

Delegates names were on the board, but we can't vote on regular bills. We can't vote on anything else. So it will look like we are not present during the debates. It will look like we are not present on the floor of the House whenever there is a real discussion on the floor, but our names are still there. We can't vote "yes"; we can't vote "no."

Mr. Speaker, I think it is not a symbolic vote. This is a good step, but we should have the full right to vote.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a statement on the interpretation of clause 8 of Rule II.

STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN MCGOVERN ON CIVIL ENFORCEMENT OF SUBPOENAS PURSUANT TO HOUSE RULE II(8)(B)

I want to speak regarding House Rule II(8)(b). Pursuant to this provision, the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG) is delegated the authority to speak for the full House of Representatives with respect to all litigation matters. A vote of the BLAG to authorize litigation and to articulate the institutional position of the House in that litigation, is the equivalent of a vote of the full House of Representatives. For example, in the 115th Congress, the BLAG, pursuant to Rule II(8)(b), authorized House Committees to intervene in ongoing litigation. The BLAG has been delegated this authority for all litigation matters, and I want to be clear that this includes litigation related to the civil enforcement of a Committee subpoena. If a Committee determines that one or more of its duly issued subpoenas has not been complied with and that civil enforcement is necessary, the BLAG, pursuant to House Rule II(8)(b), may authorize the House Office of General Counsel to initiate civil litigation on behalf of this Committee to enforce the Committee's subpoena(s) in federal district court.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of all Members and caucuses who offered ideas and proposals for H. Res. 6, and I thank these Members for their contributions.

LIST OF MEMBERS AND CAUCUSES WHO SUBMITTED IDEAS AND PROPOSALS TO H. RES. 6

Mr. Alired of Texas, Mr. Bera of California, Mr. Beyer of Virginia, Ms. Bordallo from Guam, Mr. Brown of Maryland, Mr. Carabajal of California, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Cicilline of Rhode Island, Mr. Coffman of Colorado, Mr. Connolly of Virginia, Mr. Cooper of Tennessee, Mr. Costa of California, Mr. Cummings of Maryland, Mr. Curbelo of Florida, Mr. Deutch of Florida, Ms. Dingell of Michigan, Ms. Esty of Connecticut, Mr. Faso of New York, Mr. Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Mr. Gallagher of Wisconsin.

Mr. Gonzalez of Texas, Ms. Gonzalez-Colon from Puerto Rico, Mr. Gotthelmer of New Jersey, Mr. Grijalva of Arizona, Mr. Hastings of Florida, Mr. Himes of Connecticut, Mr. Hoyer of Maryland, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Mr. Katko of New York, Mr. Khanna from California, Mr. Kilmer of Washington, Mr. Lance of New Jersey, Mr. Langevin of Rhode Island, Mr. Lipinski of Illinois, Ms. Lofgren of California, Ms. Lowey of New York, Ms. Omar of Minnesota, Ms. Murphy of Florida, Mr. Nadler of New York.

Mr. Nolan of Minnesota, Ms. Norton from the District of Columbia, Mr. O'Halleran of Arizona, Mr. Panetta of California, Ms. Pelosi of California, Mr. Peters of California, Ms. Plaskett from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Mr. Polis of Colorado, Mr. Pocan of Wisconsin, Ms. Radewagen from America Samoa, Mr. Raskin of Maryland, Mr. Reed of New York, Ms. Rice of New York, Mr. Rich-

mond of Louisiana, Ms. Rosen of Nevada, Progressive Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Democratic Women's Working Group, New Democrat Coalition, Blue Dog Coalition, Congressional Asian Pacific Coalition, Problem Solvers Caucus.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Rules Committee and I thank the team, all the opportunities that we had to engage in this rules package.

It is a new day, Mr. Speaker, a new day because I am glad that we have opened some opportunity for our Delegates and Commissioners to be able to participate on behalf of their millions of constituents, which did not occur under Republican rule. That is a wonderful new step.

But I do acknowledge the fact that we are \$2 trillion in debt and that the deficit has increased under this administration, and here we are now asking for \$5.2 billion for a border wall.

I am glad that this rules package is transparent and fiscally responsible, but I am most excited about the responsibility for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act because, unfortunately, my State, the State of Texas, is leading an ill-fated legislation litigation that would undermine the right of Americans to have good healthcare. It will undermine the protection for those with a preexisting condition. It will undermine the fact that Texas was a poster child for uninsured Americans.

Twenty-five percent of our State was uninsured, and this legislation indicates that our Speaker can intervene on any legislation and/or litigation that interferes with or undermines protecting the American people's healthcare. That is what they voted for. That is why they sent us to the United States Congress. That is why we are here.

And for the many people that suffer that I see in my district, again, the poster child for uninsured Americans, now we have, in this rules package, the ability of our Speaker to stand up for the American people and to fight for the healthcare that they so desire.

So if there is anything in here that I can support—and there are many, many things of transparency—the fact that we now can stand up to protect the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is one for this Nation. It is a new day, and our people will survive because of that.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma, and I congratulate him on being the ranking member of the Rules Committee. I also congratulate the new chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I do speak in opposition to the rule. This authorization for the Speaker of the House to intervene in

any lawsuit, particularly the one in Texas, is not a good idea, not something that I think that we should be pursuing.

The Affordable Care Act has multiple problems. We are forcing people to buy insurance they can't afford, don't understand, and can't use. They are functionally uninsured, and they are out a ton of money to do that.

In addition, the work requirements that the Department of Agriculture is working on after the farm bill was passed, this is something that is important for the administration. We have more jobs than we have workers. People should be working, and it is time to get people back to work.

Finally, the addition of the Gephardt rule but the removal of the requirement that the Senate concur with the House budget before the Gephardt rule goes into effect, this is a dangerous policy and one this House ought to reject.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 1¼ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, may I make the same inquiry as to my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H. Res. 6.

Among the many rule changes included, this bill opens the door for Democrats to raise taxes by removing the current requirement of a three-fifths majority of the House of Representatives to pass a tax increase.

At a time when our Nation's debt is \$22 trillion, increasing taxes and government spending will only succeed in further bankrupting our children and grandchildren. For generations, Americans have worked to leave the country better off for their kids and grandkids. Mortgaging our kids' future will not do that.

Following implementation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, our economy has experienced historic growth. Instead of building upon that progress, this bill would allow the Democrats to raise taxes with a simple majority vote, stopping our economy in its tracks.

It is a shame that my colleagues have spent their first day in the majority seeking to change the rules to allow for tax and debt increases. Once this bill is passed, it is all but certain that the Democrats will then use the mechanisms to raise taxes on families in Kansas and across our Nation to pay for increased government spending.

This is a dangerous precedent that should be widely opposed, and I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would just remind the gentleman, in