

Air Force," but today I must. Yesterday, the voters of New Mexico's First District chose Heather Wilson, an Air Force Academy grad, to replace our friend and departed colleague, Steve Schiff.

I welcome Heather to the Congress, adding to the ranks of distinguished women who currently serve in this body, more than any other time in our Nation's history.

More importantly, I welcome her as a fellow veteran of the armed services. As fewer and fewer veterans elect to serve in Congress, it is important that we have people like Heather Wilson who, even though she served in the Air Force, still understands the need for a strong national defense.

Mr. Speaker, I expect Heather will be a strong and forceful voice for our men and women in uniform, as well as for the common sense family values that are the true strength of this Nation.

Heather Wilson is a worthy and welcome successor to our friend, Steve Schiff.

CONGRESS MUST PASS HMO REFORM

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, one has to wonder what motivates Speaker GINGRICH to continually stop movement on HMO reform.

Today in the paper again a 52-year-old father of five suffers and waits to get a liver transplant, and it is not approved until he is too ill and too sick to get that transplant. My only brother's girlfriend died at 38 years of age as the HMO, the managed care system, delayed. Delayed testing, delayed X-rays, until it was too late.

In Florida, the legislature took a step today. They started to provide patients some rights. This Congress has to get past the Speaker and the Republican leadership and fight for the life and breath of the American people to pass HMO reform.

CRIME IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(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, American schools are under a siege of violence. Recent events have again focused this Nation's attention on violence in American schools.

Despite the long-standing lip service to the problem, media reports have recently highlighted that schools are not safe places of learning.

Mr. Speaker, let me share with this body some alarming statistics. Physical attacks or fights without the use of weapons lead the list of reported crimes in our schools, with about 190,000 such events occurring in any given year.

Moreover, 116,000 incidents of theft or larceny were reported, along with 98,000 incidents of vandalism.

Most alarming, Mr. Speaker, is that serious crimes included 4,000 rapes or sexual assaults, 7,000 robberies, and 11,000 physical attacks or fights with dangerous weapons, knives and guns.

These events are taking place in every congressional district in the country.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. For the safety of our children, it is imperative that this Congress focus its attention on this critical issue.

PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I would first rise today to commend President Clinton for this week announcing new patient protections for those who are covered by Medicare. The time is now for all of us in the House to join together to extend those same protections to every single person who is covered by health care in this country.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) AND THE GENTLEMAN FROM IOWA (MR. GANSKE) have come together in an important effort that should not be watered down by other proposals that do not make the test, that do not really protect patients.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure that our constituents, as well as ourselves, have access to specialists, that we can have emergency room costs covered when it is necessary, that we have the opportunity to fully discuss with our physicians the kinds of treatments that we need if we are in managed care.

Time is overdue for us to provide the kinds of patient protections necessary in managed care to make sure that our constituents have the quality care that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the House to support the Patient Bill of Rights and to take it up immediately.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM ACT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has been calling on Congress to start yet another Federal education program to hire 100,000 new teachers. If the President wants to hire teachers, then he should be ready to support H.R. 3248, the Dollars to the Classroom Act.

The Dollars to the Classroom Act sends 95 percent of the money for 31 Federal education programs directly to local schools. With the flexibility given in the Dollars to the Classroom Act, principals will be able to hire more teachers for America's schools, which our kids deserve.

Our Nation's parents deserve for their education tax dollars to actually reach their child's classroom. Let us stop talking about hiring teachers. Let us actually make it possible by passing the Dollars to the Classroom Act. It is time we put children first in education by directing our tax dollars to the classroom.

CHINA GOBBLING UP AMERICAN NATIONAL SECURITY SECRETS

(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, on the very day that President Clinton leaves for China, China thumbs their nose at America once again. Check this out.

Top U.S. officials say, and I quote: China stole a top secret device off an American satellite. The theft was so serious, our National Security Agency was forced to change all of our communication codes.

After all of this, the White House still wants a permanent Most Favored Nation trade status for China.

Free trade my ascot, Mr. Speaker.

This is a free ride and a free for all for China, who is gobbling up our national security secrets faster than the President can down a Big Mac and a box of fries. Think about that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to yield back what secret codes, secrets, and national security we have left.

CUT TAXES ON CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO KEEP JOBS IN AMERICA

(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, the Democrats say we need to keep jobs in America for American workers, Republicans say that we need to keep jobs in America for American workers. The difference is that liberal Democrat policies do everything possible to drive companies overseas or encourage investment capital to go abroad.

Think about it. Democrats rail against "corporate America." They support increasing expansion of regulation and they seek to raise taxes on the people who create and keep jobs. Naturally, businesses respond by moving from a high tax country to a low tax country.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to keep jobs in America, make America the best place in the whole world to open a business, the best place in the whole world to invest, the best place in the whole world to start a business, the best place in the whole world to make a profit, the best place in the whole world to keep profits, the best place in the whole world to build a company and make it grow. We must keep jobs in America.

Mr. Speaker, let us cut taxes on capital investment and make the decision to stay in America the easiest decision in the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUAM CENTENNIAL RESOLUTION

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, just this past Sunday I was on Guam for the reenactment of America's first flag-raising ceremony on Guam. It was on June 21, 1898 that a contingent of American officials, led by Captain Henry Glass, raised the first American flag in the village of Piti.

For many Chamorros, the native people of Guam, it was a time of confusion and apprehension. No one knew how the new authorities would affect the island. And others, after nearly 300 years of Spanish dominion, were sorry to see the Spanish officials and soldiers be whisked away.

However, one thing is certain. The people of Guam deserve the recognition and commitment that the people of this body can provide in commemoration of Guam's centennial anniversary.

For this purpose, today I am introducing a House Resolution which calls on the House of Representatives to recognize Guam's service to the United States and to reaffirm its commitment to Guam's request for political status clarification. I have collaborated extensively with the Democratic and Republican leadership of the House Committee on Resources in formulating the language of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that 40 of my colleagues have agreed to be original cosponsors of the Guam Centennial Resolution. Let us commemorate Guam's 100-year relationship with the United States.

REDUCING CAPITAL GAINS TAXES

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today Speaker NEWT GINGRICH introduces one of the most important jobs bills that this Congress will consider during this term, and I am talking about the bill to reduce the capital gains tax from 20 percent to 15 percent.

When this has been done in the past, starting in 1978, revenues went up \$23 billion. When the capital gains taxes were cut again in 1981, revenues went up \$9 billion. And in 1986, when capital gains tax rates were raised and not lowered, revenue loss was about \$180 billion.

If we give Americans the opportunity to sell goods at a lower price, they are going to do it. And in doing so, they are going to create more jobs. This would be great for entrepreneurs, for small businesses, for seniors and over

one-half of American consumers who right now are savers.

This is a very important jobs bill, and it is a bill that I am looking forward to a good debate on. I think that this Congress would be remiss in its duties if we did not act on it before the end of the session.

AMERICANS NEED A PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS NOW

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, in today's Washington Post there is a front page article that illustrates the immediate need for our Patient's Bill of Rights.

In February of 1997, doctors told a 52-year-old local resident, father of five, that a liver transplant was his only chance to beat liver cancer. The executives of the HMO disagreed and denied coverage for this lifesaving treatment.

Over the next five months this local resident wrote three letters to his HMO, and each was ignored. Finally, five months after his doctors originally told him he needed a transplant, he won an external appeal. The HMO was ordered to pay for the transplant. Five days after he won that appeal, he was too sick to receive that transplant and he died.

Mr. Speaker, how many people have died because of delay in medical care because of this law we have now? If we had a Patient's Bill of Rights that included timely internal and external appeals; access to specialists; point of service options; open communications between patients and providers; and, accountability for these medical decisions, these Americans would not be dying because they are being denied medical care.

Mr. Speaker, we need a Patient's Bill of Rights now.

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ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, a wise man once defined insanity as doing more of what you have been doing and expecting a different result.

Our friends on the left are talking about giving more money to schools which have produced terrible results, confident in the belief that schools which have failed so miserably the last time Congress gave them more money will do a better job this time around. Republicans talk about improving school performance, for we believe that the focus should be on results, not just on inputs. Democrats talk about spending more money from the Federal Government, unconcerned that Washington bureaucrats will then have more control over our children's education.

Republicans want exactly the opposite. We want parents and local authorities to have more power, and we want less meddling from Washington bureaucrats.

Two different visions and, I submit, two fundamentally different approaches to the education of our children.

AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, have my colleagues heard the response, no room at the inn? That is what we are getting with the health system in America. HMOs, no room at the inn, no room in the emergency room, no hospital bed, no ability to get surgery, no ability to stay in the hospital because one needs to.

Republicans are about to unveil their own do-nothing legislative proposals to address the crisis of teen smoking and managed care reform, but these proposals are not solutions. They are a fig leaf to hide their do-nothing proposals. Instead of supporting real life problems, these programs really apply and listen to the special interests.

That is why I am listening to those who cannot get into hospital beds, who are turned away from emergency rooms, whose children are not diagnosed because we have to call up the HMO to get approval.

We are also going to listen to children today. Three thousand of them start smoking every day, and 1,000 of them will die from smoking. We will have a hearing today to listen to the teenagers of America tell us why we need to pass a bill, a tobacco bill to reform this system, to improve the health system, and to make sure that we do stand on the correct side of legislative history; that is, supporting those who need good health care and to stop tobacco from attacking our children.

ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) and I, and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NEUMANN) are introducing legislation, H.R. 4033, that makes changes in the way government borrows from the Social Security trust fund.

It does two things. It provides that from now on when we calculate whether there is a budget surplus or deficit, OMB and CBO, the administration and Congress, shall not consider the money we borrow from the Social Security trust fund as revenue in determining whether or not there is a deficit or surplus.

The other provision in that bill says that from now on when we borrow any