

lawsuit abuse. Most people know how abusive lawsuits have driven many doctors, especially OB/GYNs, out of business. This is just one example of how lawsuit abuse hurts our citizens, particularly women and children. We have to bring common sense to our legal process. And, yes, there needs to be accountability for those who do harm, but abuses must be ended. That is why we must pass class-action reform this year.

Another impediment to our continued economic prosperity is the volatile energy market. We passed an energy conference report out of the House the last Congress, only to see it die in the other body. We need to finish the job this year.

And, finally, as we prepare our economy for the next 50 years, we must keep our transportation system on the cutting edge. Our roads, bridges, and ports not only move people; they also move products. And we must make at home those products to sell abroad, and we must keep those institutions viable that move them from the marketplace to the markets. To keep our products moving, we must finish the work on the transportation bill early this year.

As we move this aggressive reform agenda, let us ever be mindful of our responsibilities laid out in the Constitution. The Constitution begins by describing the legislative branch. Article I, section 1 says that all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the Congress. The mission of the Congress, as laid out in the Constitution, is stark: establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, and provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. One hundred nine times, newly elected Members of Congress have gathered together to be sworn in, to pledge a solemn oath to uphold that Constitution. The size of the delegations have increased, the numbers of constituents have multiplied, and the demands on the Members seem more complex than ever. But the basics of doing the job have never really changed. Those Members who do best in this place are those who never lose sight of where they came from or whom they represent.

My congressional district lies in the heartland of America. My home is in the Fox River Valley, not the Potomac River. And I want to thank my constituents of the 14th District of Illinois for giving me the opportunity to serve them again. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to represent these great Americans.

And as I thank my constituents, I must also thank my most important constituent, my wife, Jean, who, by the way, is the Speaker in our house.

Jean, thank you for your patience, your guidance, your sense humor, and your wonderful common sense.

As elected representatives of the people, each of us shoulders a great burden of responsibility. Our families often bear the brunt of that burden. And let me thank all of the spouses and the children, many of whom are here in this Chamber today. We want to thank you for your sacrifices on behalf of the American people.

And as we begin this historic 109th Congress, let us also give thanks to our Creator for the blessings that He has bestowed upon us. May God bless this House and all who serve in it, and may God bless this great Nation we call America.

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I now recognize the Dean of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), my good friend and colleague, who will administer the oath.

Mr. DINGELL then administered the oath of office to Mr. HASTERT of Illinois, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which you are about to enter. So help you God.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. According to precedents, the Chair will swear in all Members of the House at this time.

If the Members will rise, the Chair will now administer the oath of office.

The Members-elect and Delegates-elect and the Resident Commissioner-elect rose, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now Members of the 109th United States Congress.

MAJORITY LEADER

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as their majority leader the gen-

tleman from Texas, the Honorable TOM DELAY.

MINORITY LEADER

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as Minority Leader the gentlewoman from California, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI.

MAJORITY WHIP

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as majority whip the gentleman from Missouri, the Honorable ROY BLUNT.

MINORITY WHIP

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as minority whip the gentleman from Maryland, the Honorable STENY HOYER.

ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE, SERGEANT AT ARMS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND CHAPLAIN

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 1) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1

Resolved, That Jeffrey J. Trandahl of the State of South Dakota be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Wilson S. Livingood of the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives;

That James M. Eagen, III, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

That Father Daniel P. Coughlin of the State of Illinois be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the resolution, but before offering that amendment, I request that there be a division of the question on the resolution so that we may have a separate vote on the Chaplain.

The SPEAKER. The question will be divided.

The question is on agreeing to that portion of the resolution providing for the election of the Chaplain.

That portion of the resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MENENDEZ

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the remainder of the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. MENENDEZ:

That Jerry Hartz of Iowa be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Dean Aguillen of Texas be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That Terri McCullough of California be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

The amendment was rejected.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the remainder of the resolution offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

The remainder of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. Will the officers-elect of the House of Representatives please come forward.

The officers-elect presented themselves at the bar of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You have been sworn in as officers of the House.

NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 2) to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled and of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that J. Dennis Hastert, a Representative from the State of Illinois, has been elected Speaker; and Jeffrey J. Trandahl, a citizen of the State of South Dakota, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY PRESIDENT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 3) author-

izing the Speaker to appoint a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 3

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 3

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled, and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER AND THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 4) authorizing the Clerk to inform the President of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 4

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected J. Dennis Hastert, a Representative from the State of Illinois, Speaker; and Jeffrey J. Trandahl, a citizen of the State of South Dakota, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 5) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 5

Resolved, That the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Eighth

Congress, including applicable provisions of law or concurrent resolution that constituted rules of the House at the end of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, are adopted as the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress, with amendments to the standing rules as provided in section 2 and with other orders as provided in section 3.

SEC. 2. CHANGES IN STANDING RULES.

(a) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—

(1) In clause 1 of rule X, insert after paragraph (h) the following new paragraph (and redesignate the succeeding paragraphs accordingly):

“(1) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.

“(1) Overall homeland security policy.

“(2) Organization and administration of the Department of Homeland Security.

“(3) Functions of the Department of Homeland Security relating to the following:

“(A) Border and port security (except immigration policy and non-border enforcement).

“(B) Customs (except customs revenue).

“(C) Integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information.

“(D) Domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism.

“(E) Research and development.

“(F) Transportation security.”.

(2) In clause 1(I) (as redesignated) of rule X—

(A) insert after subparagraph (6) the following new subparagraph (and redesignate the succeeding subparagraphs accordingly):

“(7) Criminal law enforcement.”; and (B) amend subparagraph (9) (as redesignated) to read as follows:

“(9) Immigration policy and non-border enforcement.”.

(3) In clause 1(r) (as redesignated) of rule X—

(A) in subparagraph (18) insert before the period “(except the Transportation Security Administration)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (20) after “automobile safety” insert “and transportation security functions of the Department of Homeland Security”.

(4) In clause 1(t)(1) (as redesignated) of rule X, strike “Customs” and insert “Customs revenue”.

(5) In clause 3 of rule X, insert after paragraph (e) the following new paragraph (and redesignate the succeeding paragraphs accordingly):

“(f) The Committee on Homeland Security shall review and study on a continuing basis all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security.”.

(6) In clause 10 of rule I, strike “1(i)(1)” and insert “1(j)(1)”.

(7) In clause 1(j)(4) (as redesignated) of rule X, strike “(q)(11)” and insert “(r)(11)”.

(8) In clause 1(j)(5) (as redesignated) of rule X, strike “(q)(11)” and insert “(r)(11)”.

(9) In clause 9(f) of rule X, strike “1(i)(1)” and insert “1(j)(1)”.

(10) In clause 1(c) of rule XI, strike “1(i)(1)” and insert “1(j)(1)”.

(11) In clause 4(a)(2)(B) of rule XIII, strike “1(i)(1)” and insert “1(j)(1)”.

(12) In clause 5(a)(3) of rule XIII, strike “1(i)(1)” and insert “1(j)(1)”.

(13) In clause 10 of rule XXIV, strike “1(i)(1)” and insert “1(j)(1)”.

(b) COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES.—In clause 2(d)(1) of rule X—

(1) in subdivision (C), strike “and”;

(2) in subdivision (D), strike the period and insert “; and”; and