



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015

No. 106

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 9, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID G. VALADAO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### END-OF-LIFE CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. One of the most difficult and challenging situations any family faces is dealing with circumstances surrounding the end of life.

Earlier this week, NPR ran a fascinating story on a little-known fact that physicians die differently than the rest of us. They are more comfortable. They are more likely to spend their final days surrounded by loved ones. They seldom die in an ICU or even in a

hospital setting. That is because doctors understand what works and what doesn't. Doctors are very clear about their wishes, and they choose quality of life and concern for their families as well as their own well-being.

I have been working in this area of end of life care for more than 6 years. The Ways and Means committee unanimously approved my legislation as part of the Affordable Care Act to provide greater support for families with that decisionmaking process.

It did pass the committee unanimously as part of the Affordable Care Act, even despite the furor of the 2009 lie of the year about death panels, on the strength of some of the most compelling testimony that was delivered not by expert witnesses, but by Members of the committee.

One of our Republican Members discussed how his mother didn't get the care that she needed at the end of her life. Another physician Member of the committee explained how he had these conversations repeatedly, but unfortunately they were often much later than they should have been. There wasn't adequate time for the family to prepare.

Well, there has been a sea change on this issue in part because of rising public awareness. Support for our bipartisan legislation, the Personalize Your Care Act, which I have worked on for years now with Dr. PHIL ROE, has made great strides forward.

We have had advocates like Dr. Bill Frist, former Republican leader of the Senate, who has spoken eloquently and written forcefully about the need to help families under these trying conditions.

The Reverend Billy Graham has written about how it is Christian responsibility to take this on for ourselves and spare our loved ones uncertainty.

Dr. Atul Gawande recently published a brilliant work, "Being Mortal," which quickly climbed to the top of the

best seller list for The New York Times.

The Institute of Medicine has put out a seminal, over 600-page report about dying in America that talked about the problems and opportunities to provide more choices and protect people's wishes.

Yesterday was another important landmark where the administration published a proposed fee schedule for next year in which they have assigned an activity code with payment for advanced care planning.

Now, of course, this is merely a proposal and CMS is still seeking comment, but it is a historic step forward for a decision that will be finalized this fall. It is yet another indication that we can and will do a better job of meeting the needs of America's families under the most difficult of circumstances.

We will make sure Americans have all the information they need to make the right decisions for themselves and their family and then to assure that those decisions, whatever they may be, are honored and enforced.

Medicare will pay for thousands of expensive medical procedures, and now, for the first time, the government is placing a value on this important conversation between a patient and their chosen medical professional.

Now it is the job of the rest of us to do our part to spare our loved ones. Who will speak for us if we are unable to speak for ourselves, and what will they say?

### PROPOSED FIDUCIARY STANDARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, most economists and financial advisers have recognized that families across the United States are headed toward a

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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