

with college students from UC Santa Barbara and Oxnard Community College on the Capitol steps, and I was proud to tell them that, during these tough economic times, I voted for the single largest investment ever in higher education.

Our bill will save taxpayers over \$60 billion from wasteful bank subsidies, and we're making education a priority, investing most of these savings directly into Pell Grants. The bill will mean nearly \$48 million for Pell Grants for these and other students over the next 10 years.

Now, more than ever, we need to invest in education to get our economy back on track, and with this bill we did just that. Today we can finish the job for our college students.

REPEAL AND REPLACE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, repealing the government takeover of health care is the first step, with an immediate replacement for insurance reform. It is important that we offer our patient-centered plan, H.R. 3400, to cover preexisting conditions, to help small businesses with association health plans, and to allow consumers to shop across State lines to lower costs.

Let's continue to cover preexisting conditions but repeal the tax hikes and the unaffordable mandates on individuals and small business owners.

The American patient cannot afford higher premiums. CBO says that the health care premiums will rise up to 13 percent.

The American family cannot afford more tax hikes and fewer jobs; \$569.2 billion in tax hikes on small businesses and other employers.

American children cannot afford the massive deficits; a \$622 billion addition to our already massive debt burden.

And the American health care system cannot afford fewer doctors. Fewer physicians will accept Medicaid patients.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

Welcome, students, to the Capitol of McCracken Middle School from Bluffton, South Carolina.

CELEBRATING THE PASSAGE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, proud of what we've accomplished with President Obama, our House Speaker, NANCY

PELOSI, and now the United States Senate to bring quality, affordable health care to the American people.

But our pride is tempered by humility, the humility of knowing that we have brought health care coverage to millions of women who now will no longer have to pay more than men just because they're women.

Our pride is tempered by the humility of knowing that children who have preexisting conditions will now be able to also have health care.

Our pride is tempered by the humility of knowing that for thousands and thousands of small business owners across this country, they'll now be able to provide health care coverage for themselves and their employees.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to have joined our forefathers and foremothers who brought us Social Security, civil rights, Medicare, and now health care to the American people.

NO MORE DELAYS ON AMERICAN ENERGY

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources is holding a hearing examining the Obama administration's policies of increasing taxes on and reducing funding for American energy production.

Finding solutions to our country's dependence on foreign energy is a top priority for me. Now is not the time to further delay advancement of American energy. Yet, the administration's budget proposes increasing fees and taxes directly on oil and gas operations here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, these funds do nothing to expedite or improve the permitting process on Federal lands. Instead, these policies stifle our economy, create more red tape, and block expansion of our energy portfolio. Simply put, these policies are wrong for America.

HEALTH CARE REFORM IN AMERICA

(Ms. MARKEY of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today proud of the accomplishment of this House in finally passing health care reform. This legislation was the culmination of decades of work to bring some sanity to our health care system.

Now Americans with preexisting conditions will no longer be pushed aside by insurance companies. No insurance company will be able to tell a parent that their newborn's weight is a preexisting condition.

In my district, in 2008, 1,400 families filed for bankruptcy from health care

costs, putting their lives, their homes, and everything at risk because of health care costs. This bill will protect them from skyrocketing expenses.

In addition, nearly 20,000 businesses will receive credits to help them afford insurance.

I have long been a supporter of the 25 community health care centers in my district. These centers will now have the resources to provide primary care at an affordable cost. Our hospitals will also save tens of millions of dollars they now lose to unreimbursed care.

I am proud to have done my part by voting for this health care reform bill.

PENDING INVESTIGATION INTO THE PMA SCANDAL

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, a week ago I introduced a privileged resolution asking the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to report back to the House as to the extent of their investigation into the PMA scandal. A motion to refer that resolution to the committee was adopted unanimously. Every Member in this body voted for it a week ago; yet here we are a week later and we haven't heard anything from the Standards Committee as to the extent of their investigation.

I'll be introducing this resolution again today, and I hope that we can finally get an answer as to the extent of the investigation into the PMA scandal.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FATHER EDWARD L. RUDEMILLER

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

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati lost a committed and humble servant when Father Edward Rudemiller passed away.

"Father Rudy," as he was known, was ordained in 1958 and served the people of southwestern Ohio for 47 years before retiring in 2005. A 1950 graduate of Elder High School in Cincinnati, he returned to his alma mater in 1959 to teach religion and Latin for 21 years.

In addition to these duties, he was the athletic director from 1962-1977. He could often be seen on Friday nights at the "Pit" strolling the sidelines in support of his Panthers.

Although best known for his loyalty to Elder High School and the west side of Cincinnati, Father Rudemiller was equally beloved in his role as parish priest and pastor at parishes throughout the archdiocese.

In his later years, Father Rudy fought through illness with dignity and

grace. We are grateful for his service and we celebrate his life.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know, Texas is one of 14 States filing a lawsuit challenging the Federal requirement to purchase health insurance as part of the new health law.

This is America. We don't force people to hand over hard-earned money to a private company against their will. That's the ultimate overreach of Federal power, and it's unconstitutional.

I'm also upset by the fact that this health care law creates one more government handout. By pushing more and more people into a government-controlled health care plan, we're going to reach a point where more Americans depend on the government for help than those who get along by themselves. That's not right.

Americans want, need, and deserve prosperity and success achieved by sacrifice, hard work, self-reliance, and personal responsibility, not government control. It's called the American Dream.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, well, it's been 72 hours since health care reform was passed and, as near as I can tell, nobody has to go to the post office to get their prostate checked. They're not getting mammograms in the DMV, and we aren't herding doctors to gulags across the country.

The fact is people are seeing what is in this bill: simple, commonsense health insurance reforms that will make a difference for Americans this year in extending coverage, in being able to put children on their health insurance program until they're 26; eliminating the insidious practice of denying coverage when you get sick.

And as Americans see more and more what is in this legislation, we'll have an opportunity to build on this important foundation of health care reform for economic health and security, a better health care for our families, and maybe, just maybe, showing that in the Federal Government here some of us can work together to get things done.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER DONALD ADKINS

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember one of West Virginia's finest citizens, volunteer firefighter Donald Adkins. Donald was a volunteer with the Glasgow Volunteer Fire Department, and our hearts go out to his fellow firefighters.

On March 13, Donald was bravely providing rescue support to the flooded areas of Raleigh County, West Virginia, when his rescue boat capsized after striking submerged debris. After 6 days of searching by nearly 100 volunteers, Donald's body was found March 19, 2010.

While our hearts remain heavy for the loss of a true selfless servant, we celebrate the gift of life Donald gave to others in our community as a volunteer firefighter.

Mr. Speaker, Donald Adkins and countless rescue volunteers across West Virginia and the Nation put their lives on the line to protect us during times of emergency. I hope you'll join me in praising them for this difficult, dangerous work that they do for the safety of us all.

I also ask that you keep Donald Adkins' parents; his two sons, Devin and Ethan; his daughter, Allyssa; and his girlfriend, Bobbie Evans, in your thoughts and prayers.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, you know, I hear from the other side about the American Dream, but I want to say, the American Dream doesn't mean that the government shouldn't get involved to end discrimination.

We have a long history in this country of the government getting involved to end discrimination. And that's a big part of this health care reform, because right now, people who have preexisting conditions cannot get health insurance, or, if they can, they have to pay prohibitive costs which are not acceptable and make it impossible for them to get health insurance.

What we're doing in this health care reform bill is ending discrimination, so that if you have a preexisting condition, if you've had cancer, you can still get health insurance.

Immediately after this bill becomes law—and it actually has become law; the President signed it—children cannot be excluded from policies because of preexisting conditions. And gradually that will occur for every American, that they cannot be discriminated against.

People are discriminated against now. Women are charged more than men. That's not right. That's not part of the American Dream. We are ending discrimination with this legislation,

and I was so proud to see the President sign it on Tuesday.

□ 1030

AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS HITCHING A RIDE INTO SPACE WITH THE RUSSIANS

(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, I rise today to point out a growing concern within the community of supporters for a strong human space flight program—American exceptionalism lagging behind Russia and other countries.

Just yesterday in the Washington Post, a special advertising section on Russia had a front page story about their growing investment in human space flight. The headline read, "American Astronauts are Hitching a Ride with the Russian Space Program. Russia Makes Space for the U.S."

Additional comments in the story included: "Russia will fuel space exploration once again, while the U.S. vision appears dampened. As the United States reprioritizes its programs, the country will rely on Russia to take its astronauts into space."

Under the President's proposed budget, the Russians will be the only game in town for getting our astronauts to and from the International Space Station. The United States of America should never have to depend on another foreign nation to "make space" for our astronauts to get to the Space Station that the American taxpayer has largely paid for.

Mr. Speaker, that should be a concern to all Americans.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct initiated an investigation into allegations related to earmarks and campaign contributions in the Spring of 2009.

Whereas, on December 2, 2009, reports and findings in seven separate matters involving the alleged connection between earmarks and campaign contributions were forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics to the Standards Committee.

Whereas, on February 26, 2010, the Standards Committee made public its report on the matter wherein the Committee found, though a widespread perception exists among corporations and lobbyists that campaign contributions provide a greater chance of obtaining earmarks, there was no evidence that Members or their staff considered contributions when requesting earmarks.