

I'm a physician, and I'm concerned about what goes on in people's homes and the safety in those homes. And I commend the sponsor of this bill for introducing it here before the House.

I think the American people are more concerned about other things now than just home safety. That is certainly everyone's concern, but I think their economic concerns are extremely important to the American people also, Madam Speaker. I also believe that energy independence is of extreme concern to the American people too. Republicans have offered alternatives to the tax-and-cap bill that this House passed just a couple of weeks ago. It is over in the Senate. In my opinion, it should die over there.

The American people must stand up and understand how this is going to increase the cost of not only their energy sources, but it is going to increase the cost of everything that they buy. Out of every dollar that they spend, some of it is going to come to the Federal Government in the nature of an increased energy tax which is going to be disastrous.

We on the Republican side have introduced legislation that would make America independent. But that bill has not seen the light of day on the floor of this House. Why is that? It is because the Democratic majority and the leadership will not allow that to happen. I think if that bill were to come to the floor of the House of Representatives, and the American people were to see it, we would pass it. But if we passed it over this huge energy tax that is in the tax-and-cap bill, then the revenue would not be available to pay for the health care bill. The President recently said he needed that revenue to pay for the health care bill that he has promoted and that is being introduced this week in the House of Representatives, "Obama Care."

And Obama Care, as a physician, I can tell you is going to be disastrous for my colleagues and me and for our patients because it is going to insert a Washington bureaucrat between the doctor and the patient, and that Washington bureaucrat is going to be making health care decisions. It is going to be extremely expensive.

Just last night, I held a tele-town hall meeting and asked a question of the people on the line about what concerns them about this Obama Care program that is being proposed by the Democrat majority. Overwhelmingly, they were concerned about the cost, as well as Washington bureaucrats inserting themselves in health care decisions. They were overwhelmingly concerned about the taxes that are going to go up for everybody in this country.

There are a lot of tax increases that we already know are going to be in this bill because we have seen the draft. We understand we are going to have the bill today in final form, at least the final form before all the manager's amendments and before markups are done.

We have a lot of things going on here that the American people need to understand are going to be disastrous for them, for their health care and for their economy. It is going to hurt people. It is going to hurt people because the economy is going to fall just like we are concerned about falls and other things in our home and home safety.

Our grandchildren are going to live at a lower standard than we live today if we keep passing these bills. We have got unprecedented debt. We have got unprecedented deficits. Right now, the most abused credit card in this country today is this card, the voting card that Members of Congress use. This is a credit card that the Chinese are picking up the debt that we are creating with the use of this card.

Madam Speaker, we have to stop this egregious, outrageous spending that this Congress is doing. It is going to kill the American economy. It is going to destroy the health care system that is being proposed in this health care bill that is being presented today. We have got to stop it, Madam Speaker. So it is not just about home safety. It is about economic well being. It is about our children's future.

Madam Speaker, it just grieves me to see the direction that this country is going. It grieves me to know what my two grandchildren that I have now are going to have to face in the way of paying back the debt that we cannot pay, my children can't pay and that my grandchildren and their children probably are going to have a hard time paying too.

So, Madam Speaker, we are heading in a bad, bad direction. The American people need to stand up and understand what is going on and say "no" to Obama Care, "no" to tax-and-cap, the so-called "cap-and-trade" bill, and "no" to all of this increased debt and increased deficits which are going to take away jobs that we have already seen in tremendous job losses, take away jobs, and it is going to ruin the economy.

Mrs. HALVORSON. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, first I would like to thank my colleague from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for helping today with this bill. We in Illinois do a lot of things in a bipartisan way, and I just want to give him another thanks for helping out and for bringing awareness to home safety issues which are important to all of us. It is a topic that could save people money and their health given the ability that they always have to be aware of things so we can prevent accidents in our home.

Each year an average of more than 7,000 adults aged 65 and older die from unintentional home injuries. Falls alone account for 52.5 percent of all home injury deaths for adults aged 65 to 74.

With this, Madam Speaker, I just encourage everybody to support this and to bring about awareness to Home Safety Month.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEE of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. HALVORSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 543.

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. BROUN of Georgia. Madam 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 612, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 469, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1037, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 402, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF JUNE 22 METRORAIL CRASH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 612, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 612.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 533]

YEAS—421

Abercrombie	Baldwin	Bishop (UT)
Ackerman	Barrow	Blackburn
Aderholt	Bartlett	Blumenauer
Adler (NJ)	Barton (TX)	Blunt
Akin	Bean	Bocceller
Alexander	Becerra	Boehner
Altmire	Berkley	Bonner
Andrews	Berman	Bono Mack
Arcuri	Berry	Boozman
Austria	Biggart	Boren
Baca	Bilbray	Boswell
Bachmann	Bilirakis	Boucher
Bachus	Bishop (GA)	Boustany
Baird	Bishop (NY)	Boyd