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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEINER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 10, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANTHONY D. WEINER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Alan N. Keiran, Office of the Senate Chaplain, offered the following prayer:

Father God, as the challenging winds of change blow across our beloved Nation, we ask You to empower and encourage our leaders. Release in them vibrant faith in Your word and grant them supernatural wisdom to solve the daunting problems facing our country and our world.

Lord God Almighty, only You can lead us out of darkness and into the wonderful light of Your redeeming love. Open our eyes that we may see and our ears that we may hear what Your Holy Spirit is saying in these trying times. Protect us from the spirit of fear and anoint us with power, love and sound minds. Establish within us the tenacious resolve needed to overcome any obstacles inspired by the enemy of our souls.

Father, please bless and encourage the Members of this House, their families and staff members. As they seek Your counsel, speak tender words of encouragement and direction into their hearts. As they study Your word, may they feel renewed and enlightened. And as they worship, let them experience Your transforming presence and abundant love.

All this I pray in the name of Him who is the light of the world. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRIGHT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GUARANTEEING ALL AMERICANS HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, one of the tragic and laughable conceits of the entire health care debate is that people love their for-profit health insurance companies, so hands off the private insurers.

These are the same insurance companies whose premiums, copays and deductibles are forcing millions of Americans into poverty. Sixty percent of all U.S. bankruptcies are tied to people not being able to pay their hospital bills, and most of these people were in-

sured. But people love their insurance companies.

Now, everyone knows that insurance companies make money not providing health care. But people love their insurance companies, so we have to leave them in the game, right?

People love for-profit insurers, so government ought to give the insurance companies a bailout and subsidize private insurers, because people love their insurance companies, right?

Well, I don't think that people love for-profit insurance. I think people want a not-for-profit system that guarantees all Americans health care.

AMERICANS DESERVE A PROPER DEBATE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are beholden to the failed policies of big government. That is why they refuse to acknowledge the commonsense proposals House Republicans have provided to make this Nation stronger, energy more affordable and Americans healthier.

Rather than have the reasonable debate that the American people deserve, Democrats want to spend their time presenting false choices. But despite the tired rhetoric we hear from the other side of the aisle, House Republicans continue to offer commonsense solutions to improve the economy and create jobs through relief for families and small businesses.

We are fighting for patient-first health care solutions that will help Americans afford insurance, protect the doctor-patient relationship and keep Washington out of your private health care decision. We are standing up for the middle-class families who cannot afford a massive national energy tax.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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