

Democrats confident of health bill vote

Obama makes final push on eve of decision

SHELDON ALBERTS
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE
WASHINGTON

Energized and exuding confidence after a weekend pep talk from President Barack Obama, Democratic leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives claimed they'll have the votes to pass landmark legislation today to overhaul the American health-care system.

"Clearly, we believe we have the votes," said an upbeat Steny Hoyer, the Democratic majority leader in the House. "We expect to have the votes."

The prediction of victory —

which only a few days ago seemed very much in doubt — followed a whirlwind 72 hours of backroom negotiating, cajoling and political arm-twisting that swayed holdout Democrats who had withheld their support out of skepticism about flaws in the \$940-billion legislation.

Two more of those wavering lawmakers — Arizona Representative Harry Mitchell and Washington state Representative Adam Smith — issued statements on Saturday saying they would back the bill. Democrats need 216 votes to approve the legislation — at least 200 have said they are voting no, leaving little margin for error for party whips, who are counting votes.

Much of the political heavy lifting has fallen over the past two days to Obama. He cancelled an overseas trip to Indonesia and Australia to try to persuade Democrats the legisla-



Larry Downing, Reuters

Barack Obama stands next to caucus chair John Larson and Speaker Nancy Pelosi as he meets with members of the House Democratic caucus Saturday to discuss the health reform package.

tion was too important to oppose out of fear their votes could cost them re-election in this November's mid-terms.

The U.S. president has talked with more than three dozen lawmakers either by phone or in personal meetings at the White House, aides said.

On Saturday afternoon, Obama travelled to Capitol Hill to deliver a closing argument to the entire Democratic caucus. He cast the upcoming vote as an opportunity for lawmakers to "vindicate" all their best hopes for public service by helping provide health-care insurance for 32 million

Americans who either can't afford coverage or are denied it by private insurers.

"Every single one of you at some point before you arrived in Congress and after you arrived in Congress have met constituents with heart-breaking stories," Obama said. "And you've looked them in the eye and you've said, 'We're going to do something about it — that's why I want to go to Congress.' And now we're on the threshold of doing something about it. We're a day away."

The final bill would enrol millions of Americans in an insurance plan by imposing an "individual mandate" requiring them to buy coverage.

To make insurance more affordable, the legislation offers enhanced federal subsidies for lower- and middle-class Americans. It also expands funding to states for Medicaid, the public insurance plan for the nation's poorest citizens.

Restaurant closes over whale meat

LOS ANGELES • A Los Angeles-area sushi restaurant that made international headlines after it was charged with serving endangered whale meat will close forever as a "self-imposed punishment," according to a statement on its website.

The parent company of the The Hump, a popular Santa Monica restaurant, and sushi chef Kiyoshiro Yamamoto were charged on March 11 with violating the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which makes it illegal to sell whale meat.

Federal prosecutors have said the case stemmed from informants who were served whale meat at The Hump in October 2009 and evolved into a sting operation by U.S. wildlife and customs officials.

The federal charge carries a maximum penalty of one year in federal prison and a maximum fine of \$100,000 for an individual or \$200,000 for an organization.

— Reuters

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SALSA IN THE CITY



Photo: Amanda Sneddon

Living in Inglewood makes the single life, a Cha-Cha

Cara Casey

Theresa Tucci lives, eats and breathes salsa dancing. This passion, which she discovered at age 26, has shaped how she now lives her fun and fabulous, single life. Whether it is arranging the next salsa event or shopping online for the hottest Latin digs, Tucci can't get enough of it.

"Most of my life revolves in salsa circles. It gives me a real high and keeps me out of trouble," she says.

Tucci, a marketing coordinator, states her life is fast-paced and there are hardly enough hours in the day to get everything done.

A new resident to Riverside Quays, a Statesman development located in the heart of Inglewood, Tucci chose this building to stay

connected to the social scene that she is so integral to.

"When you're in your 30's and you're busy and you've got that whole social life thing going on, you don't have time to care for a house. It's so convenient here in relation to downtown," says Tucci. "With my lifestyle, I work, I go to salsa dancing, or I'm studying. I can cab it anywhere or take the Quays Shuttle to and from downtown."

Tucci was over-the-moon when she found out about the concrete and steel construction at the Quays.

"I used to live in a wood building before and I could hear everything my neighbours above me were doing or saying."

The steel and concrete construction of the Riverside Quays has been a great selling point, says Michael Sali, a representative of Statesman. It's not only the construction, but where it is located, that makes this development special he says.

"This location sells itself," says Sali.

And Tucci agrees.

"I don't have to go too far for benefits for discounts through the Quays VIP Club," she says. "The Ironwood Stage and Grill" is just down the road and they have great music. I am also really close to downtown where all of my salsa dancing is. It just fits my lifestyle."

This urbanite wish-list also comes with the added bonus of having Pearce Estate Park as your backyard.

"I like rollerblading, I like biking and the paths are right here. They go downtown," says Tucci.

With a top-of-the-line gym, (and even a mirrored dance studio,) the Riverside Quays has a list a mile long of why Tucci chose this development.

After attending Salsa practices in the dance studio at the Quays, Tucci's salsa student, Wayne Bullock, promptly bought a Terrace condo in

the building.

Bullock had just started salsa dancing when he got put in touch with Theresa.

"Being a white guy, I felt I needed more practice...more one-on-one time. I arranged for that with Theresa which is how I got to check out the aerobics facility at the Riverside Quays."

A few days later, Bullock came back to look at the show suites with Sali.

"I was really impressed with the finish of the suites and the location. The amenities, as far as I was concerned, were far better than any of the places I had looked," says Bullock.

After owning a house previously, Bullock (a 50-something, self-described "yuppie,") felt that this was the place for him.

"Now I like to lock up the doors and head to the mountains. I don't have to worry about things like watering the lawn," says Bullock.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

The overall experience he has had through Statesman has made Bullock a fan of the company.

It's all the little things so far that have made going with Statesman a great experience for Bullock.

Another amenity that you can find at the Riverside Quays is the Bistro, which offers its residents gourmet food right in their own building. Owners can even call in and pre-order their dinner so it will be ready when they get home after a long day.

All of these reasons are why Tucci and Bullock chose to make the Quays their home. In the future, Tucci hopes to rent out the Bistro and throw a salsa party for all of her friends, (Wayne included.)



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