

the support that Congress has shown over the years for this important work. Specific programs at Penn State that I proudly support include agricultural entrepreneurial alternatives, sustainable agriculture, dairy farm profitability, improved dairy management practices, and milk safety.

Dr. Steele is stepping down as dean and returning to the classroom.

Thank you, Dr. Steele, for your many years of service and your dedication to agriculture and higher education. I thank you, Dr. Steele, for your service and leadership. Pennsylvania agriculture is stronger for it.

ENSURING THERE ARE ENOUGH MEDICAID DOCTORS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, you know we have a problem today in that many patients who are enrolled in Medicaid really face a tough time finding a doctor who will accept their coverage. A recent article in my hometown paper, *The Dallas Morning News*, highlighted the troubles of a young girl in north Texas covered by Medicaid. She couldn't find a doctor to treat her, stating that because of the lack of Medicaid doctors, "Medicaid patients often grow sicker while hunting for a doctor."

We have an obligation to ensure that Americans covered under Medicaid, who also happen to be some of our poorest and neediest patients, children and American pregnant women, can see the doctor they need to see when they need to see them. Expanding the number of Americans who qualify for Medicaid without first making certain that there are enough doctors to see those Medicaid patients is irresponsible and is a disservice to these individuals.

To avoid this crisis, I propose that the Federal Government undertake the changes necessary to address the barriers of access to a doctor for any government program. Throwing more Americans onto the rolls of government-run health care without first ensuring that there will be a doctor to see them is wrong. Coverage should equal access to a doctor and must be part of the national health care debate.

I encourage the people to go to my Web site, www.healthcaucus.org.

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

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

MR. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, the cost of defensive medicine is a major factor for skyrocketing health care prices for American families. Studies reveal some alarming facts: defensive medicine costs the United States \$170 billion per year; a third of orthopedists, obstetricians, trauma

surgeons, emergency room doctors, and plastic surgeons can expect to be sued in a given year; liability concerns have driven 7 to 8 percent of all OB/GYNs to stop practicing altogether; and data for 2006 show that 71 percent of all cases are either dropped or dismissed and only 1 percent result in a verdict for the plaintiff; and yet it still costs an average of \$25,000 just to defend a lawsuit even if no payment is awarded. The results are higher premiums, less access to treatments, and physician shortages in certain specialties.

Any real health care plan must include long-overdue medical liability reform. Without it, patients and doctors alike will suffer, and the cost of health care for all Americans will continue to go up.

AMERICA'S 33 CZARS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, czarist Russia, 18 czars over a 300-year period of time. Czarist Obama Nation, America, 33 czars in 7 months, 33 czars who are running policy from Guantanamo Bay, to energy, to a \$790 billion stimulus package, to a myriad of other things and yet none of them have gone before the United States Senate for confirmation even though article II, section 2 of the Constitution says that the President should seek consent and advice from the U.S. Senate before appointing important policy people to his Cabinet.

Now, we do appoint and have the Senate confirm sub-Cabinet members, deputy Cabinet members, a myriad of judges—indeed hundreds if not thousands of people—but 33 people at a salary of \$172,000 each are running a parallel government without consent and approval. We need to stop this.

LAUS DEO

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, of course we have heard our President say we are not a Christian Nation. People can decide for themselves. But I thought it was worth pointing out that when the Washington Monument, right down the Mall from us, was dedicated, they put an aluminum-capped stone on it, four sides, there's writing on all four sides, but on the side that faced the Capitol were the Latin words "Laus Deo," Praise be to God.

Now, the reason they put that facing the Capitol was so that every day when the first rays of God's sun hit the very first thing in this Nation's Capitol, it was the words "Praise be to God." Every morning, the first rays of God's sun hit the first thing in the Capitol is "Praise be to God."

Just thought you ought to know.

REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today because we had a very important step in the history of America today. The House leadership announced a major initiative on health care reform: the 47 million-plus and growing number of uninsured Americans, the small businesses who get up every day and create the economic engine, the hardworking laborers who work every day, the children of America, just plain America is looking forward to a health reform package that gives a robust and vigorous public option without decreasing quality that says to hardworking Americans, No pre-existing disease or ailment in your family will ever break you again.

That allows for the strength of the integrity of the Federal Government to be a partner in working with those who wish to choose their own insurance which they already have. It is a fair balance, and it is paid for.

And so as we begin this debate, I'm excited to be able to announce that there will be savings, elimination of fraud and abuse, the opportunity for real health care reform.

□ 1715

OUR FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, this is a historic day but not for the reasons my colleague has just specified.

Today is the first day in American history the national deficit has reached \$1 trillion. We in this Congress have an obligation to do everything we can to preserve the financial integrity of this Nation for future generations, and as a Texan, I know the solution is very simple. It's one that is embodied in these wonderful stars which were worn by soldiers in the Army of the Republic of Texas.

This is a star worn by a young man who served in the Marine Corps of the Republic of Texas, and the lone star symbolizes for Texans that the solution is, to our problem as a Nation, just leave us alone. Let Texans run Texas. Stick to the Constitution.

The Federal Government needs to stick to the very limited powers set out in the Constitution and otherwise leave us alone. Stay away from my bank accounts, stay out of my pocket, get off my back, out of my way. Stay away from my home, my family, my kids, my job, my church, my synagogue.

Let Texans run Texas. Let Ohio run Ohio. That's what these young men were fighting for in the Army of the Republic of Texas, and that's what we,