are built, let's be honest in that the money invested in the Federal Government doesn't really produce all that much, does it? We don't make things here during the day other than laws and regulations that interfere with other people's lives. We need to have this government smaller and more manageable.

We talk a lot about transparency, and I think transparency is good. The problem is you have something that is so complex, like the IRS Code, that even though you may have the ability to look inside it, you won't know what you're finding when you get there. If you have a system that's as simple as this, people are able to know what their government is costing them and what they are getting from that bond with the government.

If they didn't like that equation, they could change. They could change their Members of Congress; they could change their Senators; they could change their President. That's the beauty of living in the representational Republic that we all know and love here in the United States of America, and it is the thing that, arguably, has made us great—government with the consent of the governed. Wouldn't it be great if that governed knew just exactly what it was costing them, and then perhaps they could find out where those dollars were going.

I mentioned earlier that Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN has called for broadening the base and lowering the rates. Obviously, I want to work together with him. Ways and Means Chairman DAVID CAMP has promoted the simplification of the Tax Code. The President, himself, through the Bowles-Simpson Commission, talked about it. Whatever the tax proposals are that we look to in the future, we need to remember that a flat-tax system could be less costly, saving the taxpayer over $160 billion a year, reducing tax compliance costs by over 90 percent, with a resulting increase in personal savings.

Here you go. How about a debt-free stimulus package, a gift to the American people, that could have an immediate effect on the American economy. American Solutions looked into this question in 2009: 80 percent of Americans favor an optional one-page tax form with a single rate. Who could complain about making something easier? And we've got 70,000 pages of the Tax Code and more on the way this December when we get through with the so-called ''lame duck session.'' I don't know about you, Mr. WEST, but it scares me half to death to think about what's coming at the end of this year. The current process comes at a cost that's way too high for the American people and that costs way too much time.

□ 1930

Mr. WEST. Thank you so much to my colleague from Texas, Dr. BURGESS, and I think the seminal argument is this: We're talking about economic freedom for the American people, as opposed to economic dependency upon government. This incredible, exorbitant system that we have, it is complex to the point where it is causing more pain for the American people and causing them to have the freedom that they deserve.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, of course, I know I must direct my comments to you. April 17 is coming up. It's rapidly approaching. I know people are focusing and will begin to focus more and more on this issue for what remains of the month of March and the first couple of weeks of April, because they'll be having to arrange their own taxes, deal with their own shoe boxes full of receipts.

This is the time to make the point that it is time to return time and money to the American people. Let's get behind the flat tax.

I yield back the balance of my time.

SPEAK OUT FOR WOMEN ACROSS AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLORES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to be here tonight to speak out for women across America who rely on contraception for their health and well-being. I want to emphasize the world ''health'' because at it's heart that's what this debate is all about.

There has been a great deal of discussion about religion in this debate, but we want to use tonight to remind policymakers and Americans everywhere what's really at stake when we talk about contraception, and that's the health and well-being of millions of women and their families.

Ninety-nine percent of sexually active women have used contraception, including 98 percent of sexually active Catholic women. More than half of women between the ages of 18 and 34 have struggled to afford contraception. It's also important to recognize 28 States already require contraception coverage, and 57 percent of Catholic voters support the new policy requiring contraception coverage.

But today we want to move beyond statistics and tell human stories, the stories of women all across America who rely on contraception for a variety of vital health needs. Tonight I just want to share one of many stories I have received from women in my district. The story I want to share is from a young woman in my district in Chicago named Annalisa. Annalisa was so moved by the story of the young woman from Georgetown who was denied contraception to treat her ovarian cyst, she wrote me this letter:

> I would like to applaud your decision to walk out of the one-sided talk about birth control coverage. I have a similar story to that of the rejected witness' friend.
>
> I had my right ovary removed shortly after I turned 18 due to a large cyst that not only threatened my fertility, but I was told if it grew any larger it could burst and also threaten my life. My left ovary also had multiple smaller cysts, but they were able to be removed while leaving the ovary intact.
>
> My doctor said I was one of the youngest with such a problem, and the cyst was so large it was sent to be researched. Before I was even sexually active I was prescribed birth control pills to preserve my remaining ovary and to take my fertility beyond the age of 18.
>
> It saddens me to no end that some people don't understand the many uses and life-saving abilities of birth control. I hope to be a mother someday, a darned good one, and I thank you for standing up for women like me.

Well, I want to thank Annalisa for her bravery and sharing her story with me and allowing me to share it tonight. But Annalisa is not alone. Her story is the story of thousands of women around the country whose health relies on contraception. We will hear more stories like Annalisa's tonight.

But I hope that the next time we engage in a debate about restricting access to contraception, we remember Annalisa and women like her, and we remember that for thousands of women, contraception is not a question of religion but a question of life and death.

In addition to non-contraception health benefits, the contraception benefits of birth control cannot be understated. The simple fact is millions of women use birth control to delay or avoid pregnancy.

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists:

> A full array of family planning services is vital for women's health, especially for the two-thirds of American women of reproductive age who wish to avoid or postpone pregnancy.

Nearly half of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended, and unintended pregnancies can have serious health consequences for women. For example, for some women with serious medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure, a pregnancy could be life threatening.

Children born from unintended pregnancies are also at greater risk of poor birth outcomes such as congenital defects, low birth weight, and prematurity. According to the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality, 10 percent of infant deaths could be prevented if all pregnancies were planned.

I want to share another story of a young woman named Katy from my home State of Illinois. Katy, like millions of women across the country, currently relies on contraception because she is pursuing her career and wants to do so without getting pregnant. Here's what Katy wrote:

> Birth control is important to me personally because I am a 23-year-old medical student who would be distraught if I became pregnant. Don't get me wrong, I love children and dream of the day that I can become

a mother. That time isn't when I have $81,000 in medical school debt after just 2 years of medical school. That time isn't when I study for most hours of the day. That time isn't when I have no job, and my only source of 'income' is the overpayment checks I receive for my financial aid.

Birth control is important to me because I can't be a mother right now but want to have the option in the future. Birth control gives me the option to retain a somewhat normal intimate life with my partner of 8 years while still protecting my dreams of a future in medicine. That future would be extremely hard to obtain with an infant to care for.

Contraception has transformed our society by allowing women like Katy to take their own health and their own future into their own hands. Women have the power to decide when and how many children to have, which has allowed them to pursue successful careers and enter the workforce like never before.

But in the end, this is not about work versus home life. This is about empowering women to decide for themselves. Birth control lets women choose their own life paths, and that's why it is vital that we protect it.

I also want to remind opponents of contraception coverage that contraception prevents abortion. Nearly half—49 percent—of pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended, and 42 percent of unintended pregnancies end in abortion. Although abortion and contraception are one degree removed, it is easy to see that increased use of contraception will reduce unintended pregnancies and, therefore, reduce abortion rates.

The data shore this up as well. According to a study published in the American Journal of Public Health, the recent decline in pregnancy rates amongst American teens ''appears to be following the patterns observed in other developed countries, where improved contraception use has been the primary determinant of declining rates.''

Teen pregnancy is at a 30-year low, due in large part to increased contraception use. Another recent study found that California's family-planning program averted nearly 300,000 unintended pregnancies, 100,000 abortions and 38,000 miscarriages.

Finally, a Guttmacher Institute study of nationwide family planning programs found similar reports. According to Guttmacher:

Publicly funded contraceptive services and supplies help women in the U.S. avoid nearly 2 million unintended pregnancies each year.

In the absence of such services—from family planning centers and from doctors serving Medicaid patients, estimated U.S. levels of unintended pregnancy, abortion and unintended birth would be nearly two-thirds higher among women overall, and nearly twice as high among poor women.

There can be no denying that contraception prevents abortion. This means abortion opponents should be bolstering contraception programs, not banning them.

We should be able to find common ground on the issue of contraception—a basic health service already utilized by the vast majority of American women.

I hope we can work together to expand important investments in family planning such as title X and Medicaid.

And I hope we can move forward with the important new rule requiring coverage of contraception, to empower women, improve health, save lives, and reduce abortions.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 4 p.m. and the balance of the week.

Ms. MOORE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family medical emergency.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1886. An act to prevent trafficking in counterfeit drugs, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4105. An act to apply the countervailing duty provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 to nonmarket economy countries, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 8, 2012, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5196. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Indoxacarb; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0578; FRL-9336-7] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5197. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Report to Congress on the Review of Laws, Policies and Regulations Restricting the Service of Female Members in the U.S. Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5198. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a letter regarding special account funds; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5199. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0761; FRL-9501-6] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5200. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Designations for the 2010 Primary Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0572; FRL-9624-3] (RIN: 2060-AR06) received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5201. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Preconstruction Permitting Requirements for Electric Generating Stations in Maryland [EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0623; FRL-9628-7] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5202. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee: Chattanooga; Particulate Matter 2002 Base year Emissions Inventory [EPA-R04-OAR-2011-0084-201167(a); 9628-2] received February 9, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5203. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; State of Florida; Control of Large Municipal Waste Combustor (LMWC) Emissions From Existing Facilities; Correction [EPA-R04-OAR-2010-0392(a); FRL-9628-6] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5204. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Revisions to the Administrative Rules of Montana — Air Quality, Subchapter 7, Exclusion for De Minimis Changes [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0100; FRL-9495-9] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5205. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Modification of Significant New Uses of Tris Carbamoyl Triazine [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2011-0108; FRL-9330-6] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5206. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, California Air Resources Board — Consumer Products [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0800; FRL-9609-7] received February 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.