

expressing their most profound concern about the events in Iran and, in particular, about the violence being used against those people who have been peacefully dissenting in the streets of Iran.

There are news reports that at least seven have been killed. Others have been beaten and have been badly injured. Both the protests and the violent suppression have been spreading. It has been reported that there are instances of live fire being used by police in the cities. The Iranian authorities have now indicated that they will do a limited recount of the election results. I hope they are sincere and earnest in this offer.

As President Obama has said to those who have used their right to dissent: The world is watching and the world is inspired.

#### RECOGNIZING VIETNAM VETERANS FROM NEW MEXICO

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

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, during the Memorial Day weekend, there was a solemn moment for one family of New Mexico. Enrique Valdez, who served as a gunnery sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, was the 400th New Mexican to have his name added to the Vietnam Memorial here in Washington. Valdez was injured during his second tour of duty in South Vietnam.

Today, I would like to say that I am thankful for the service that Sergeant Valdez gave to his country. New Mexico has always had a proud military history from the Civil War to the Operations of Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

New Mexico's sons and daughters have always answered their Nation's call. For those who served during the Vietnam war, we as a Nation have been lax in our gratitude and appreciation. As we remember Sergeant Enrique Valdez, let us not only honor his memory and sacrifice but also honor the price that was paid by all who served in Vietnam.

#### FISCAL CRISES

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. is facing a fiscal crisis which we must soon begin to address. This will not be easy, but there are two clear things that we know we must do.

First, we know we must fix the spiraling cost of our health care system, and those who would point to our Federal deficits ignore the much larger numbers associated with the promises that we have made through Medicare and Social Security that we are going to have trouble keeping if we don't take a hard look at those things.

Secondly, as the economy recovers, this House must put the brakes on gov-

ernment spending. That's why I am delighted that, tomorrow, this House will take up pay-as-you-go legislation that would simply say: You pay for what you spend. You either have the guts to ask the citizenry to pay for it via taxation or you choose other things that you don't want to spend it on. We've seen PAYGO rules in place before, in the 1990s, when the government ran surpluses and when we saw unrivaled prosperity.

So we need to look back at that and have the discipline to pass that legislation so that we restore confidence in our fiscal probity and in the prosperity to our economy.

#### HEALTH CARE CRISIS

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop playing politics and solve the health care crisis. Americans deserve a choice in quality health care that is affordable.

Health care reform will make sure that we have the option to keep the health care insurance we have, if we like it, or to choose a quality public health care option.

Health care reform will stop the insurance companies from denying coverage to those with preexisting conditions. You will also no longer be denied care because of your age. Health care reform will make sure that you will have coverage that can never be denied or taken away. Our families need this peace of mind. We spend almost 50 percent more per person on health care than does the next most costly nation, but we are no healthier for it.

We cannot wait any longer to make health care reform a reality. Quality, affordable health care for all is long overdue.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, the American people don't need to be told there is a health care crisis in America. They're the ones living it every day. They're the ones who, for decades, have seen the price they pay out of every paycheck for health insurance skyrocket while their coverage has shrunk or has been denied altogether. They've seen the increasing copays and premiums.

We can give every American a choice. We can offer an alternative to the mountains of medical debt that so often lead to bankruptcy. We can offer an alternative to the fear that they or their children might be denied a doctor visit simply because it is more profitable to deny them coverage than to see them get well.

I want to encourage all Americans to stand up to the same fear-mongering attacks that have prevented them for

decades from getting the health care they deserve. We can offer a public option that helps all Americans. I implore the American people to remember that we are not the country of "no, we can't." We are America, the country of "yes, we can."

#### IRAN

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, while we are often focused on the things that make us different from other cultures, the recent news in Iran illustrates that there are far more things that bind us than that divide us. Freedom of speech, democracy and respect for basic fairness are not uniquely American or Western values. They are hardwired into all of us and are as elemental to the human experience as is the need for food, water or love.

We will likely have political differences with the Government of Iran for years to come. Despite this, let us all remember that the Iranian people want many of the same things that Americans do. They want their voices to be heard just like us. They want their government to be just, open and accessible just like us. They want their economy to be strong and for their country to work towards greater peace and understanding around the world just like us.

#### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, the health care crisis in our Nation is real. We need to step forward and take action to provide quality and affordable care for those who need it. With 46 million Americans uninsured in this country, there is no time to waste in offering hardworking families the option of health insurance while infusing competition into the health care market, which desperately needs it.

Our broken health care system also happens to be the most expensive health care system in the world. If we don't act now, the cost of health care in this country in 10, 20 or 30 years will bog down our economy. Reforming our health care system now makes economic sense.

Proposed health care reform is all about options. If you are happy with your current plans and with your current providers, keep them. The choice to have health insurance and the choice to get the best medical care you can possibly get is up to you. Health care should be a right for every American, and our current health care system in this country is broken. It is time for Congress to take the lead and to make the tough choices that we were sent to Washington to make.