

Tiahrt	Watkins	Wicker
Tierney	Watt (NC)	Wise
Towns	Watts (OK)	Wolf
Traficant	Waxman	Woolsey
Turner	Weldon (FL)	Wynn
Upton	Wexler	Yates
Walsh	Weygand	Young (FL)
Wamp	White	
Waters	Whitfield	

## NAYS—43

Abercrombie	Gutierrez	Pascrell
Baldacci	Gutknecht	Pickett
Becerra	Hastings (FL)	Poshard
Borski	Hefley	Ramstad
Clay	Hilleary	Schaffer, Bob
Clayburn	Hilliard	Scott
Costello	Hinchey	Sessions
DeFazio	Kucinich	Stupak
Deutsch	LoBiondo	Taylor (MS)
English	McDermott	Thompson
Filner	McNulty	Velazquez
Fox	Menendez	Visclosky
Gephardt	Moran (KS)	Weller
Gibbons	Obey	
Green	Olver	

## ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Spratt

## NOT VOTING—33

Berry	Harman	Oberstar
Callahan	Hunter	Riggs
Clement	Hyde	Rush
Crane	John	Schiff
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Smith (OR)
Davis (IL)	Lantos	Snowbarger
Edwards	McDade	Talent
Ensign	Miller (FL)	Torres
Eshoo	Mink	Vento
Furse	Nadler	Weldon (PA)
Gonzalez	Norwood	Young (AK)

□ 1023

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. EVERETT changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIAHRT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute speeches on each side.

## HONORING PRISONERS OF WAR ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention, and the country's attention, to the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, and in particular to the sacrifice and the service to America of prisoners of war and their families.

I think it is all too easy in peacetime to forget exactly how much was sacrificed. I think it is all too easy to forget that the young men and women we have in Bosnia, the situation developing in Iraq, the 38,000 young Americans in Korea, all of them are risking their lives, separated from their families, doing what it takes so that America can be free and safe.

We in this House have the great honor to serve with a man who was courageous in fighting for his country, a man who was courageous in serving as a prisoner of war, a man who came back to continue serving his country as a State legislator and a Member of Congress.

We all today have a chance, not just here in the Congress to vote on a resolution honoring prisoners of war, but to call on every county, every city, and every State some time during this 25th anniversary year to hold an event honoring those who have been prisoners of war, honoring their families and their children, recognizing what they do for all of us, and recognizing how much our freedom depends on their sacrifice.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing a great American who we are privileged to have serve with us, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

## PROTECT EFFICIENT, GOOD QUALITY HOME HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, because of an ill-advised provision in last year's budget agreement, providers of home health care all across America are in danger of being forced out of business. Many of these home health agencies have been crucial in our efforts to control health care costs.

Unfortunately, because of the way the budget agreement was drafted, Medicare reimbursement rates for some agencies will be higher than others simply because of how those agencies structure their fiscal years. Further, the agreement requires that home health care agencies be in compliance with Federal spending caps before the government tells agencies what those caps are. Mr. Speaker, where is the logic in that?

Today I am proud to introduce a bipartisan bill with the gentleman from Utah (Mr. COOK), and 18 other cosponsors, that will help these providers to continue their important work.

Mr. Speaker, our bill allows home health care agencies, if they wish, to calculate their caps based on 1995 levels rather than the 1994 levels mandated by the budget agreement. The bill also takes into account the wide variety of agency fiscal years and allows for more home health care visits to our seniors under the caps. Finally, we push back the date of compliance, giving providers time to meet the requirements.

This problem is big and getting bigger. I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting efficient, good quality home health care. Our senior citizens deserve no less.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
HOME CARE,

Washington, DC, February 10, 1998.

Hon. JAMES P. MCGOVERN,  
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCGOVERN: On behalf of the National Association for Home Care (NAHC), the nation's largest home health organization representing home care providers, caregivers and the patients they serve, I would like to commend you for introducing legislation that would address some of the devastating inequities in the interim payment system (IPS). We wholeheartedly support your legislation, which will delay its implementation and change the base year for calculation of per-beneficiary caps.

As you know, IPS became effective with cost reporting periods starting October 1, 1997. The new per-beneficiary limits, however, will not be published until April. This means that approximately 2/3 of home health providers will be on the new IPS without knowing what their per-beneficiary limits will be. Your legislation, by delaying the implementation date, would ensure that providers would not have to be "flying blind" under a wholly new system.

Equally important is your provision which would change the base year for calculation of the per-beneficiary caps from fiscal year 1994 to "fiscal year 1995 or, at the election of the agency, calendar year 1995." This change will level the playing field among agencies and cap reimbursement rates at more reasonable amounts.

Once again, thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. We look forward to working with you to assure passage of the legislation. Please contact Eric Sokol or Lucia DiVenere of my staff if we can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

VAL J. HALAMANDARIS,  
President.

HOME HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION  
OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.,  
Boston, MA, February 11, 1998.

Hon. JAMES P. MCGOVERN,  
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,  
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCGOVERN: On behalf of the 155 members of the Home & Health Care Association of Massachusetts, I am delighted to offer our full endorsement of the McGovern/Cook bill that amends the Interim Payment System for Home Health Care under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. We understand that Senator Kennedy will be filing a companion bill in the Senate.

It is our belief that the McGovern bill is a sensible attempt to retain Congress' intent to slow the growth in the home health industry while correcting the provisions of the law we believe are unreasonable and unworkable.

Your unwavering advocacy on our behalf has given our members hope that the inequities of the Interim Payment System may be corrected. The patients who depend on the services are grateful.

Once again, many, many thanks for your support of the home health industry.

Sincerely,

KEN McNULTY,  
President.  
PATRICIA KELLEHER,  
Executive Director.

## INDEPENDENT COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE INTERIOR SECRETARY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the announcement was made that an independent counsel will be appointed to investigate Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt. To this I say: It is about time.

Mr. Speaker, let us review what has happened here. When asked to explain why he denied a particular Indian gaming license, Secretary Babbitt responded that the administration instructed him to do so. Next, he denied ever having said that. Then he denied ever having made that denial. Finally, he has admitted that his original lie is the truth and that we just all have a big misunderstanding.

Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is a misunderstanding, but somewhere between all the lies, all the denials, and all the misunderstandings, a \$300,000 campaign donation was made to the Democratic Party in exchange for governmental action against the non-contributing Indian tribe.

Hopefully, the independent counsel will be able to sift through the lies and find the truth. Clearly, the American people deserve no less.

□ 1030

## CASEY MARTIN

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Casey Martin is a 25-year-old young man who lives in America, the land of opportunity. He suffers from K-T-W syndrome which is a circulatory disorder in his right leg which causes great pain when he walks significant distances. Notwithstanding that, he had the courage to become a second team all-American on the Stanford golf team. The Professional Golfers Association said that the ADA did not apply to Casey Martin and it was not designed or intended to apply to competitors in professional sporting events.

The judge felt differently and sustained what I think we in this body felt, that somebody with a disability ought to be given a reasonable accommodation to participate as fully as their courage and commitment would allow.

Gary Phelan, a disability expert, was quoted as saying that the ADA was about opportunity, not pity. Casey Martin was the victim of fate, but he was not defeated by that disability. He has competed and prevailed. It was a great day for America yesterday when he was allowed to compete fully to the extent of his ability.

## PARENTAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the Parental Freedom of Information Act along with 48 other cosponsors. It is an act which will empower parents to guide and participate in the education of their children.

Teachers have told me that involved parents are the most important thing public schools need to help students learn. I believe involved parents must be informed parents.

The Parental Freedom of Information Act will ensure that parents have access to curriculum and testing materials to which their children are exposed and will require parental consent prior to any student being required to undergo medical or psychological testing or treatment while at school. Again, that is, before any mandatory medical exams or treatment or mandatory psychological testing, parents must be notified for their consent.

This legislation in no way seeks to influence the content or curriculum of tests. It simply allows parents to access the basic information which involved parents need to guide the education of their children.

Most of us agree that when parents get involved in their child's education, their children do better in school and their schools become stronger. This legislation will help remove the obstacles that prevent parents from being involved. So let us get behind the Parental Freedom of Information Act.

## ON MEXICO

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a CIA report says Mexico's powerful Interior Minister is dirty. He is tied to drug cartels and he turned a blind eye to drug trafficking. A blind eye to 7 tons of narcotics crossing the border every single day, 14,000 pounds?

After all this, the White House is officially certifying Mexico as a cooperating partner in our war on drugs. Unbelievable. Some war on drugs. The Interior Minister is dirty.

Their last drug czar was on the cartel's payroll, and 14,000 pounds a day are poisoning America. Beam me up. Evidently there is not as much testosterone at the White House as there is rumored to be. I say, let us secure our borders with the military who are falling out of chairs without armrests overseas.

Let us straighten out our country, Congress. And let us declare war on narcotics.

## LOCAL RADIO

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, many of us take our local radio and TV stations for granted. Whenever we want to see the news, the weather, our favorite show, we can simply turn on our televisions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. But there is another commitment our local broadcasters make, a commitment to our communities.

I am pleased today to commend the good work being done by stations in eastern North Carolina. Radio and television stations alike in the area run thousands of public service announcements each year covering every topic from alcohol abuse to senior issues. In addition, many eastern North Carolina stations play an active role in worthy causes such as raising funds for children's hospitals, collecting contributions to the Toys for Tots program and gathering pledges for local food banks. Whether it is helping the needy, protecting us with storm information or covering the local news, local broadcasters have built a great legacy of public service.

I come to the floor today to salute the fine work of broadcasters in eastern North Carolina and throughout the Nation, and to let them know that their efforts are appreciated.

## PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, three days from today, 100 years ago, the USS Maine exploded in Havana, an incident that started the Spanish American War, a war that Americans proudly entered to free Cuba from Spanish rule, a war that also liberated Puerto Rico from Spanish rule, but turned Puerto Rico into a U.S. territory.

We have now been a territory of the United States for 100 years and we have been disenfranchised U.S. citizens for 81 years. Can any Member of Congress give us one good reason why 3,800,000 American citizens should be denied the right to vote and the right to representation? Puerto Ricans are part of the great American family, but a century has passed us by and we remain disenfranchised as a colony at a time when colonies are not only unfashionable but embarrassing to a Nation that preaches democracy throughout the world and calls for a plebiscite in Cuba. Congress has procrastinated on the solution to our political dilemma for too long.

Congress has the authority and the moral responsibility to approve H.R. 856, the U.S.-Puerto Rico Political Status Act, a bill for self-determination, a bill to pave the road to enfranchisement and equality.