

for possession, in addition to dealing—dealing is already covered in the Democratic bill—but would make felony conviction for possession also grounds for losing your student loan. Presumably, that's State and Federal felony conviction.

Now, in this, I was faced with several choices. One, I'm a Republican in a Democratic Congress. I was probably going to lose today. This was a practical way. I didn't want to see possession go out of the bill.

It basically means that marijuana won't be covered. If you have that much marijuana in your possession to be a felony, it probably means you're a dealer. You wouldn't have that much if you weren't a dealer. It's far more than individual use.

It basically covers meth, cocaine, and all sorts of other drug convictions for felony possession. It means the United States Government still stands on record saying that both possession and dealing should restrict your ability to get a student loan.

But there are some other practical things here. A lot of States, I believe, falsely and wrongly overrode Federal marijuana laws by decriminalizing marijuana, declaring that it was medical in some States when, in fact, marijuana is not medical. There are ingredients inside of marijuana that can be medical. We have Marinol, for example, that deals with that.

But they affect chaos in marijuana laws across the United States. It's very similar to what we are dealing with in Canada, as I debated up there as they proposed changing laws, and now Mexico has; and that is when different provinces have different laws and there's complete chaos in the laws, the Federal courts are not likely to uphold a law because it would be unequal enforcement.

So how would an Indiana student get denied a loan but a California student wouldn't get denied a loan? What about if it's somebody from Indiana who's in California going to school? What about if you're taking an online course combined with going to class, and the online course is based in California but you're going to school in Indiana? It's chaos. I do not believe, even had I won, the courts would have upheld my provision.

This shows, in fact, Republicans and Democrats can work together. It's very difficult on the major fundamental debate arguments. For example, I felt this was a Federal takeover of private lending and will lead to more Federal takeover and a national bank.

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So we weren't going to be able to agree on the loans. But it doesn't mean inside, even on controversial provisions, that we can't work together. So I wanted to explain that, and I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Congressman PERLMUTTER for working with me.

#### THE PRESIDENT MUST REJECT PLANS TO SEND MORE TROOPS TO AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, every child and every adult is familiar with the story of Goldilocks. Remember how it goes:

After wandering into the three bears' house, Goldilocks saw three bowls of porridge. One was too hot, one was too cold, but one was the medium temperature, and it was just right. I mention this because The New York Times recently reported that Goldilocks is playing a role in shaping American defense policy. According to the report, General McChrystal is expected to give Secretary of Defense Gates three options for troop increases in Afghanistan. The three options are, first, 15,000 more troops; second, 25,000 more troops; or third, 45,000 more troops. Pentagon officials apparently believe that Gates will choose the medium option of 25,000 troops. According to the Times, they actually call this the "Goldilocks option."

Here's why: Sending 15,000 more troops would be too cold because it wouldn't be enough to satisfy the generals; sending 45,000 more troops would be too hot because it would cause political problems; so sending the medium number of troops, 25,000, is considered "just right."

Of course the problem with this is that Afghanistan is not a children's story. It is a real war where real people are getting killed, and it is rapidly losing the support of the American people. Recent polls show that the American people want to reduce our troop strength in Afghanistan, not increase it. The American people have good reason to oppose the escalation of the conflict. They know that the recent elections in Afghanistan were filled with fraud, and they believe the Kabul Government is more interested in corruption than in improving the lives of the Afghan people.

The American people also know that we have already spent nearly \$225 billion in Afghanistan but have little to show for it. Our troops have performed brilliantly and courageously, but the insurgency is growing, and the war is getting harder to fight every single day. Besides, they believe the money that we have poured into Afghanistan is desperately needed here at home for health care reform and other vital domestic problems. The American people also know that we do not have a clear mission in Afghanistan, there is no exit strategy, and they fear that we run the risk of being considered an occupying force. Since the Afghans have opposed and defeated every single foreign power that has ever tried to occupy their nation, it all seems to be a repeat of past failures.

For all of these reasons, we need to debate, and we need to reconsider what

the U.S. role is in Afghanistan. I am urging the House to support my bill, H. Res. 363, the SMART Security Platform for the 21st century. The SMART Security Platform would change our mission in Afghanistan to emphasize economic development, humanitarian aid, education, jobs, and better governance. It would also help Afghanistan develop its policing and intelligence capacity. Policing and intelligence, you see, are far more effective than massive military invasions when it comes to tracking down violent extremists in the communities where they lurk.

Mr. Speaker, if the administration sends more troops to Afghanistan, the United States will be doubling down on a strategy that has already failed. The Afghan people don't want the United States to occupy their country, and the American people don't want an occupation, either. I urge President Obama to reject any plan to send more troops to Afghanistan because, like Goldilocks who should not have eaten any of the porridge that did not belong to her, Afghanistan does not belong to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CZARS—SHADOW GOVERNMENT?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every President has the right to get advice from anybody he wants to get advice from. That's a good thing. United States Presidents have a tough job. They should have as many advisers as they wish. My dad, in fact, would like to be one of those advisers to this President and wishes he was an adviser to all the past Presidents.

These czars, as they are now called, are not new to the executive branch. But when a person crosses the line from being an adviser to being a policy-maker and decision-maker for the government, that person needs to be held accountable to the people of the United States. Someone who gives advice to the President is one thing, but there's a difference between an adviser and someone who sets a policy and implements that policy. Then that person has direct control over the American people. If this occurs, our Constitution requires that person be subject to the oversight of Congress to be legitimate.

The big questions become: are these czars advisers or are they policymakers? If they become policymakers, then transparency is important, accountability is important, and confirmation by the United States Senate