

to Responsible Care Act, they cite a study showing that certain provisions could increase health insurance premiums from 3 to 90 percent. Three to 90 percent. I mean, that is a joke. Such a wide range is meaningless. It must be an accountant's way of saying I do not know.

Other studies have said that costs may go up slightly, but nothing near the doomsday figures suggested by opponents of this legislation. A study by the accounting firm Muse and Associates shows that premiums will increase between seven-tenths of 1 percent and 2.6 percent if the Patient Access to Responsible Care Act is enacted.

And do not let the HMOs tell you that the rising premiums we are seeing this year are the result of Federal legislation. HMOs have been charging below cost premiums for a long time. As a result, we are now seeing premium increases long before passage of any Federal consumer protection legislation.

And keep in mind also the shareholder's philosophy of making money can come into conflict with the patient's philosophy of wanting good medical care. To save money, many plans have nonphysician reviewers to determine if callers requesting approval for care really need it. Using medical care cookbooks, they walk patients through their symptoms and then reach a medical conclusion.

These cookbooks do not have a recipe for every circumstance. Like the woman who called to complain about pain caused by the cast on her wrist. The telephone triage worker asked the woman to press down on her fingernail to see how long it took for the color to return. Unfortunately, the patient had polish on her nails.

How far can this go? Like this cartoon shows, pretty soon we could all be logging on to the Internet and using the mouse as a stethoscope.

This trend should trouble every one of us. Medicine is part science, part art. Computer operators cannot consider the subtleties of a patient's condition. Sometimes you can know the answer by reading a chart, but sometimes doctors reach their judgments by a sixth sense that this patient really is sick. There are certain things that computers just cannot comprehend.

Now doctors are expected to be professional, to adhere to standards and to undergo peer review. Most of all, they are expected to serve as advocates for their patients' needs, not to be government or insurance apologists. It is in the interests of our citizens that their doctor fights for them and not be "the company doc."

Like a majority of my colleagues, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 1415, the Patient Access to Responsible Care Act, otherwise known as PARCA. In an attempt to derail this legislation, the managed care community has made a number of false statements about this bill. For example, they repeatedly state that PARCA would force health

plans to contract with any provider who wanted to join its network. That is clearly a false statement. In two separate places in the bill, it states that it should not be considered an "any willing provider" bill.

PARCA simply includes a provider nondiscrimination provision similar to what was enacted in Medicare last year. Provider nondiscrimination and "any willing provider" are no more the same than equal opportunity and affirmative action.

Similarly, some opponents have suggested that the bill would force health insurance to be offered on a guaranteed issue or a community rated basis. This is a nonissue. Congressman Norwood and I oppose community rating and guaranteed issue and will not support any bill coming to the floor that would result in community rating or guaranteed issue.

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Our goals should be passage of comprehensive patient protection legislation. I am committed to seeing legislation enacted before the close of the 105th Congress. I am open to working with all interested Members, Republican, and Democrat, to develop a bipartisan patient protection bill.

In the meantime, H.R. 586, the Patient Right to Know Act, which would ban gag rules, should be brought to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, just last week, a pediatrician told me about a 6-year-old child who had nearly drowned. The child was brought to the hospital and placed on a ventilator. The child's condition was serious. It did not appear that he would survive.

As the doctors and the family prayed for signs that he would live, the hospital got a call from the boy's insurance company. Home ventilation, explained the HMO reviewer, is cheaper than in-patient care. I was wondering if you had thought about sending the boy home.

Or consider the death of Joyce Ching, a 34-year-old mother from Fremont, California. Mrs. Ching waited nearly 3 months for an HMO referral to a specialist despite her continued rectal bleeding and severe pain. She was 35 years old when she died from a delay in the diagnosis of her colon cancer.

Joyce Ching, Christy DeMeurers, Christina Baumann, Dr. Peeno's patient, Mr. Speaker, these are not just anecdotes. These are real people who are victims of HMOs.

Let us fix this problem. The people we serve are demanding it. Let us act now to pass meaningful patient protections. Lives, Mr. Speaker, are in the balance.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GILLMOR (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of emergency dental work.

Mr. McNULTY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 2:00 p.m. on account of personal reasons.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 4:30 p.m. on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. NETHERCUTT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. COBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HULSHOF, for 5 minutes, on March 31.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania.

Mr. BARR of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, on March 27.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mrs. CLAYTON for 5 minutes today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. KIND.

Mr. ALLEN.

Ms. SANCHEZ.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ.

Mr. FORD.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Mr. KLECZKA.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. BORSKI.

Mr. TORRES.

Mr. VENTO.

Mr. FILNER.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. NETHERCUTT) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. ROGERS.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.

Mr. HORN.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

Mr. BILIRAKIS.

Mr. WICKER.

Mr. CALVERT.

Mr. EHRLICH.

Mr. WALSH.

Mr. PAPPAS.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. GANSKE) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. PAPPAS.
Mr. ALLEN.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 27, 1998, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8235. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Specialty Crops; Import Regulations; Extension of Reporting Period for Peanuts Imported Under 1997 Import Quotas [Docket No. FV97-999-1 FIR] received March 24, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8236. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Imidacloprid; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300628; FRL-5778-3] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8237. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Imidacloprid; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300625; FRL-5776-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8238. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Colorado; Correction [FRL-5977-5] received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8239. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Promulgation of Extension of Attainment Date for Ozone Nonattainment Area; Ohio; Kentucky [OH107a; KY101-9809a; FRL-5985-9] received March 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8240. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Ohio [OH103-1a; FRL-5978-6] received March 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8241. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule—Retrofit/Rebuild Requirements for 1993 and Earlier Model Year Urban Buses; Additional Update of Post-Rebuild Emission Levels in 1998 [FRL-5986-2] (RIN: 2060-AH45) received March 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8242. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and

Acceptance (LOA) to Kuwait for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 98-29), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

8243. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 98-31), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

8244. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Korea for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 98-32), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

8245. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold under a contract to Australia (Transmittal No. DTC-21-98), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

8246. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

8247. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Closures of Specified Groundfish Fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 031098C] received March 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8248. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inshore Component Pollock in the Aleutian Islands Subarea [Docket No. 971208298-8055-02; I.D. 031398A] received March 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8249. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F28 Mark 0100 and 0070 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 96-NM-269-AD; Amendment 39-10310; AD 98-03-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8250. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F27 Mark 050 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 97-NM-261-AD; Amendment 39-10300; AD 98-03-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8251. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model HS 748 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 97-NM-219-AD; Amendment 39-10309; AD 98-03-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8252. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH Models 228-100, 228-101, 228-200, and 228-201 Airplanes [Docket No. 97-CE-124-AD; Amendment 39-

10391; AD 98-06-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8253. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F28 Mark 0070 and Mark 0100 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 97-NM-245-AD; Amendment 39-10396; AD 98-06-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8254. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Mystere Falcon 900 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 97-NM-193-AD; Amendment 39-10395; AD 98-06-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8255. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F28 Mark 0100 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 95-NM-38-AD; Amendment 39-10393; AD 98-06-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8256. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A. (CASA) Model CN-235 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 97-NM-162-AD; Amendment 39-10392; AD 98-06-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8257. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Model 328-100 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 96-NM-114-AD; Amendment 39-10394; AD 98-06-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8258. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-145 Series Airplanes [Airspace Docket No. 98-NM-64-AD; Amendment 39-10397; AD 98-06-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8259. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; GKN Westland Helicopters Ltd., 30 Series Helicopters [Docket No. 97-SW-26-AD; Amendment 39-10383; AD 98-06-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8260. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Eastland, TX [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASW-20] received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8261. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Gallup, NM [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASW-19] received March 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8262. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting