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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 23, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM HOLDEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Martha Taylor, Elmhurst Presbyterian Church, Oakland, California, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, the Creator of the universe, the heavens, the Moon and the stars are Your work. You laid the foundation of this Earth. We pause in the midst of pressing demands to open our hearts and minds to hear from You.

Bless this Nation. Bless our President and each Representative of the people whom they represent and all that labor with them.

Help us not to forget the timeless principles penned by our Founding Fathers: that men and women are created equal, that we are endowed by You, our Creator, with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Prick our heart to make decisions that embrace these principles. Let the peace of God rule in our hearts. We pray this prayer in the name of the Most High.

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 Montana (Mr. REHBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. REHBERG 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### MAKING SURE SMALL BUSINESS THRIVES AND EXPANDS

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this morning to dispel a misleading rumor I recently heard about small business and health care reform.

Some are saying that, by requiring employers to offer health insurance for their employees or to opt out, we are going to crush small business. As a small business owner for over 40 years, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this reform will not cost us jobs in small business.

Under our current system, there is no requirement for employers to offer insurance. Yet 99 percent of large firms do offer and nearly 65 percent of small firms offer insurance to their employees. For the firms already offering cov-

erage, health care reform will bring much-needed competition and affordability to the insurance market. In addition, the smallest firms will be exempt. Finally, a 50 percent credit will be available to help pay premiums for the small businesses' insurance expenses.

In Ohio's Sixth Congressional District, which I serve, over 11,000 small businesses will receive credits to help cover their employees. As we continue to work on health care reform, I am committed to making sure small business continues to thrive and expand.

### AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, in Montana, we often say there are only two seasons: winter and construction.

This August, at the peak of the construction season, I drove almost 3,500 miles around Montana, having listening sessions.

While it's not strange to see road construction in Montana in August, signs telling drivers that the funds for the construction came from the so-called "stimulus" were new. These signs provide no jobs or long-term investment in our economy. Instead, they represent the worst kind of political credit-taking.

What's more, the signs are wrong. The dollars Congress allocates come from taxpayers. In this case, it would have been more accurate to say: "A project funded by our children and grandchildren." There are better ways to fund and to spend millions of dollars.

Last week, the Senate had a chance to stop wasting money on these signs, but failed to do so. We can do better in the House, and we must because Americans deserve better.

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

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