of the people on the ground. They cannot regulate based on the safety of people on the craft. That is what this is all about.

We want to develop spacecraft that people can ride on. And if we have the bureaucrats being able to control that, it will put a stranglehold on those people trying to develop these craft. It is fundamentally different than what the FAA has now with airplanes.

And, also, we have heard a total misreading of the bill again and again that there is no right in here for there to be regulation unless there has already been a fatality. That is not the case.

I urge Members to vote for this legislation. Do not strangle this industry and drive these entrepreneurs offshore. Create the jobs here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5382.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. OBERSTAR. 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.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1078

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1078, the American History and Civics Education Act of 2003.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1928

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 7 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.

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 the remaining motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which a vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken tomorrow.

EXTENSION OF MEDICARE COST-SHARING FOR THE MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM FOR QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2618) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend medicare cost-sharing for the medicare part B premium for qualifying individuals through September 2005.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2618

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE COST-SHARING FOR THE MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM FOR QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(a)(10)(E)(iv) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(E)(iv)) is amended by striking ''2004'' and inserting ''2005''.

(b) TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION.—Section 1933(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396u–3(g)) is amended to read as follows:

''(g) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each period described in paragraph (2), a State shall select qualifying individuals, subject to paragraph (3), and provide such individuals with assistance, in accordance with the provisions of this section as in effect with respect to calendar year 2003, except that for such purpose—

''(A) references in the preceding subsections of this section to a year, whether fiscal or calendar, shall be deemed to be references to such period; and

''(B) the total allocation amount under subsection (c) for such period shall be the amount described in paragraph (2) for that period.

''(2) PERIODS AND TOTAL ALLOCATION AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) for the period that begins on January 1, 2004, and ends on September 30, 2004, the total allocation amount is $300,000,000;

''(B) for the period that begins on October 1, 2004, and ends on December 31, 2004, the total allocation amount is $100,000,000; and

''(C) for the period that begins on January 1, 2005, and ends on September 30, 2005, the total allocation amount is $300,000,000.

''(3) RULES FOR PERIODS THAT BEGIN AFTER JANUARY 1.—For any specific period described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), the following applies:

''(A) The specific period shall be treated as a continuation of the immediately preceding period in that calendar year for purposes of applying subsection (b)(2) and qualifying individuals who received assistance in the last month of such immediately preceding period shall be deemed to be selected for the specific period (without the need to complete an application for assistance for such period).

''(B) The limit to be applied under subsection (b)(3) for the specific period shall be the same as the limit applied under such subsection for the immediately preceding period.

''(C) The ratio to be applied under subsection (c)(2) for the specific period shall be the same as the ratio applied under such subsection for the immediately preceding period.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to, first of all, commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for helping to expedite this piece of legislation. They could not be on the floor, so we have the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts who is going to control their floor time, and I want to thank him for his help.

I am reluctantly doing this this evening, not because of the merits of the bill. I support the merits of the bill, but I do not support the procedure under which we are doing this and the reluctance of the other body to find a way to help pay for what we are about to do.

□ 1930

This Congress should be taking serious steps to address our budget problems and our growing Federal debt. The President who just won reelection, 52 percent of the vote, has told America that deficit reduction will be one of his highest priorities, and I would like to have the other body begin to join this body and the President of the United States in making that a reality.

Senate 2618 is a good bill. It will extend for one year additional funding for the Medicare Qualified Individual Program, better known as the QI program. This program will allow approximately 160,000 low-income beneficiaries enrolled in the program to continue to receive assistance to pay for their Medicare part B premium which is optional. That is fair and appropriate.

We began to help subsidize those premium payments back in 1997, so we have been doing it now for the last 7 years. I support that. I think it is appropriate to help our low-income seniors help pay for their Medicare option part B coverage, but I also think we ought to have a way to help pay for that subsidy. This bill does not do that.

I think we need to begin to address the problem of mandatory automatic

entitlement growth, and to extend a program like this where we could have an offset to pay for it, in my opinion, is inexcusable.

It has been said that nobody notices a deficit until its weight finally collapses the government. I do not intend to ever let that happen, and we could be taking a small step to lessen that load today. Regrettably we are not.

Let me state what we have done in the last 2 weeks. Again, the underlying bill that we are passing is a good piece of legislation, and I support that. The Speaker of the House supports it. The majority leader supports it. The ranking member on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the ranking member on the subcommittee, the subcommittee chairman, the full committee chairman, we all support it; but we found a way to pay for this bill. We found out that under existing law people that receive prescription drug benefits that are paid for by Medicare, the person that actually provides a prescription can file paperwork to get an automatic rebate from the drug manufacturer. It is in the law. We do not force the person who is providing the prescription to actually apply for the rebate. So we have some providers of prescriptions who for whatever reason do not fill out the necessary paperwork to get the automatic rebate that has already been negotiated.

The offset that we came out with in the House was to simply say that if there was a drug rebate that had already been negotiated, you had to file for it and receive it so you could give that rebate to the State and the Federal Government. That would save approximately $140 million over the life of the extension. The White House supported it. CNS supported it. The House supported it, but the other body did not support it. They wanted to extend the program but not provide an offset to help pay for the extension.

Now, I offered this afternoon to pull this bill back and try to work out something that when we first got back in the next Congress we could do the offset. The Speaker and the majority leader felt like we needed to go ahead and pass this bill this evening, and I am going to go ahead and do that. It is a good bill. It needs to be passed. We need to provide this additional supplemental assistance for low-income seniors to pay for their part B prescription drug benefit. But this is the last time as chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce that I am going to extend an entitlement program without some sort of an offset.

So for tonight we can say that this is the beginning of the Barton doctrine. I hope in the next year or so it becomes the Bush-Hastert-Frist, even the Pelosi, redoctrine, that we can work on a bipartisan basis, bicameral with the administration, that as we extend the existing entitlement programs and create new ones, we come up with a way to pay for them. But for this evening I rise to support the passage of this bill.

It will provide much needed assistance for 160,000 low-income seniors for the next year. In the next year, I am going to work with interested parties in the administration, the other body and this body to come up with reforms that continue these necessary benefits but also come up with a way to pay for them.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish to confirm what the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) has already indicated, that the ranking member of the Committee on Commerce is in full support of this bill.

The chairman has also indicated that the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), is in full support of the legislation, and I think that indicates that the Committee on Commerce members on our side of the aisle are in support of the legislation, and I think our whole caucus would be very supportive of that legislation.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to reauthorize the Qualified Individual program, or QI. This program helps low-income Medicare beneficiaries, who earn just a little too much to qualify for Medicaid assistance, but are still struggling with living and health care costs. The QI program pays the cost of the Medicare Part B premium for seniors with incomes of approximately $11,000 to $12,500 a year. This is a good program that helps thousands of low-income seniors each year.

The initial program was a block grant enacted in 1997. Because it expired in 2002, Congress has had to reauthorize this program a number of times since then. However, the uncertainty surrounding funding for this program has had a dampening effect on enrollment. States are hesitant to reach out to eligible individuals, resulting in artificially low enrollment figures. I hope that my colleagues across the aisle will join me in fixing this problem in the future—but, I am pleased that we are at least extending this program an additional year, through September 2005.

I thank Senators GRASSLEY, BAUCUS, BINGAMAN, LAUTENBERG, and SMITH for their work in the Senate, and thank Chairman BARTON, Chairman BILIRAKIS, and Ranking Member BROWN for their work in the House.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this past September I was contacted by officials in the two counties that I represent urging me to do everything I could to extend the Qualifying Individual–1, QI–1, program. This important program gives Federal money to State Medicaid programs to pay for the Part B premium for low-income seniors. They stressed extending the program is particularly important this year as the Medicare Part B premiums are increasing over 17 percent from $66.60 to $78.20.

Medicare Part B is theoretically voluntary, but in reality is necessary for any senior who does not have some form supplemental insurance. Medicare Part B covers outpatient services, doctor visits, and other health care services not covered by the Hospital Insurance component of Medicare Part A.

Unfortunately, seniors must pay a premium for Medicare Part B. Low-income seniors live on very tight budgets. If Congress allowed this program to expire, there would be a number of low-income seniors who would have to decide if the monthly $78.20 would be better spent on food rather than on their health care premium.

I responded to local officials by introducing legislation that would extend this program for another year. My legislation is identical to the Senate bill that we are voting on today. It extends this vital program for another year, and I am proud to have sponsored it in the House.

I was not the only Member to respond to this call. Representative JIM SAXTON and I both introduced this bill. Two Members of Congress in different parties introducing the same bill shows the universal support for this bill.

The QI–1 program has been to the brink of expiring before. It was enacted as part of the Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997 and was originally scheduled to expire in December of 2002. Since the program has proved to be vital for low-income seniors, it has been extended a number of times through continuing resolutions, TANF reauthorization, and it was last extended in the Medicare Modernization Act. The last extension expired on September 30, 2004; however, it was extended through a continuing resolution through November 20, 2004.

I am very happy and relieved that QI–1 program will be extended for another year. It is my hope that next year, Congress will enact legislation that permanently extends this program. Our low-income seniors and their advocates should not be made to deal with the emotional roller coaster each year, while this program comes so close to ending.

I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and I look forward to working with them to enact legislation that makes this program permanent.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2618.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK EXPANSION ACT OF 2004

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1630) to revise the boundary of the Petrified Forest National Park in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 2, line 9, strike ''June'' and insert ''July''.

Mr. RENZI (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that