

of a 200 page bill full of mandates and Federal interference, I proposed a two-page clarification of the ERISA preemption that would get the Federal government out of the way of states to address these problems. I told him that the problem was with ERISA preemption. I asked Chairman FAWELL if he could assure me that the bill does not do anything to strengthen or broaden the ERISA preemption.

Chairman FAWELL assured me that H.R. 4250, the Patient Protection Act, does not amend the ERISA preemption clause. Therefore, it makes it neither broader nor narrower. We have left this to the courts to continue to develop.

Seeking further clarification, I told Chairman FAWELL that I appreciated his putting language in the committee report at the request of members of the Texas delegation to ensure that the Patient Protection Act neither broadens nor changes the current scope of the ERISA preemption as it is being developed in the courts. Again, Chairman FAWELL assured me that was the case.

I explained to Chairman FAWELL that the United States Supreme Court, in the last three years in cases like *Travelers*, *Dillingham*, and *DeBuono*, have narrowed the previously broadly interpreted scope of the ERISA preemption and clarified that ERISA does not preempt traditional state law areas of regulation such as "quality standards in health care." Federal Circuit courts of appeal have likewise been holding more recently that ERISA does not and should not preempt patient quality of care cases against HMOs like the 3rd Circuit held in the *Dukes* case. Five different Federal judges in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, all Republican, have also held that quality of care cases are not preempted by ERISA. Again, Chairman FAWELL assured me it would not.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Texas last year passed state patient protection legislation that is more comprehensive than the Patient Protection Act. Such protections include the right to sue HMOs for affecting the quality of health care treatment decisions. Aetna has gone to court in Houston to assert that Texas legislation is preempted by ERISA. I am glad that Chairman FAWELL could assure me that the Patient Protection Act would not affect the decision of the court in that case.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE AND SERVICE OF THE FIREFIGHTERS FROM AROUND THE NATION TO THE STATE AND PEOPLE OF FLORIDA

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as co-chairman of the Congressional Fire Service Institute I rise today to echo the sentiments of many of my colleagues in expressing my thanks and appreciation for all the firefighters who have worked so hard in battling the wildland fires in Florida.

The magnitude of the fires and the destruction they have caused is almost incomprehensible. In the last two months more than 500,000 acres in 67 counties have been burned by 200 separate fires. At least 367 homes and more than 33 businesses have

been destroyed. Estimates are that it may take over 100 years for some of the burned acreage to return to normal. In short, Mr. Speaker, it has been a devastating disaster.

Thankfully, no lives have been lost. However, 95 people, mostly firefighters, have been injured. Many of the firefighters who are on the front lines are not even from Florida. Approximately 7000 first responders from 46 states have volunteered their time, effort and talent to help the people of Florida. From Maryland alone, over 200 firefighters left their homes and loved ones to battle fires that were threatening land they did not own and to protect people they have never met.

For anyone not familiar with the fire service it may sound amazing that firefighters from across the country would drop everything to help the people of Florida. However, it does not surprise me at all. In fire companies across the country firefighters do just that, day in and day out. They do not do it for money and they do not do it for fame. They do it because, Mr. Speaker, they are committed to bettering their community and serving their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, in acknowledging their service, I would like to include in the RECORD a complete listing of all the Maryland firefighters who volunteered to battle the Florida wildfires.

Anne Arundel County: John Devine, William Evans, Tom Frankhow, David Owen; Baltimore County: Adam Bosely, Bob Bury, Andy Caladerge, Matt Fox, Charles Janney, Dawn Kaszek, Robert Lepin, William McCabe, Richard Muth, Randy Perky, Ron Sheldon, Claude Melcher; Calvert County: Ted Allen, Mike Cox, Joe Deltacame, John Gott, Gary Harrison, Rob Helms, Jean Miller, Seth Randelma, Rob Schultbur, Walter Taylor, Donnell Wallace, Kevin Whittington; Caroline County: Richard Baker, Steven Chaall, Donald Hill, Wayne Winchester, Heath Wroten; Carroll County: Robert Schoenber; Cecil County: Kevin Bell, Jim Bennett, Shawn Buckanian, Robert Caffrey, Adam Dommenic, Josh Eller, Mike Fifona, John Graham, Mike Lipka Jr., Mike Lipka Sr., Ron Miller, Aaron Neely, Tom Scott, John Smith, John Upp; Charles County: Tim Allen, Michael Carroll, Paul Donaldson, Trevor Forrester, Christi Grey, Brian Harrison, Jimmy Herbert, Wayne Higdon, Justin Hutchinson, Scott Hutchinson, Dick Irby, Jimmy Jackson, David Jenkins, Tom Jenkins, Tom Kellom, Chris Maddox, Tim Massey, Chris Mattingly, Brent O'Neil, Billy Pirner, Duane Rice Jr., Tony Rose, Billie Stevens, Chris Thompson; Dorchester County: Thomas Coghlan, Brad Dickerson; Frederick County: Paul Cullen, Claude Droneberg, Paul Hackey, Mike Hayter, Jeremy Hutton, Chris Scneel, Brandyn Thomas; Harford County: Chris Rach; Howard County: Jeff Hooasis, Tom Norman, Robert Freeman, David Moynihan, George Pearman; Kent County: Randy Barr, Matt Burge, Chris Carter, Bobby Helmer, Jimmy Kirby, Antonio Leonardi; Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Kenneth Jolly; MEMA: Warren Campbell; Montgomery County: Jeff Bennett, Mark Brown, Paul Brubaker, Jay Bureau, John Collins, Seth Condon, Tim Dowd, Wayne Drapean, Bill Dunn, Jack Ferguson, Sarah Fields, Pam Foltz, Robert Golian, Mark Hopkins, Ken Knopp, Larry Lease, Drew Lermond, Bill Lucas, Mike McAdam, William McLaghtin, Peggy Miller, Joseph Mills, Rick Morrissey, Jim Roy, Barry Smith, Rick Tatum, Justin Thorew, Gina Young; Prince George's County: Ernie

Alsop, Robert Bramhall, William Corrigan, Bill Edwards, Patrick Feehley, Shannon Foster, Scott Glazer, William Hinton, Abree Johnson, Gary Kirchbaum, Thomas Maddox, Angela Moore, Chris Ranson, Floyd Richerson, Larry Robey, Fred Sheekles, Jack Spencer, Ed Torrence, Michael Warhurst, Shannon Welch; Queen Anne County: Eric Arcane, Robbie Dixon, Sarah Holloman, Greg Johnston, Andy Robertson, David Steel; Somerset County: David Barnett, Brian Barnette, Grover Chat-ham, Chris Holland, Steve Mitchell, Scott Sturgis; St. Mary's County: Kevin Bannagan, Gerard Campbell, Andy Cather, Jim Foster, Boots Garner, George Gatton, Steve Gobson, Billy Hill, Bill Houle, Michael Huseman, Billy Long, C.J. Mattingly, George McKay, LeRoy Owen, and Francis Raley.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASTERWORKS CHORALE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 25th Anniversary concert season of the Masterworks Chorale in Belleville, Illinois and its founder and director, Dr. A. Dennis Sparger.

Masterworks Chorale began under the sponsorship of Belleville Area College as the BAC Community Chorus. In 1982, the chorus left the college and officially incorporated under the name Masterworks Chorale, Inc. The 65 members of the adult chorus must audition for their place in the group. The chorus has been awarded the first place gold medalion at the Great American Choral Festival competition, made the European Tour twice, sung with the St. Louis Symphony under the direction of Leonard Slatkin, and has been a major force in the arts in our community.

Dr. Sparger recently retired from the music faculty at Belleville Area College, where he served for 32 years. Under his baton, the Chorale has performed more than fifty major choral-orchestral works in the past 25 years. In addition to founding the Chorale, Dr. Sparger also founded the Masterworks Children's Chorus and was their director until 1990. In 1986, he was appointed music director and conductor of the Bach Society of St. Louis.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Sparger began musical studies at the age of eight and began conducting at sixteen. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Illinois University. In 1981, he was awarded a Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in conducting from the University of Illinois, where he studied under Harold Decker. According to Dr. Sparger, Harold Decker is responsible for teaching about 75 doctoral candidates during his career. These students have taken position at major universities and with symphonies around the nation. Dr. Sparger is the only one who chose to make his career at a community college. All of this makes Dr. Sparger's selection for the Harold A. Decker Choral Award, presented to him by the American Choral Directors Association of Illinois earlier this year, even more meaningful.

Masterworks Chorale is a member of the Arts and Education Council of Greater St.

Louis and a member of Chorus America, the association of professional vocal ensembles. This special 25th anniversary concert is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dennis Sparger and Masterworks Chorale for 25 years of wonderful music.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LOUIS STOKES

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, while I rejoice in the opportunity to sing the praises of my friend and mentor, the Honorable LOU STOKES, the Dean of the Ohio Delegation, I am saddened by the realization that he will be retiring from this body at the end of this Congress. His departure from Congress will constitute a great personal loss to me and a great loss to the nation.

LOU STOKES' Congressional contributions were legendary to me long before I came to the Congress. His successes toward developing health programs for underserved and disadvantaged populations were well known to me and to health care workers throughout the country. During my 15 years in the Virginia legislature, I was active in developing programs to prevent infant mortality. LOU STOKES was our champion in the Congress on this issue then, and since I came to the Congress has continued to be our champion on the issue.

I serve with Representative STOKES on the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust. Year after year, he has provided absolutely stellar leadership as Chairman of the Braintrust by focusing the attention of the Congress and the nation on efforts to improve the health care status of disadvantaged populations. Not only will he leave a legacy of legislative accomplishments such as the Minority and Disadvantaged Health Care Improvement Act, but his annual Spring and Fall Health Braintrust programs will leave a record, that will be difficult for us to maintain, of pulling together the sharpest minds and most accomplished people to focus on pressing health concerns.

Mr. Speaker, in all of his endeavors, LOU STOKES has shown himself to be the consummate professional, a distinguished legislator, and an outstanding human being. I will miss you, LOU. I thank you for all you done for me, for this Congress and for this nation. God bless you Representative LOUIS STOKES, and Godspeed on your future endeavors.

HONORING THE NORTH CAROLINA
COOPERATIVE BRIGHT IDEAS
PROGRAM

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as a former Superintendent of Public Instruction for the

State of North Carolina, I closely follow matters related to the quality of public education in my district and state. Nothing gives me more pleasure than acknowledging a joint public-private initiative at the local level that is having a positive impact on the quality of classroom instruction.

In North Carolina, our community-minded electric cooperatives have a grant program for teachers called Bright Ideas. It was established in 1994 while I was Superintendent to improve classroom instruction by encouraging innovative teaching techniques. Bright Ideas has been a great success. Bright Ideas awards up to \$2,000 to teachers K-12 with no restrictions on subject matter. This year they received almost 2,000 applications and made more than 400 grants.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives, which provide power to 22 percent of my state's population and operate in 93 out of the 100 counties, made an early decision to consider any school's application regardless of its power supplier.

In 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives authorized \$225,000 a year for a state-wide Bright Ideas Program, which would have put the program over the \$1,000,000 mark by the 1998-99 school year. However, through generous additional funding in their respective areas, the cooperatives were able to reach \$1 million a full year ahead of schedule. I congratulate them for their achievement.

Chuck Terrill, Executive Vice President and CEO of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, says that the program will break \$1.5 million by the end of the 1998-99 school year, making the title of "Bright Ideas Classroom" a badge of honor in our schools.

In my district I have many cooperatives and thousands of cooperative members whom I count as friends. I salute these fine corporate citizens for their extraordinary contributions; more than \$1 million benefiting more than 400,000 students and still counting.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today we continue to mourn the loss of two of the finest men this Capitol has known. John 15:13 states that, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Had John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut not put themselves in harm's way, the lives of many would have been lost in last week's tragic event. These two men of courage laid down their lives so that their friends, coworkers and tourists visiting from around the world would be safe. We are truly blessed to have men and women of such noble character and bravery serving on the Capitol Police force.

As thousands of visitors came together yesterday to walk through the Capitol Rotunda to pay their respects to these men of courage, I realized that we are only able to safely visit this building which is a symbol of freedom because of the service of the many members of law enforcement we have here in Washington. We must never take for granted those who serve to protect and preserve the freedoms

that we enjoy here in the United States Capitol, and across this nation.

My prayers go out to the families of these two heroes who died that we might live. The memory of their actions will not be soon forgotten.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT
CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT GORE
AND THE OHIO CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit this open letter on behalf of many associations and federations from the state of Ohio:

We respectfully and urgently request you to reject efforts to accept the United Nations treaty signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and further revised in Kyoto, Japan that deals with greenhouse gas emissions.

Acceptance of this treaty would bind the U.S. to restrict fossil fuels (coal, natural gas and petroleum) use which together provide 80% of America's energy, while exempting 2.5 billion people in foreign countries from these reductions. These reductions will greatly force up the price of coal, natural gas, gasoline and electricity. Ohioans' cost for each of these necessities could rise by roughly 50% by 2010.

The result will be anti-family; as families are forced to pay much more for the basic necessity of electricity, anti-farm; as the cost of farming and supplies soar, anti-jobs; as 56,000 Ohio-based jobs are lost, many going to the exempted foreign countries. All of this will devastate Americans and Ohioans in particular. Economic estimates suggest by the year 2010, Ohioans will pay \$350 more for every man, woman and child in our state. This means we will together annually pay \$3.8 billion dollars more to heat our homes, run a business, or care for our loved ones. This will be especially harsh and unfair to Ohio seniors, the poor and others.

Global warming warrants thoughtful study but it does not make sense to strangle 80% of America's energy foundation while over half the world's population is exempted for this treaty's reach. Ohioans deserve better than this.

Please don't force Ohio families, seniors, those on the edge of poverty, our farmers and businesses to be saddled with this United Nations treaty.

Joel Hastings, Director of Local Affairs, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Columbus—192,000 members; Kelly McGivern, Director of Environment and Health Care Policy, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Columbus—5,000 members; John C. Mahaney, Jr., President, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, Columbus—3,000+ members; Alon Apel, Director of Government Affairs, Ohio Pharmacists Association, Dublin—4,000 members; Tom King, Executive Vice President, Ohio Trucking Association, Columbus—1,000 members; Sherry Weisgarber, Managing Director, Ohio Aggregates Association, Columbus—197 members; Ruth Ann Wilson, Executive Secretary, Ohio Assoc. of Meat Processors, Delaware—500 members; Gary A. Murdock, President, Ohio Valley Automotive Aftermarket Association, Hilliard—1,000 members; Roger P. Jones, President, Ohio Ready Mixed, Concrete Association, Columbus—210