

fee-based scale as well as those with health insurance. The health center is the primary caregiver for over 4,000 patients annually, with nearly 32,000 patient visits each year. It provides school physicals, internal and family medicine, physical exams, disease screening, laboratory work and pharmaceutical assistance. It treats diabetes, hypertension, asthma, respiratory infections and so many other medical conditions. Without this health center in Prince William County, many of the facility's patients would be forced to use hospital emergency rooms for their primary care which cost all of us about \$6 billion a year, or they receive no care at all.

Mr. Speaker, in the weeks before the \$1.1 million grant for the Greater Prince William Community Health Center which was announced on March 2 as part of the stimulus funding, the center's management was actually preparing for an orderly and permanent shutdown of this vital facility. The economic crisis increased demand for health care services and local funding sources had frankly dried up. Nonetheless, the dedicated staff of health care professionals continued to do their jobs and continued to provide quality health care to the center's patients, even though they were not always certain they would ever receive a paycheck. The health center management desperately sought private and public funding to keep the center going, but the same economic crisis that was driving more patients to the health center was also taking its toll on this non-profit provider. At a time when the health center was anticipating a doubling of patients in need of its services, the future looked bleak. It's hard to describe the sense of relief I heard when I contacted the center's management to inform them that the Recovery Act had provided a new lease on life. Thanks to the Recovery Act, this outstanding community resource will not become another unfortunate casualty of the recession but instead will continue to provide much-needed cost-efficient health care to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. And because of this vote of confidence and this investment, they've been able to attract additional investment as well, ensuring their future.

I recently toured the Greater Prince William Community Health Center and had the opportunity to spend time with care providers and several patients. I met with William, a construction worker recently laid off due to the economic downturn. He injured his back on the job but after being laid off had no insurance to seek treatment for his constant, chronic pain. Thanks to the health center in Prince William County, he was able to see a doctor, received initial care, and was referred to the University of Virginia Medical Center for back surgery. In time, thanks to the center, William will recover, be able to return to work, and live a productive and hopefully pain-free life. I

also met Connie, who told me about her father's debilitating diabetes and how financial constraints placed his life in jeopardy. Connie heard about the center, brought her father there, and today he is on insulin with a much improved quality of life.

Thanks to the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the hardworking staff at the Greater Prince William Community Health Center will continue to fill a critical need in my district in Virginia. This is only one of thousands of examples around our country of the Recovery Act at work, saving jobs and frankly saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Greater Prince William Community Health Center is not unique. Throughout America, the Recovery Act is having a positive impact on the lives of millions of Americans. While no one solution will cure the recession overnight, the Recovery and Reinvestment Act is one piece of the mosaic of actions this Congress has undertaken to restore our Nation's economic health, protect the well-being of the American people, and make sure that our economy gets moving again.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Good and gracious, Lord our God, today across this Nation, many celebrate Cinco de Mayo, marking the struggle of the Mexican people for freedom and independence.

We bless You and praise You, Lord, because these various devotions and festivities remind all of us of the large part immigration has played in the formation of this great country with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Mexican Americans, as so many before them, Lord, have shared their rich heritage with others while they have sought health, safety, and education for their children as well as political and cultural recognition.

Bless their deeply felt family values and religious convictions. We pray always for a greater integration into American life where all live free from fear, segregation and prejudice.

We ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to join us in our prayer for Your blessing upon all Hispanic Americans and especially upon our neighboring country of

Mexico. Grant peace and security 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 Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona 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.

THE MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT OF 2009

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week I am proud that the House of Representatives will be voting on H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act of 2009.

This legislation will make critical reforms to end the abusive and predatory lending practices that have left so many Americans facing foreclosure.

In my district in Orange County, California, we have seen the results of abusive and predatory lending too frequently as foreclosures have weakened our neighborhoods and our communities, and it has forced many of our people out of their homes. Most of these foreclosures are the result of "toxic loans" that were issued by several subprime lenders in Orange County, California.

For that reason, I am particularly pleased that H.R. 1728 will ensure that lenders make loans that benefit the consumer and prohibit lenders from steering borrowers into higher-cost loans.

In addition, the legislation will establish a simple standard that all institutions offering home loans must ensure so that borrowers can actually repay the loans they receive.

I am very pleased that we will be considering this bill, which addresses the reckless lending and lack of oversight, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

CALIFORNIA WATER

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because California is in the middle of a water crisis. California's current drought is not like other droughts