

laws is critical for the survival of our cultural diversity.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, everyone here knows that we have spent the past several months working to craft legislation that will bring much-needed health insurance reform to the American people. Costs and premiums are spiraling out of control, and more and more families, working families, are being priced out of health insurance.

While Democrats have debated the best way to produce a reform package that will cut costs and ensure quality and affordability, our colleagues across the aisle have been playing hooky with their responsibilities to the American public.

It has been over 100 days now since Congressman BLUNT told us his party would be offering an alternative health reform bill. We've heard nothing yet. Representative CANTOR recently suggested to a constituent that she find "charity care" for an unemployed family member in need of surgery. Find a charity? Is that the full extent of Republican health care reform?

So I ask again, where is the GOP plan for health insurance reform? Or is it just to maintain the status quo?

#### IN PRAISE OF THE "BUDDY WALK"

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the "Buddy Walk" being held this Saturday in State College, Pennsylvania. It is sponsored by the Centre County Down Syndrome Society. The society exists to be a resource for families with a child with Down syndrome and for those who are expecting a child with Down syndrome. Their goal is to educate friends, relatives and even communities that individuals with Down syndrome are energetic, capable and loving people who play, work and go to school just like the rest of us.

The statistics on their Web site change some of the preconceived stereotypes many people have. For example, half of all Down syndrome children go to mainstream school classes, one out of every five plays a musical instrument, and three out of five know how to operate a computer.

I am a member of the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus who supports legislative activities that would improve Down syndrome research, education, treatment and promote public policies that would enhance the quality of life for those with Down syndrome.

The Centre County Down Syndrome Society does a great deal to educate

people that those with Down syndrome do lead productive lives, and they deserve to be commended.

#### POLANSKI EXTRADITION

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, the laws of the United States should stand for all. No one is above the law, whether it is the criminal laws or the extradition laws. That's why I ponder why some of the elites in Hollywood are now telling us that Roman Polanski should not be subject to the laws of the United States, the State of California or the international law that recognizes extradition.

What is it that suggests that fame excuses criminal conduct? What is it that allows some people in our society to say that a rape is not really a rape, or to suggest that because someone is a great film director that therefore they ought not to be brought to the bar of justice?

Thirty some years ago in the State of California, a crime was committed. Thirty years ago, someone admitted to that crime, and 30 some years ago, that person did not show up when his sentence was to be given to him. And now it is time for the laws of the State of California and the United States and international law to be followed.

Mr. Polanski should come home, and he should meet his justice.

#### AMERICAN TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN: COMMIT 100 PERCENT OR GET THEM OUT

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we know that in the 1960s and 1970s we committed our troops to Vietnam. But we found out at the end of the war, after 2 weeks of constant carpet bombing of Hanoi when SAM JOHNSON was leaving the Hanoi Hilton, he was told, You silly Americans, if you'd kept bombing us for 1 more week like that, we would have had to surrender unconditionally.

The message of Vietnam should be either commit 100 percent or get out. Don't leave people out there to die without full commitment.

Now we have people on the left saying, get out of Afghanistan now. We have people on the right saying, do whatever it takes to win. And I'm here to say, Mr. Speaker, the President should not keep going on talk shows and going around the world while he has a report suggesting what to do. He needs to commit 100 percent to the war in Afghanistan, give them everything they need, or get out now.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### IT'S TIME FOR MORAL LEADERSHIP IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, President Obama has often said that America must restore its moral leadership in the world. He took a very important step toward doing that last week when he spoke at the United Nations. In his speech, the President called for a new era of engagement and diplomacy. He called for international cooperation to address such critically important issues as nuclear nonproliferation, climate change and economic recovery. He also spoke about banning the use of torture and his decision to close Guantanamo as examples of America's new desire to abide by the rule of law.

I welcome the President's words. They show that President Obama is committed to peace and human rights. Those are the foundations of moral leadership. But now the President is facing the greatest test of his moral leadership as he reviews his strategy in Afghanistan.

The generals are urging him to pour in more troops. I'm sure there are others who are telling him to escalate the fighting just so he can look "tough on terrorism." But as the President makes his next decisions about Afghanistan, I would urge him to make the tough choices. I would urge him to base his decision-making on the following facts: the American people do not believe the war in Afghanistan is worth fighting and want to draw down the numbers of troops there. Sending in more troops will cause the Afghan people to see us as occupiers. And history has told us that the Afghan people always resist foreign occupations and always succeed.

America cannot afford to pour billions of dollars more into a futile occupation when we are going through the worst economic crisis of the past 70 years. We cannot, in good conscience, ask our brave troops to take more casualties without a clear mission, and we don't have one. We cannot ask our military families to continue to sacrifice when they have already suffered so very much.

And finally, we have no exit strategy. After the disaster of Iraq, the American people will not stand for another endless foreign occupation, one that will cost many lives and not make our country any safer.

Afghanistan is a difficult problem, but the President still has good options. He can order the Pentagon to develop a troop redeployment plan and a timetable for withdrawal. At the same time, he can be bold and shift to a new mission that will be far more likely to succeed because it will actually have the support of the Afghan people.