

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, April 29, 2010

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 29, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK LARSEN to act as speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Mighty and wonderful are Your works, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, O King of all the nations.

Who would dare not to give You the honor and glory due Your Holy Name, O Lord.

For You alone are holy, all nations shall come and worship in Your presence.

Your mighty deeds are clearly seen both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. KOSMAS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KOSMAS 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING DR. PAMELA CARBIENER

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

Ms. KOSMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize on the floor of the United States House of Representatives Dr. Pamela Carbiener for her extensive community service and spirit of volunteerism.

Dr. Carbiener has dedicated her life's work to helping those in need, with a particular focus on women and children. She is the cofounder and member of the Community Outreach to Prevent Eating Disorders, medical supervisor for the Children's Advocacy Center for Victims of Assault, medical supervisor for the Volusia County Rape Crisis Center, and board and coalition member for Healthy Start of Volusia and Flagler Counties. She also serves as the chair of Daytona State College's Women's Advocacy Board.

Dr. Carbiener practices at Halifax OB/GYN Associates in Daytona Beach, Florida, and she resides in nearby Ormond Beach with her husband, Frank, and their three children, Sarah, Katie, and Charlie.

Dr. Carbiener's contributions to Halifax Health and their board of directors, which is the governing body of the largest health care provider in the area, are numerous, generous, and valuable.

Today I would like to officially thank Dr. Carbiener for her tireless work and dedication to the health, well-being, safety, and care not only of her patients, but also to the countless citizens who are affected by her volunteerism and her work in the community. She is recognized as an accomplished and outstanding community leader for the greater Halifax region. Congratulations, Dr. Carbiener.

ANGEL INVESTORS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this week I received a letter from a friend who works for a medical device company that is looking to expand its business by attracting an angel investor. Who are angel investors? They are wealthy individuals who invest their own money in companies with promise. They are not speculators. They are not brokers. They are individuals with vi-

sion who seek out entrepreneurs with creative ideas.

New regulations proposed in the Senate financial reform bill would require a 120-day waiting period for startups seeking funds and add more restrictions on the minimum assets or income needed to become an angel investor. Angel investing is not what brought down our economy. In fact, startups funded by such investments provided 10 percent of all new jobs even though they account for less than 1 percent of the new companies. Starbucks, Costco, Facebook, Google, the list of successful angel investment companies is long.

In my friend's case, if his company is not able to attract new investment, they will be unable to hire new workers or invest in new equipment. We should not cut short job growth with excessive new regulations.

SUPPORT SMALL MODULAR REACTORS

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced two bills designed to incentivize small modular reactors, one of the most promising areas in the future of nuclear power. One-third the size of today's plants, small reactors are cheaper and take half the time to build. These reactors offer more siting options and provide additional safety benefits.

The Nuclear Power 2021 Act is modeled for small reactors after the successful Nuclear Power 2010 program, and the Nuclear Energy Research Initiative Improvement Act requires the Department of Energy to develop a strategy to lower the cost of constructing and licensing nuclear reactors, including small reactors.

In seeking a bipartisan solution, I introduced these pieces of legislation working in concert with Energy and Commerce Ranking Member JOE BARTON and a bipartisan group of 19 other Members. I look forward to continue working with my colleagues to expediently bring small reactors to the market.

A SOVEREIGN DEBT CRISIS?

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

Mr. KIRK. Too often, the Congress focuses on problems of the past, not

□ 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.

dangers to come. Last month, the Greek Government lost its AAA credit rating. On May 19, Greece will have to pay \$10 billion in loans that it does not have the money to cover. The market will only lend now at a 24 percent interest rate. Estimates are that an IMF Greek bailout will cost \$100 billion.

On Monday, Portugal lost its AAA rating, and this news triggered a sudden loss in our own stock market. Yesterday, Spain lost its credit rating, and the Spanish problem is five times the size of the Greek problem. Italy and Ireland may be next. We may soon face a sovereign debt crisis.

CRS reports that the IMF has \$268 billion to lend, an amount that could quickly be exceeded by a European debt crisis. The IMF may not have the resources to handle this crisis, and the Fed and the U.S. taxpayer may be called on to bail out these irresponsible governments. Few in Congress even know of this danger to our economy and to our family incomes.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I stand this morning in solidarity with all those who respect fairness and justice in opposition to the Arizona Senate Bill 1070. This is an unconstitutional law that is inspired by racism and will lead to racial profiling of Hispanics and people of color.

We must do all we can to stop this law. That's why I am calling for an economic boycott of Arizona. I also encourage all those to oppose this kind of hate and to wear the red, blue, and yellow bracelet to express opposition to this bill.

We must all remember that immigration is not a Latino issue, it's an American issue. This misguided law is another reason why America needs comprehensive immigration reform to fix our broken system. I call on my Republican colleagues to have courage and to work with us on immigration reform. The American people need this reform, but we cannot do this alone. Again I say to the Republicans, step up to the plate and together let us pass real, comprehensive reform.

ISRAEL RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF REUNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM

(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, as a trusted ally, Israel and the United States have enjoyed a strategic partnership based on shared mutual values and respect. This relation-

ship has continued to strengthen over the last 62 years, and it's critical that America continues to promote this friendship.

Fostering this important relationship means beginning the process of relocating the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and celebrating reunification. That is why I am introducing legislation today with over 20 cosponsors that commemorates the 43rd anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and supports locating the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

In my visits to Israel, I have been impressed by its dynamic multicultural citizens, inspired by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. America must ensure that Jerusalem, led by Mayor Nir Barkat, continues to be a shrine open for all cultures.

Also, congratulations to Patricia Lobb of Aiken as she becomes a U.S. citizen this morning.

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

PUERTO RICO HAS SAID "NO"

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Today we are going to have Puerto Rico as the 51st State bill. They're going to say it's a Puerto Rico self-determination bill, but really it's designed to get one thing and one thing only, and that is to have the people of Puerto Rico accept statehood for themselves.

It seems to me when I checked the history books, in 1967 there was a plebiscite. They said, "No." In 1993 Puerto Rico had a plebiscite. They said, "No." In 1998 they had a plebiscite. They said, "No."

Millions of people are trying to get into this country, trying to get to America. We have 4 million American citizens, and they said, "No." Why don't we respect their wishes? Why do we have to have this artificially crafted bill which has as a predetermined objective statehood for Puerto Rico? It's wrong.

We should not impose statehood or any other alternative on any people, especially when they said, "No, no, no." Just so that we get it clear, it's spelled the same in English as in Spanish, N-o. No, no. So there shouldn't be any problem here in terms of understanding just what the people of Puerto Rico have said.

NATIONAL MEDIA SHOW DOUBLE STANDARD ON TAX PROMISES

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during the Presidential campaign,

then-Senator Obama made a firm pledge that, "No family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase." The nonpartisan fact-checkers of Politifact say the administration broke that promise, but the national media have collectively yawned in response.

In comparison, when former President George H.W. Bush broke his 1988 "Read my lips, no new taxes" pledge, the national media heavily criticized him. The New York Times described President Bush's pledge as "the seminal six words of his Presidency," and said it helped eliminate "any plausible leadership path." The L.A. Times said it was one of several factors that "ended the GOP stranglehold on tax policy." The national media should hold President Obama to the same standard, not give him a free pass.

WALL STREET REFORM

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, we must reform Wall Street and end the risky practices that have caused millions of Americans to lose their jobs, their homes, and life savings. The House passed a financial reform bill that will protect consumers and prevent the irresponsible behaviors and practices that caused the financial crisis.

This is the 21st century. It's the government's responsibility to regulate products that are dangerous. To prevent the sale of cars with faulty brakes, the government regulates the auto industry. To prevent the sale of rancid meat, the FDA regulates meatpackers. To prevent the sale of toys containing lead, we have a Consumer Product Safety Commission. Complex financial products are no different, as this week's hearings have shown, which is why we must have commonsense financial regulations to protect consumers.

H.R. 4173, which we already passed from the House, reforms Wall Street while helping Main Street. I urge the Senate to pass this critical bill.

THE RULE OF LAW

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America is a Nation founded on the rule of law, not the rule of men. That's why we have a Constitution and not a king. Law must apply to everybody and it must apply equally, regardless of race, color, or creed. People don't get to pick and choose which laws are enforced. They don't get to decide which laws they like and which ones they don't. That would cause chaos.

Federal law requires people to sign the guest book when they enter our