OF ELKIN MARKS ONE MILLION ACCIDENT-FREE HOURS

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, bad economic news dominates the headlines every day. But back in the Fifth District of North Carolina, there are still success stories.

Last month, the Weyerhaeuser manufacturing facility in Elkin, North Carolina, was recognized for more than 1 million work hours with no accidents resulting in lost time. This is an impressive feat resulting in Weyerhaeuser executives giving the Elkin plant the Senior Management Gold Award—an honor bestowed only 20 times in the company's 108-year history.

I am pleased to recognize the hard-working Elkin employees at Weyerhaeuser for their impressive accident-free safety record. This accom-

plishment is more than a milestone. It is a reflection of a commitment to putting employees and their safety first.

That's why, in a time of constant bad news, it's my pleasure to highlight a story of success. Congratulations to everyone at Weyerhaeuser of Elkin, North Carolina, and I hope to be back here soon marking your celebration of 200 million accident-free hours.

SCHIP IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a program also known as SCHIP.

With both Ohio and our Nation's unemployment level above 7 percent—with job losses expected to continue to rise—it's more important than ever that American families have access to affordable health care. Reauthorizing SCHIP will serve as the first step toward providing hardworking Americans with the help they need to take care of their families during these difficult times.

Children in rural areas, like my district, Ohio's Sixth District, depends on Medicaid or SCHIP for health insurance. Reauthorizing this vital program will ensure that more than 230,000 children in my home State of Ohio can continue to receive quality health care coverage.

At a time when our Nation is facing unprecedented job losses and increased economic strain, it's critical that Congress work together to pass this legislation.

EXPAND SCHIP SENSIBLY

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

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, the State Children's Health Insurance Program is important to the people of Montana. In fact, in November, we voted to expand eligibility within our State. SCHIP was created by a Republican Congress and a Democrat President in 1997. It was one of those rare government programs that really works like its supposed to, and I am proud to support it.

Unfortunately, as is often the case, when a Federal Government program works, the temptation is to add to it until pretty soon, the original program, the one that worked so well, is overwhelmed by well-intentioned changes. Eventually the good parts of the program are smothered.

So let's expand SCHIP sensibly. Let's do it in a responsible way that does not undermine an effective program. Let's keep the Children's Health Insurance Program about children.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM IS NEEDED

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the 14 million undocumented immigrants who otherwise would not have a voice.

Our country is in desperate need of comprehensive immigration reform to ensure the security of America and to bring vulnerable families out of the shadows. We all believe in strong enforcement of our borders and the rule of the law, but we are a Nation rooted in family, faith, in core values.

What should be done about the 12 to 14 million undocumented immigrants in this country? Immigrants are part of American fabric. In fact, the work ethic of immigrants is what built this Nation and still continues to do so.

Immigrant families are facing more than just a failing economy; they live in constant fear of being torn apart. We must work together towards comprehensive immigration reform that respects families and includes family unification.

I urge my colleagues to help these working families by passing comprehensive immigration reform. Let's make America great; let's not divide it.

KEEP THE F-22 PRODUCTION LINE OPEN

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the future of the F-22 will be decided in the coming weeks by the Obama administration. Congress has spoken. The National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal year 2009 passed by Congress and signed by the President contained the funds necessary to continue with F-22 production. However, only a small portion of those funds have been obligated, and thus far, a go/no-go decision on the rest of the funds must be made immediately or the production line will begin shutting down.

For the sake of our Nation's air superiority, we must not let this happen. The Air Force is still nearly 200 F-22s short of its stated requirement, a fact that we must not overlook as Russia and China develop Raptor-like technology. Moreover, over 100,000 jobs in our Nation are directly or indirectly tied to this program.

For these reasons, nearly 100 of our colleagues have joined Representatives Kay Granger, Norman Dicks, David Scott, and myself in a bipartisan letter to President-elect Obama encouraging continued F-22 production. I encourage all Members to show their support for the continued United States air dominance and keeping the F-22 production line open.