

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, with gas prices going through the roof, it is time to ask the question: Is this administration's energy policy working? After all, gas price haves soared by 30 percent over the past year.

We can help protect ourselves from these sky-high prices and create jobs by actively producing American-made energy. That's why I support an all-of-the-above energy policy that includes more American-produced energy, like oil and nuclear, along with alternatives like wind and solar. This will lower prices and create good American jobs while reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration doesn't seem to get this. Its de facto drilling moratorium in the gulf has already cost 12,000 jobs and 300,000 barrels a day of energy production.

Mr. Speaker, we need to increase production, not decrease it, or American families are going to be stuck with ridiculous gas prices that line the pockets of unsavory regimes in the Middle East.

SLUSH FUNDS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that the Federal deficit for the month of February was \$223 billion, more than the total yearly deficit in 2007. Yet Republicans have been labeled as irresponsible for looking to cut a mere \$61 billion from the rest of this year's budget. Our cuts only amount to 30 percent of the monthly deficit. Additionally, these cuts are only made in the discretionary portion of our budget.

Tomorrow, in the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, we're going to look at new ObamaCare programs that have been locked away in the mandatory budget. One of these programs allows the HHS Secretary to spend unlimited sums of money. We have given the Secretary a credit card with no limit even though our national debt threatens the economic health of our Nation.

It is time that we cut up the credit card and restore to Congress the power to set fiscal priorities. Slush funds and unlimited spending are just two more reasons why ObamaCare needs to be repealed.

GUANTANAMO DETAINEES TO RECEIVE MILITARY TRIALS

(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, The Washington Post is correct today by headlining "Obama allows indefinite detention," citing "Guantanamo Bay Order Marks Shift" as the "U.S. also plans to resume trials by military commissions."

I would like to commend the President for stating the administration will resume trials by military commissions for detainees that pose a threat to national security. Civilian courts were never the proper venue to try these enemy combatants. In the future, I hope the President will work with Congress in creating a comprehensive plan for the detention and prosecution of the detainees at Guantanamo Bay as we face the global war on terrorism.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I know firsthand of the professionalism of our dedicated military personnel at Guantanamo. I recently visited the facilities in January, led by Chairman BUCK MCKEON; and in July 2005 with former Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER. Guantanamo Bay is a world-class detention facility to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 1610

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we are coming up, in 2 short weeks' time, on the 1-year anniversary of the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, affectionately known as ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, what has that year wrought? Many of us will remember the Speaker of the House a year ago, Speaker PELOSI, saying, We have to pass this bill so we can understand what's in it.

Well, it's been a year. Do we understand what's in it? The answer is we do, and people don't like what they see.

What about the oft repeated claim "If you like what you have, you can keep it"? It turns out that is incorrect. What about the waivers that have been issued since October? Now well over a thousand waivers have been issued by HHS. Why have those waivers been issued? They have been issued because this policy doesn't work. And worse than not working, it costs a ton of money.

Mr. PITTS just mentioned that in February the deficit in this country was \$223 billion for 1 month, the shortest month of the year. This is as good as it is going to get. What happens when you have those subsidies in the exchanges that subsidize middle class purchase of health insurance in this country for the first time? That's a high pressure tap into the Federal Treasury. It's really wrong and it has to stop.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Robin Reeder, Archivist:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2011.
Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena, issued before the Evidentiary Panel for the State Bar of Texas, for documents.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ROBIN REEDER,
Archivist.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEES ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committees on Natural Resources and Homeland Security:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, I have accepted the nomination of my Caucus to serve on the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the 112th Congress. I hereby submit my resignation to the Committees on Natural Resources and Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

DONNA CHRISTENSEN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

DENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACT OF 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 570) to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the roles of dentists and allied dental personnel in the Nation's disaster response framework, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 570

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Dental Emergency Responder Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. DENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONDERS: PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESPONSE.

(a) NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY STRATEGY.—Section 2802(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-1(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and which may include dental health facilities” after “mental health facilities”; and

(2) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “(which may include such dental health assets)” after “medical assets”.

(b) ALL-HAZARDS PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESPONSE CURRICULA AND TRAINING.—Section 319F(a)(5)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6(a)(5)(B)) is amended by striking “public health or medical” and inserting “public health, medical, or dental”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 570 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, currently Federal statute deters through omission the incorporation of dental professionals and schools into emergency response plans. H.R. 570 would remedy this omission by incorporating dentistry by name into the Federal disaster response framework. This legislation is endorsed by the American Dental Association and the Academy of General Dentistry, and it passed the House last year on a voice vote.

It recently passed the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Health Subcommittee, and the full committee, on a voice vote, and 19 members of the Energy and Commerce Committee are currently cosponsors.

In the aftermath of a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or public health emergency, traditional medical delivery systems can become overwhelmed. In these situations it is vital that States work with all qualified and licensed providers to ensure a volunteer workforce to assist in the mitigation of that tragedy. Dentists receive sound general medical background during their professional education and are equipped to take patient medical his-

tories, administer injections, and triage patients. This legislation calls for no new Federal money and poses no new restrictions on moneys now being spent. It simply allows States, at their option, to incorporate dentists and dental facilities into their planning.

I believe this bill will allow us to strategically utilize all available resources and have the ability to deploy the maximum amount of aid in times of disaster. I urge support of this bill.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) for introducing the legislation with me.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 570, the Dental Emergency Responder Act of 2011. This is a bill that we passed on the House floor last fall with strong bipartisan support.

The bill amends the Public Health Service Act to include dentists in the National Health Security Strategy, which is the strategy HHS develops to respond to a public health emergency.

The bill also expands health and medical response training programs to include dental facilities. The bill will also amend the Homeland Security Act to include dental personnel in the definition of “emergency response providers” and will amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to require Federal response plans to include dental resources.

This bill will help shore up the Nation’s preparedness for disasters, including natural disasters like hurricanes and manmade disasters like a terrorist attack.

I want to thank Representative BURGESS and Representative TOWNS for their outstanding work on this issue and also acknowledge the advocacy of our former colleague Representative Stupak, who worked so hard on this bill in the last Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a moment to thank CANDICE MILLER from Michigan, who was involved in this legislation throughout its course last year and has been very instrumental this year.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I again ask for support of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Again, Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank Chairman UPON and Chairman PITTS and Ranking Members WAXMAN and PALLONE for their work in passing this bill so quickly through the subcommittee and the full committee. I also want to thank Mr. Stupak for his hard work on the legislation in the last Congress.

Again, I want to acknowledge the work of CANDICE MILLER last Congress and this Congress in getting this bill passed.

In an emergency, all hands on deck. Dentists are willing to support the medical and public health response to a disaster, and this legislation allows States the option to incorporate dentists into their disaster response framework. Our Nation’s medical surge capacity will never be optimal until we capitalize on the personnel resources of the entire health care workforce.

I urge full support of this important legislation, H.R. 570, to ensure our national disaster responses have the maximum amount of available resources.

I also want to thank two of my staff members, Rebekah West and James Paluskiewicz, for their hard work in getting this bill to the floor in what appears to be record time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

□ 1620

Mr. PALLONE. I now yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for yielding. I thank Dr. BURGESS for his courtesies and also Mr. TOWNS for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 570 because, in having come from the gulf coast and in having gone through Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike just in a few short years, I have seen the devastation of communities and know that a holistic approach to health care is vital. We have a vibrant dental community in Houston, Texas. In particular, I want to note that Senior Dr. Zeb Poindexter has served on the American Dental Board and is an enthusiastic supporter of accessing dental care services to the poor.

When there is a hurricane or a natural disaster of some form, everybody falls into the same boat. After the devastation, again, of a tornado—or of a hurricane and of the tragic incident that occurred this past weekend in Louisiana, individuals are facing many needs, so having medical professionals assist them or even to provide them specific dental care after the devastation, having the dental community be a part of this disaster response team, is an excellent idea.

I join my colleagues in recognizing the importance of access to dental care for those individuals facing disaster and also the importance of increasing the opportunity for poor Americans who likewise need access to dental care.

Dental care can impact one’s health. We have seen that in the past, and we have seen that with children. So I believe this legislation is in the right direction, and I add my support to it. I know that the gulf region will appreciate the fact that the dental personnel

and professionals are added to our disaster relief efforts and our first responders who will respond to any disaster.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 570, the Dental Emergency Responder Act. This important legislation would recognize dentists as emergency response providers who are capable of giving medical assistance in the event of a public health emergency.

This bill is an efficient way to improve America's emergency response system. Not only does it ensure that we are fully prepared on all fronts in the event of a crisis or natural disaster, but it does not add any new Federal spending or increase our ever-growing deficit.

Dentists have strong general medical training that I firmly believe should be utilized during a public health emergency. In the wake of September 11, 2001, the worst attack on civilians in the history of our country, we must ensure that America's emergency response system is prepared, and this includes having a strong medical response system in place.

In a time of crisis, it is crucial that we have all hands on deck to issue medical assistance to the public. For this reason I am proud to support H.R. 570 and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 570, the Dental Emergency Responder Act of 2011. I urge my colleagues to support this act as it is a necessary step towards ensuring our nation's readiness for national emergencies.

As a member of the New York City Congressional delegation, I am no stranger to tragic, national events. In the wake of September 11, 2001, we witnessed thousands of citizens banding together to heal the community. Similarly, when Hurricane Katrina struck the gulf coast, Americans again came together to help those in need.

The people of our Nation stand together as a community in times of great sorrow. For this reason, Government should do all that it can to ensure that individuals with great skill are afforded the opportunity to assist in times of need.

For too long, dentists have been prohibited from assisting in times of emergency. However, this profession is composed of highly trained, and capable medical professionals, many of whom have offices that can easily convert into triage facilities when needed.

When this bill is enacted, states will be able to include, if they choose, dentists as part of the emergency response plan. The important decisions about how a state responds to a crisis will still be left to local authorities. Enactment of this bill simply provides decision makers with more options to respond to tragedies and emergencies.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 570.

Mr. PALLONE. I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Again, I urge support for the legislation and for the passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 570.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 525) to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance and increase the number of veterinarians trained in veterinary public health.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 525

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH IN CERTAIN PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE PROVISIONS.

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE GRANTS.—Subsections (b)(1)(A) and (d)(6) of section 765 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295) are amended by inserting "veterinary public health," after "preventive medicine," each place it appears.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 776(b)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295f-1(b)(1)) are amended by striking "public health or health professions degree or certificate" each place it appears and inserting "public health (including veterinary public health) or health professions degree or certificate".

(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Subparagraph (A) of section 776(b)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295f-1(b)(1)) is amended by adding "or" at the end.

(c) DEFINITION.—Section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(27) VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH.—The term 'veterinary public health' includes veterinarians engaged in one or more of the following areas to the extent such areas have an impact on human health: biodefense and emergency preparedness, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, environmental health, ecosystem health, pre- and post-harvest food protection, regulatory medicine, diagnostic laboratory medicine, veterinary pathology, biomedical research, the practice of food animal medicine in rural areas, and government practice."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to in-

clude extraneous material on H.R. 525 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 525, the Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act of 2011, would take important steps to increase the number of public health veterinarians.

Food animal veterinarians have a vital role in our Nation's public health, and experts have informed us that there is, in fact, a shortage. This shortage could negatively affect our Nation's public health, including the safety of our Nation's food. We expect that this legislation will help greatly in solving that problem.

H.R. 525 would enable individuals seeking veterinary public health degrees to be eligible for existing public health workforce loan repayment programs. This legislation would also allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award existing training grants to increase the veterinary public health workforce.

I would like to thank all of the Members who have worked on this issue, including my physician colleague on the committee, Dr. PHIL GINGREY of Georgia. I would also like to thank Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN of Wisconsin for authoring the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 525, the Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act of 2011. This is an important, bipartisan bill that we passed on the floor in the last Congress.

Veterinary medicine is an important component of our human public health system. From H1N1, to SARS, to food safety, public health veterinarians are critical to our protection of human health. This bill would ensure that veterinary public health professionals are eligible for two important public health workforce programs, but only to the extent that the work of these veterinarians has an impact on human health.

I want to commend Representative BALDWIN for her leadership on this legislation. She has been working on this for a long time, and I was pleased to work with her. I also want to thank Chairman PITTS, Chairman UPTON, and Representative SHIMKUS for their support; and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I now yield 3 minutes to the sponsor of the legislation, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN).

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 525, the Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act.

Although we may not know it, our health depends, in part, on a small