

health care quality. Managed care must be more than managed cost. Every American deserves quality health care. Managed care reforms are necessary at the Federal level to ensure that managed care is quality care. Even in my home State of Maine where strong patient protections have been enacted at the State level, my constituents know that we need a national solution to a national problem.

The Republican legislation only applies to Americans in self-insured plans. They ignore two-thirds of Americans with private health insurance. One hundred thirteen million Americans are left out in the cold by the Republican bill.

The Republicans have a patchwork approach to dealing with the real problems such as access to specialty care and the choice of physicians. Furthermore, the Republican bill is laced with poison pills such as health marts and malpractice limits.

My constituents want real protections. They do not want a watered down bill. They want the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights Act.

WITHER THE BUDGET SURPLUS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Federal budget will be in surplus for the foreseeable future. Leaving aside the fact that this is not entirely accurate given that the Social Security surplus is masking the true size of the budget deficit, the question before us is what to do with the surplus.

The Democrats, naturally, want to spend it. The Republicans, not surprisingly, want to see it used to begin paying down the national debt or they want to use it for a tax cut. I will leave it to the other side to explain to the American people why they want to spend more money on failed, wasteful social programs and I will only consider the real choice for Congress, paying down the debt or tax relief.

My instinct is to go 50-50, half towards tax cuts and half towards a down payment on our \$5.4 trillion national debt. But then I think about the likelihood that liberal spending politicians in Washington will keep their hands off the budget surplus and I start to lean more strongly towards tax relief.

The bottom line is this: Do not spend the surplus.

PASS THE DEMOCRATIC PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, Democrats want to make sure that good health care is the right of every American. You pay for it. You deserve it.

And you should have the right to demand the medical treatment you need.

The Republican leadership and insurance companies believe that they and not you will determine your medical coverage. So the insurance companies and the Republican leadership continue to allow gag orders on doctors and nurses in managed care plans. HMOs tell doctors and nurses and you what medical treatment you will receive, not what medical treatment you need. They gag your doctor.

Democrats believe you and your doctor should decide what medical treatment you need. No more gag orders. The Republican leadership continue to place a gag order on the American people and refuse to hold hearings on the Patients' Bill of Rights. So Democrats want to lift the GOP gag order. We are holding hearings on the Patients' Bill of Rights in Room 2237 of the Rayburn Building.

Democrats want to make sure that health care is the right of every American. You pay for it, you deserve it. You have the right to demand the medical treatment you need. Lift the gag order, Mr. Speaker. Pass the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights.

SCHOOL CHOICE

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, we Republicans find ourselves in a strange position. On the one hand, we benefit politically when the defenders of the status quo oppose choice in public schools. We benefit politically because school choice is something their own constituents favor. But on the other hand we Republicans despair at finding leftist opposition to school choice because many kids are denied the opportunity of attending a good school and thereby are forced into failing schools. And so we have this bizarre situation where left-wing opposition to school choice means that Republicans win politically but we win at a terrible social cost.

□ 1015

The remarkable thing about this bizarre situation is that the defenders of the bureaucracy accept this national disgrace, because it benefits their union monopolies. No wonder so many Americans are fed up with many posturing politicians and the special interests they protect. We need to give parents control over their kid's education, and that will only come from school choice. That is what we Republicans are fighting for.

E-RATE WEEK

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce E-Rate week. Today I join many Members of Congress in kicking

off a week of discussion, information, and emphasis about the importance of the E-Rate program to our schools, our children, and our country. The E-Rate is designed to bring discounted Internet services to children in schools and libraries across America.

In the world of tomorrow, technology and the Internet will be the tools essential to our Nation's workforce. Technical literacy will determine whether a person has a high-paying job or whether that person is frozen into a low-wage, low-opportunity profession.

Currently, only a few wealthy school districts can afford this technology. The E-Rate ensures that needy schools receive discounted services so that every American child has an equal chance to succeed.

Those who attack the E-Rate undercut the future of our children and of our country. Americans want to provide their children the skills and tools of the 21st Century. Through the E-Rate, this is one way we can accomplish this goal.

JUDGE STARR ONCE PRAISED BY DEMOCRATS

(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, let us listen to what some people have said about Judge Ken Starr's character and integrity. I quote, "Starr has the confidence of most of those of us who know him and, I suspect, the confidence of most of us in the Senate." A Republican? No. That was Senator JAMES EXON, Democrat of Nebraska.

Here is another, and I quote, "Judge Starr is certainly a neutral party. No one, I think, has accused him of being on a fishing expedition." A Republican? No. That was Senator JOHN KERRY, Democrat of Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, these two comments represent many, many comments made by Democrats about Judge Ken Starr's character back in 1993 when Judge Starr was asked to investigate sexual misconduct charges against former Senator Bob Packwood on behalf of the Ethics Committee.

Democrats once praised Judge Starr, but now they either criticize him or stand silent in the face of White House attacks on his character. What has changed? Well, it could be that Democrats praised Judge Starr because he was investigating a Republican. We can only wonder.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

(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, today I rise to address the very important issue of school violence. I was recently pleased to learn that this administration will finally hold a national conference on school safety sometime in October of this year.

Because no community in America is immune to the plague of school violence, and because we, as a Nation can no longer sit idly by while violence in our schools continue to rise, I sent a letter to the President on June 24th encouraging him to listen to the solutions of the American people from coast to coast and border to border.

For America to achieve success in combating school violence in our local communities, we must first address three important issues. First, the Federal Government must redirect its resources to States to focus on this problem at the local level. Secondly, our communities must continue to improve cooperative relations among local agencies whose job it is to address this problem associated with school violence.

Finally, it is important that any conference bring together, in a round table discussion, several representatives from local and Federal law enforcement agencies, courts, city councils, and school boards to develop local solutions to a national problem. Mr. Speaker, our children deserve no less.

AGRICULTURE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, with 40 percent of American agricultural commodities and products being exported, the American farmer is more reliant on international markets than any other sector of the U.S. economy. That is why it is so important that the U.S. lay out specific agricultural trade negotiation objectives.

Today, I am pleased to introduce the Agricultural Export Enhancement Act of 1998. Until recently, farm exports had soared over the past several years. However, too many trade barriers prevent billions of people from buying our products. Our trade negotiators need to focus their attention on eliminating tariffs, subsidies, and other foreign regulations that limit what we sell overseas.

This legislation would establish those negotiating objectives. I would suggest that it is a good bill for many Members of this House to support.

MANAGED CARE

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the way that Americans choose and obtain and pay their physician has changed drastically over the last 10 years.

Ten years ago, less than 30 percent of the people with health care insurance coverage were in managed care programs. Today, approximately 75 percent of insured employees are covered by managed care plans. A large amount of that 75 percent is questioning whether they are served well by that system.

The result is a health care system which is dominated by economic tools, limited budgets, limited hospital budgets, waiting hospital lines, waiting lines also with the managed care program. Many managed care constraints now limit what we can do.

Our goal must be to provide health care with increased health care coverage for this country. This is a national challenge. In Congress, we need to meet that challenge.

Supporting H.R. 3605, the Patients' Bill of Rights Act, is a first step in achieving health care reform. This bill will allow patients and doctors, not the insurance company, to control the length of stay, the quality of care. Mr. Speaker, I encourage you and my colleagues to join me in supporting of this bill.

FALSELY ACCUSED BEHAVIOR VERSUS GUILTY BEHAVIOR

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, imagine you are falsely accused of crimes. You know that you are innocent, but the people who know the truth simply are not talking. People who could prove you are innocent, it turns out, are the Secret Service personnel who are constantly by your side and that could testify that all of the scurrilous accusations are, in fact, untrue. So your task is to convince everyone you know to come forward, to prove your innocence, and to clear your name.

Let us think about this for a minute. If a person is falsely accused of wrongdoing, clearly what must be done is to demand the people who know the truth to come forward and tell the whole world what they know. On the other hand, someone who is guilty of wrongdoing acts in a strikingly different manner. In such a case, all manner of excuse is given to prevent people from coming forward to tell what they know.

You do not have to be a Perry Mason fan to know the difference between a behavior of a falsely accused person and one that is guilty.

PROTECT MEDICAL PRIVACY: REJECT BIG BROTHER

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Big Brother is back, this time in the form of a previously unpublicized provision in the law that would require every single American to have a special identification number. That number would allow every notation in his or her medical record to be tracked. Tracked by who knows who.

We have seen it before. We have seen it in the 1-800-Big Brother scheme that would require the Federal Government to sign off on each and every job hiring in this Nation. We have seen it in pro-

posals for some sort of national ID card. Now we are witnessing an unprecedented attempt to invade the privacy of one's medical records.

When most of us voted for legislation that would allow individuals to take their health care insurance with them when they changed jobs, we were not voting for a hidden provision to allow medical ID numbers.

Let us face it, medical records are extremely sensitive. This Member is going to work vigorously to protect the medical privacy of every American. Let us reject this latest example of Big Brother.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, all across New York and across America, many people are being denied access to the health care that they need. They are also being denied access to the doctor of their choice and the health care professional that they would like to consult and be advised by in order to get the health care they need.

Access to prescription drugs also is being denied to Americans. These drugs are needed to alleviate the health care conditions that they have. The problem is that our health care delivery system is out of control because it is increasingly controlled by bureaucrats and insurance companies.

We need a Patients' Bill of Rights which will allow Americans to get the health care they need, access to health care professionals and the professional medical advice they need, not from insurance company bureaucrats, but from health care professionals, the doctors that they want to consult.

That is why the democratic proposal for a Patients' Bill of Rights is so important. The hearing is going on now. We need to get that bill to the floor and get it passed.

BABY PHOENIX

(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, I rise today to share the story of Baby Phoenix, first known survivor of a partial-birth abortion. Last week, in the A-Z Women's Center in Phoenix, Arizona, a 17-year-old was scheduled to abort her baby.

The abortionist began a partial-birth abortion on what he thought was a 23-week-old baby. However, as he continued the procedure, he realized that he was actually committing a partial-birth abortion on a 6-pound, 2-ounce baby girl.

Instead of continuing this procedure in which the doctor would stick scissors into the back of the girl's head and then vacuum her brains out, the