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## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 27, 2017, at 3 p.m.

## House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We are at the end of a difficult week filled with long days of work on legislation of great import for all Americans.

May Your peace descend upon this assembly. May wisdom and good faith rule the day, and may each Member proceed, with the help of Your grace, on the day's proceedings.

We all thank You that we have the privilege to serve in the people's House. May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the

ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### REMEMBERING TOM FRIEDKIN

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, a man loved throughout Houston, throughout Texas, throughout America, and throughout our world, Tom Friedkin put on his angel wings and flew to Heaven last week.

Tom was the force behind Houston's largest private company, Gulf States

Toyota. Tom put an "open for business" sign up in 1969. Thirty years later, Tom was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame.

Tom's brain made him a billionaire, but his heart was worth much, much more. Tom took that heart to Tanzania to protect elephants from being poached and killed. Tom's foundation signed a 30-year agreement with Tanzania to make it a better country.

A legend Texans love, Bum Phillips, would say this about Tom Friedkin: Tom, you may not be in a class by yourself, but whatever class you are in, it don't take long to call the roll.

God bless you, Tom.

### HEALTHCARE BILL OUGHT TO BE REJECTED

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, here we are. Today is the day when this House will vote on whether or not access to health care is a fundamental right in this country or should be limited to those of means who can afford it, whether access to lifesaving preventative care is something that Americans ought to be able to depend upon.

Now, we haven't seen the final language of the bill—it is still being worked on—although we are voting on it today, but here is what we know:

It will result in higher costs.

It will force families to pay higher premiums and higher out-of-pocket costs.

It will provide less coverage; and, in fact, just in the last couple of days,

□ 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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even less coverage, by eliminating essential health benefits like preventative care, like hospitalization, like prescription drugs. Somebody might have a healthcare card, but it won't provide them health care when they need it.

It will have a crushing age tax. If you are 50 to 64 years of age, get ready. You will pay enormously higher costs as a result of this ill-conceived piece of legislation.

This steals from Medicare, undoes the promise.

This is a bad piece of legislation. It ought to be rejected.

#### THANKING ANDY LEUNG FOR HIS SERVICE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a very special member of my team, Andy Leung, who is an intern in my office.

Andy comes to us through the Congressional Internship Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. This is a unique program designed to give students with varying intellectual disabilities an opportunity to gain congressional work experience. It is part of George Mason University's LIFE Program. To date, 150 congressional offices from the House and Senate have participated in this wonderful program.

Mr. Speaker, Andy is a part of our team, and we look forward to the hours he spends with us each week. He quickly settled into the office, and he is always in great spirits.

Andy is hardworking and curious. He is interested in the projects the full-time staff are working on. He loves picking up the flags from the Capitol, and we are truly fortunate to have such a dedicated intern.

I would like to thank Andy for his service and thank his employment assistant and the Congressional Internship Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities for making this possible.

#### TRUMPCARE IS A PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, TrumpCare is a disaster for children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities.

The bill we are considering today has been strong-armed through this House with no public hearings. Today as we vote, we don't have an updated estimated cost from the Congressional Budget Office, but here is what we do know:

Under TrumpCare, families will pay more for their insurance premiums and their deductibles.

Under TrumpCare, older Americans will be forced to pay higher insurance

premiums, five times higher than what others pay.

Under TrumpCare, health care for vulnerable children, seniors, and people with disabilities will be rationed.

Unbelievably, TrumpCare even attacks the solvency of Medicare. It will be weakened by giving big tax breaks to billionaires.

TrumpCare was made even worse overnight. Now insurance companies will be able to sell policies that exclude basic health care like cancer screening and preventative care and even some hospitalizations.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a healthcare bill. It is a prescription for disaster. I urge my colleagues to strongly oppose TrumpCare.

#### AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT IS A WAY FORWARD

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as we contemplate the American Health Care Act, here are a few things we do know:

The Affordable Care Act, as it is called, has driven premiums for working families up and up each year. There are fewer choices of plans, especially in rural America, and 8 million and rising people are choosing not to opt to be enrolled at all, paying the penalty instead.

Premiums will keep going up, as projected. Even more will drop out, and more will pay the penalty instead. More will become uninsured.

This death spiral is not choice; it is not an American value.

Mr. Speaker, as the American Health Care Act moves forward, we know the Democrats will not be helpful, as they are clinging to the failing ACA at all costs. We know that middle-income families are begging us for relief and more choices. We know this bill represents the best chance to achieve cost relief, actual choices, while also keeping the commitment under Medicaid to children in need with reauthorizing the bipartisan SCHIP later this year.

More affordable options come about with unshackling what the ACA has wrought. It is this or that.

Mr. Speaker, we must keep this dialogue, this option, this bill, the American Health Care Act, as a way forward to bring choices and relief to Americans who have worked for the American Dream and are feeling like they are losing it.

Let's keep our pledge and help President Trump keep his pledge by taking this one of three important steps with the American Health Care Act.

#### TAX CUTS FOR MILLIONAIRES

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I say good morning to America.

This is not a health bill that we are readying ourselves to vote on. It is a tax bill for wealthy people.

I just left the Committee on Rules. We started our session there at 7 this morning. I have in hand a closed rule that will allow for 4 hours of debate. Later on this afternoon, the Republicans will accomplish what they set out to do.

The bill provides \$274.9 billion in tax cuts for the highest income Americans. Over half of the tax cuts in the bill go to millionaires. In the year 2020, 61 percent of the cuts go to those earning more than a million dollars.

At the same time, Republicans cut Medicaid by more than \$880 billion. That is money for poor people that will not have those benefits. Republicans cut Medicaid by that amount for working families.

Donald Trump's people and his Cabinet will do very well.

#### AMERICA CAN DO BETTER

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this is the Republican bill: a trillion dollars in lost health care for millions; at the same time, a trillion dollars in tax breaks, mostly for the very wealthy and corporations.

The Republican majority says their bill is to provide patient-centered health care, but for patients there is no healthcare center when there is no insurance.

The Republican bill robs millions of needed insurance for their health and, in many cases, would rob them of their life.

The Republican plan would create death panels for numerous unknown Americans.

This is not our America. America can do better. We must.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1628, AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-58) on the resolution (H. Res. 228) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1628) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1628, AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 228 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows: