

public option. I would like to point out that it costs \$85 billion less than the next positive public option, that it covers more people, it keeps middle-income workers from either ending up on Medicare or in a situation where they can't afford health care in the health care exchange.

The robust public option, Mr. Speaker, is based on an established rate structure of Medicare plus 5 percent and an existing provider structure. So it is available, it is affordable, and it will be providing quality health care to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to say the robust public option would be the best option for the people in the United States of America.

#### NOW IS THE TIME FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand here in the name of a film producer named Noelle, who, in the midst of trying to show the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, was succumbed by breast cancer—did not die, but became very ill. During the midst of that time, her insurance was dropped.

I come in the name of Eric, a young lawyer who did pro bono work, who had a cold and was treated by an emergency room, given medicine for a pain in the neck, but yet died a few days later of a bacterial virus.

I come in the name of sick people across America to say that H.R. 3200, which will bring down the cost of premiums, which will provide a robust public option, will get rid of pre-existing conditions that keep you from getting insurance—which is wanted by over 70 percent of Americans, Republicans and Democrats. I come in their name to say it is time now to pass a robust health care reform package with a vigorous public option that addresses the needs of Americans and brings down the cost of premiums for all Americans, those with employer-based insurance and those who need the public option. It is time now. Martin Luther King said, "Now is the time."

#### HAITI

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am very disheartened to hear that in our sister country, Haiti, there is brewing a move to impeach the current prime minister, Prime Minister Pierre-Louis.

Prime Minister Pierre-Louis has recently gained a tremendous amount of confidence from the international community. The U.S. President and former President and U.N. Special Envoy Bill Clinton made a historic special trip to Haiti that held out the promise of new investment both to create new jobs and

to help the people of Haiti. I would hope that the government officials of Haiti will consider continuing to move the country along in a positive way and move to support the prime minister.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE HAWKS ARE SQUAWKING FOR WAR AGAIN

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, the Nation's war hawks are unhappy. Their feathers are ruffled. They accuse President Obama of dithering when it comes to sending more troops to Afghanistan. They want the President to shoot first and they want him to ask questions later, but committing our Nation to war is the most important decision that any President can make. The Commander in Chief must think long and hard before doing any such thing. President Obama is making a careful review of the situation in Afghanistan, and he is right to do so.

I've had some disagreements with the President about some of his policies so far, but I strongly support his desire to think things through and consider all of his options before proceeding. So far, the only option the United States has tried for the past 8 years is the military option, and it is painfully clear, Mr. Speaker, that it has not worked. A story in today's Washington Post makes that point. It describes a U.S. official in Afghanistan who resigned his job because he opposed American strategy there. This man is a patriot, and a tough former marine who fought with uncommon bravery in Iraq. But he believes that the presence of American troops in Afghanistan is making the insurgency grow.

I made a similar argument when I voted against the Supplemental appropriations bill for Afghanistan back in May. I warned that continuing the military-only strategy will fuel anti-Americanism, and that's what is happening.

More and more, the Afghan people see America as an occupying force that cares only about itself. Meanwhile, the Taliban is doing a much better job of winning hearts and minds. We've got to turn that around. The best way to do

that is to devote most of our resources in Afghanistan to meeting the civilian needs of the Afghan people. That means humanitarian aid, jobs and economic development, education, agricultural assistance, better infrastructure, and protection from disease.

That doesn't mean we should be ignoring the violent extremists in Afghanistan—far from it. We can go after them aggressively by using the highly effective tools of SMART power. SMART power includes better intelligence and surveillance work.

The extremists in Afghanistan can be found in many small networks of individuals and groups who are spread out over the countryside. You need good intelligence to track, penetrate, and disrupt their activities.

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We must also build up the civilian police force so they can arrest the extremists. Strong policing is a highly effective counterinsurgency tool because it's right there in the villages where the extremists live.

We must also step up our diplomatic efforts. We've got to do a better job of engaging all the nations in the region that have an interest in stabilizing Afghanistan.

These strategies will work, but they won't satisfy the war hawks. President Obama is right to ignore them. He must also ignore the voices of his own administration, calling for an escalation of the war.

As he rethinks America's role in Afghanistan, I urge him to produce a strategy that relies on the tools of smart security and improves the lives of the people. That is the only real path, Mr. Speaker, to success in Afghanistan.

#### INDIAN HEALTH CARE—MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's nothing new for the Federal Government to try to run health care. The Federal Government has been committing medical malpractice against the Native American Indians for over 200 years. It's a miserable failure. Just ask those folks that live on Indian reservations. They are treated under a system called the Indian Health Service program, a universal government-run health care system for, specifically, Native American Indians. There are long waiting lines for service; doctors are scarce; the quality of medical care is poor; it costs too much, and it results in rationed health care. When the government is running health care, people get inferior treatment.

There has been a lot of talk lately about changing the name of "public option" to call it "Medicare part E" so that will sell with the American public, or the "consumer option" is another