

The unusual thing about this program is, the only support I have is a number of Members of Congress and the American people, in growing numbers.

Mr. Speaker, the White House will not get it until there is a six-foot syringe full of heroin shoved up the asset of some bureaucrat at the White House.

Beam me up. What about our children? What about addiction? How many years do we lament the use of narcotics, and we allow it to come across our border?

Only one of every three trucks are searched. I say on the House floor today, a nuclear warhead could cross our border and we would not know it.

I yield back any common sense left in the government of our country.

#### COMMEMORATION OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION

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

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of an event that dramatically changed the course of history and led to the fundamental right of a woman to elect the people who represent them in this very Chamber, the first Women's Rights Convention.

This celebration gives us the opportunity to recognize outstanding achievements of women who have contributed to the development and the strength of our Nation. Because of the leadership, the tireless efforts and the perseverance of our foremothers, women today are able to soar to greater heights each and every day.

While this is a time to celebrate and express our gratitude to those who came before us, it is also a time to reflect and remind ourselves that each one of us has an enormous responsibility not only to the women of tomorrow but to every single woman who helped pave the way for the rights, the freedom and the boundless opportunities we all now cherish.

As we honor women leaders such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and Susan B. Anthony, let their work serve as an inspiration to women, young and old, across this great land that we can make a powerful difference when we truly believe in a cause and in ourselves.

#### MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues today to underscore the need and the importance for real managed care reform. Today in America, insurance companies are making life-threatening decisions regarding patient care. Those

same insurance companies that denied medical procedures and treatment are immune from suit.

The horror stories are all too familiar: John, a middle-aged man in need of a liver transplant, his doctor contacts the HMO, and the bureaucrats decline coverage. John appeals, and by the time he works his way through a time-consuming process and the HMO agrees to pay, he is too sick to receive the transplant and dies.

The health care choices must be made by patients and their physicians, not the insurance companies. The Democratic Patient's Bill of Rights is a plan that puts people ahead of politics. It holds managed care corporations and companies responsible.

Let us do real reform. Let us do the Democratic reform.

#### TIME TO PASS A MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it is time to remind the American people what the Republican agenda is for the remainder of the 105th Congress.

First, let us recall that last summer this Congress passed an historic balanced budget agreement that contained tax cuts for millions of middle-class taxpayers and middle-class savers. Last summer, Republicans vowed to pass more tax cuts in the year ahead.

So, here we are, back in Washington and on track to pass more tax cuts for the middle class, the middle-class backbone of America that pays the taxes, plays by the rules, and gets up every morning to engage in productive labor.

The tax burden on the middle class is simply too large. The cost of government is too high. It is simply not right that the Federal Government should take between one-fourth and one-third of what a middle-class family earns.

Liberals may disagree, but most Americans do not believe that the middle-class families should work until the month of May before getting to keep what they earn. It is time for this Congress to pass a middle-class tax cut.

#### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRAT HEALTH CARE PLANS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is very important for the American public to understand the difference between the Democrat's managed care reform proposal, the Patient's Bill of Rights, as opposed to the Republican sham managed care reform proposal which we will be considering most likely next week.

First, we need a national remedy for a national problem. No State has

passed legislation which deals with all the major areas of managed care consumer protection.

Second, the Republican Senate proposal does not apply to most Americans. Many of its provisions will only cover individuals involved in self-insured, employer-sponsored plans.

Third, the Congressional Budget Office has shown that the costs of the Democratic plan are minimal, only \$2 per month for the average person.

In addition, the Republican plans do not prohibit HMOs from offering bonuses to doctors for denying necessary care; the Republican proposals do not guarantee the right of patients to use specialists as their primary care providers; and, most important, the Republican plans do not provide for the enforcement of patient protections. They continue to protect health insurance companies' special interest exemption from legal responsibility; and, as the President said, a right without a remedy is worthless.

#### CONTINUE IN DIRECTION OF TAX CUTS

(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, in the remaining months of the 105th Congress, business will be conducted in one of two ways: We will conduct business in the old way it was done for 40 years of Democrat rule, or we can conduct business in a new way, the way business began being conducted in the beginning of January, 1995.

Under the old way, Congress did not hold the line on spending. New goodies were added in the closing days of the session and serious attempts at reform were blocked by the usual special interests.

Under the new way, Congress considers the impact of spending on the family budget first. Instead of asking Washington if Washington can afford new spending, we now ask whether the family can afford it.

It is entirely a new way of thinking. Under the old way, Washington acted like it was doing you a favor by letting you keep more of your own money. Under the new philosophy, the Republicans are pushing to cut taxes as much as possible, because we think middle-class families are paying too much in taxes to a government that is not careful with their money. It is time to continue in this new direction.

#### AMERICA NEEDS PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Families USA released a report about State-managed care reform laws around the country. The report is entitled "Hit and Miss," because, as the report clearly states, "Unfortunately, for

consumers who are in need of protection, State laws are more misses than hits: managed care consumers still cannot count on basic protections."

This report is only the latest in a growing body of evidence that proves what the American people already know, that we need a national Patients Protection Act. We need to ensure that doctors and patients, and not insurance company bureaucrats, are making the critical health care decisions, that patients have the right to go to the emergency room, that women can gain direct access to an obstetrician or gynecologist, and that health plans are held accountable when they deny patients care.

The only plan that ensures these basic protections is the Democratic Patient's Bill of Rights.

I urge the Republican leadership, schedule a vote today on the Dingell-KENNEDY Patients Protection Act.

#### "HEALTHMARTS" AND THE QUEST FOR QUALITY

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

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, the health care debate has been full of surprises. One of my favorites was the statement that there is no true marketplace today to drive health care equality. The surprise is not what was said, but who said it: Ron Pollack of Families USA, a leading supporter of President Clinton's efforts to nationalize health care.

Well, he and a lot of other health experts are right, we do not have a real health care market, and that is the problem.

Think about it: The last time you bought a car, you did not go to your bank, your credit union or GMAC first. You went to a dealership, talked to the salespeople and took a test drive. Then you arranged your financing. The car you bought was determined by your personal needs and preferences, not by the bank or credit union that financed it.

Why cannot health care operate the same way?

The legislation developed by the Speaker's Working Group on Health Care Quality includes a provision creating HealthMarts. HealthMarts are private, voluntary and competitive health insurance supermarkets. They will transfer choice within the current market from small employers to their employees and dependents.

HealthMarts would give millions of consumers the freedom to choose their health coverage from a menu of options. These options could include managed care and fee-for-service plans, coverage offered by provider-sponsored organizations, and medical savings accounts.

#### REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE PROPOSALS LACKING

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, the Republicans defeated President Clinton's health care bill, claiming it would allow the Federal Government to interfere with doctor-patient relationships.

Well, now the Republicans are offering legislation that does nothing to protect the choices made by doctors and their patients. Their legislation, for example, does not ensure that patients have the right to see a specialist, nor does it prevent insurance companies from continuing to send women home early immediately following a mastectomy.

□ 0915

What our health care system needs, Mr. Speaker, is the Dingell-Daschle bill, a patient protection bill that ensures doctors and patients are able to make the decisions about the patient's health care, not insurance company bureaucrats and clerks.

A patient protection bill must ensure that patients have the right to choose their doctor, see a specialist, and seek a court remedy when claims have been unfairly denied. It is time to put doctors and patients back in charge of health care.

I urge my colleagues to support the Dingell-Daschle patient protection bill.

#### U.S. SHOULD WAKE UP TO NUCLEAR ATTACK VULNERABILITY

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that it has taken nuclear blasts in India and Pakistan to convince American leaders that it is time to put an end to our policy of mutually assured vulnerability. What I mean by that is that the United States is vulnerable to a missile attack.

Many Americans are unaware of this, but if a missile were to be fired at American cities, the United States would be defenseless to stop it.

Not only that, but this is the deliberate policy of the United States to remain defenseless in the face of nuclear attack. The faith of liberals in arms control, in a piece of paper, is boundless.

But recent events in Pakistan and India should serve to force us to reconsider our position of vulnerability in the face of a missile attack.

I hope that recent reports that Communist China has 13 nuclear missiles aimed at the United States will finally cause our leaders here in Washington to wake up. The liberals and our President are always saying we must do this for the children, we must do that for the children. Well, let us make sure that our Nation is protected from nuclear attack for the children.

#### TERRIFYING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN INDONESIA

(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, reports of the riots in Indonesia last month tell of mass rapes targeted at the Chinese and non-Muslim women. There are several reports that some military leaders helped to organize the terrorizing of the ethnic and religious minorities. One 18-year-old woman reports that the apartment complex where she lived was invaded by an angry Muslim mob. The mob found this woman and her family, tied them up with bed sheets, knocked the father unconscious, and proceeded to brutally rape all the women. This woman's sister was raped by five men who all said, "Allahu Akbar" before they raped her.

The young woman's sister tried to fight against the rapists. In the end, one of her rapists sliced open her stomach and brutally killed her. There are many reports detailing the same situation for other women in Indonesia.

Mr. Speaker, the horrors done to the Chinese and the Christian communities must not be allowed to continue under any government whatsoever. The Indonesian Government should use its power to stop these terrifying human rights abuses and investigate the allegation of any military involvement in these atrocities.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 4194, and that I be permitted to include tables and charts and other extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Pursuant to House Resolution 501 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4194.

□ 0919

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for