

their Medicare patients. This is wrong. It is not a question of doctors wanting to make more money, it's about a stabilized repayment for services already rendered. And it isn't affecting just doctors, it is affecting patients every day. It becomes a real crisis of access. Not a week goes by that I don't get a letter or a fax from some physician who says, you know what? I've just had enough and I am going to retire early, or I am no longer going to see Medicare patients in my practice, or I am going to restrict the procedures that I offer to Medicare patients. Unfortunately, I know this is happening because I saw it in the hospital environment before I left practice to come to Congress a few years ago. And I hear it in virtually every town hall that I do back in my district. Congressman, how come on Medicare, you turn 65 and you've got to change doctors? The answer is because their doctor found it no longer economically viable to continue to see Medicare patients because they weren't able to cover the cost of delivering the care, they weren't able to cover the cost of providing the care.

Medicare payments to physicians are modified annually using a formula called the Sustainable Growth Rate. I won't bore you with the intricacies of that formula tonight, I may do that at some other time. But because of flaws in the process, physicians get a mandated fee cut every year, year over year for several years to come. If no long-term congressional action is implemented, the SGR will continue to mandate fee cuts. Unlike hospital reimbursement rates, unlike reimbursement rates to HMOs or drug companies, those closely follow the cost of living index, but the physician's formula does not. In fact, Medicare payments to physicians cover only about 65 percent of the actual cost of providing the services. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, any industry or company that would continue in business if they received only 65 percent of what it cost to cover the care? Currently, the SGR links physician payment updates to the gross domestic product, which has no bearing in reality as to what it costs to deliver those services.

The problem is repeal of the SGR is very costly. The Congressional Budget Office currently scores that at about \$280 billion. There are ways to approach this. There are short term and long-term ways. And we need to have the political courage, we need to have the political will to do the things necessary to ensure that we do repeal the SGR and the formula and pay doctors on a more rational Medicare economic index such as hospitals are paid that recognizes the increase and cost of delivering care. All of this information is technicomplex and it is even boring to listen to, but it is an incredibly important story for our country. It is a story of how the most advanced, most innovative and most appreciated health care system in the world needs a little help.

The end of this story should read "happily ever after," but I am not sure we can reach that conclusion given where we are today. The last chapter should read "a privatized industry leads to a healthy ending."

As I stated in the beginning, before I began this talk, we are in a debate that will forever change our health care system. We must understand what is working in our system and what is not. We cannot delay making changes and bringing health care into the 21st century. The only way that we can have this to work is to allow the private sector to lay the foundation for improvements. The pillars of this health care system we have must be rooted in the bedrock of a thriving public sector and not the shaky ground of a public system that has proven costly and inefficient in other countries and in fact in our own back yard. Again, I reference the article from today where the errors are self-perpetuating in the system and market forces are never allowed to correct those errors.

We must devote our work in Congress to building a stronger private sector in health care. History has proven this to be the tried and true method. We can bring down the number of insured, we can increase patient access, and we can stabilize the physician workforce, modernize our technology, and bring transparency to the system. All of these things are within our grasp if we have the foresight, the determination, the courage and the political will to get things done.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your indulgence. The day is concluded, and I will yield back the balance of my time.

#### CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007, AT PAGE H5757

[Roll No. 420]

YEAS—382

Ackerman  
Aderholt  
Akin  
Alexander  
Allen  
Altmire  
Andrews  
Arcuri  
Baca  
Bachmann  
Bachus  
Baird  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bartlett (MD)  
Barton (TX)  
Bean  
Becerra  
Berkley  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilbray  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Bishop (UT)  
Blackburn  
Blumenauer  
Blunt  
Bonner  
Bono  
Boozman  
Boren  
Boswell

Boucher  
Boustany  
Boyd (KS)  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Braley (IA)  
Brown (SC)  
Brown, Corrine  
Brown-Waite,  
Ginny  
Buchanan  
Burgess  
Burton (IN)  
Butterfield  
Calvert  
Camp (MI)  
Cannon  
Cantor  
Capito  
Capps  
Capuano  
Carnahan  
Carney  
Carson  
Carter  
Castle  
Castor  
Chabot  
Chandler  
Clarke  
Clyburn  
Coble  
Cohen  
Cole (OK)

Conaway  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costello  
Courtney  
Cramer  
Crenshaw  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Cummings  
Davis (AL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (KY)  
Davis, David  
Davis, Lincoln  
Davis, Tom  
Deal (GA)  
DeFazio  
Delahunt  
DeLauro  
Dent  
Diaz-Balart, L.  
Diaz-Balart, M.  
Dicks  
Doggett  
Donnelly  
Doolittle  
Doyle  
Drake  
Dreier  
Duncan  
Edwards

Ehlers  
Ellison  
Ellsworth  
Emanuel  
English (PA)  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Everett  
Fallin  
Farr  
Fattah  
Feeney  
Ferguson  
Filner  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Fossella  
Foxy  
Frank (MA)  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Gallegly  
Garrett (NJ)  
Gerlach  
Giffords  
Gilchrest  
Gillibrand  
Gillmor  
Gingrey  
Gonzalez  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Gordon  
Granger  
Graves  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Gutierrez  
Hall (NY)  
Hall (TX)  
Hare  
Harman  
Hastert  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayes  
Heller  
Hensarling  
Herger  
Herseth Sandlin  
Higgins  
Hill  
Hinchey  
Hinojosa  
Hirono  
Hobson  
Hodes  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Holt  
Hooley  
Hoyer  
Hulshof  
Hunter  
Inglis (SC)  
Inslee  
Israel  
Issa  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
Jindal  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (IL)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (NC)  
Jordan  
Kagen  
Kanjorski  
Keller  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Kirk  
Klein (FL)  
Kline (MN)  
Knollenberg  
Kuhl (NY)  
LaHood  
Lamborn  
Lampson  
Langevin

Lantos  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Linder  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loebach  
Loifgren, Zoe  
Lowey  
Lucas  
Lungren, Daniel  
E.  
Lynch  
Mahoney (FL)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manzullo  
Marchant  
Markey  
Marshall  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (CA)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCaul (TX)  
McCollum (MN)  
McCotter  
McCrery  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McHugh  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
McNerney  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Melancon  
Mica  
Michaud  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Miller (NC)  
Miller, Gary  
Miller, George  
Mitchell  
Mollohan  
Moore (KS)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)  
Murphy, Patrick  
Murphy, Tim  
Murtha  
Musgrave  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal (MA)  
Neugebauer  
Obey  
Oliver  
Ortiz  
Pallone  
Pascarella  
Payne  
Pearce  
Pence  
Perlmutter  
Peterson (MN)  
Peterson (PA)  
Petri  
Pitts  
Platts  
Poe  
Pomeroy  
Porter  
Price (GA)  
Price (NC)  
Pryce (OH)  
Kirk  
Rahall  
Ramstad  
Rangel  
Regula  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Renzi  
Reyes

Reynolds  
Rodriguez  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rogers (MI)  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothman  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Ryan (WI)  
Salazar  
Sali  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sarbanes  
Saxton  
Schiff  
Schmidt  
Schwartz  
Scott (GA)  
Scott (VA)  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sestak  
Shays  
Shea-Porter  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuler  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sires  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Solis  
Souder  
Space  
Spratt  
Stark  
Stearns  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Sutton  
Tancredo  
Tauscher  
Taylor  
Terry  
Thompson (CA)  
Thornberry  
Tiahrt  
Tiberi  
Tierney  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Udall (NM)  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walberg  
Walden (OR)  
Walsh (NY)  
Walz (MN)  
Wamp  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Welch (VT)  
Weldon (FL)  
Weller  
Westmoreland  
Wexler  
Wilson (NM)  
Wilson (OH)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Wynn  
Yarmuth  
Young (FL)

NAYS—37

Barrett (SC)  
Boehner

Boyd (FL)  
Buyer

Clay	Kaptur	Sessions
Cleaver	Kilpatrick	Shadegg
Costa	Kucinich	Tanner
Cubin	Mack	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	Meeks (NY)	Towns
Flake	Nunes	Watt
Gohmert	Pastor	Whitfield
Grijalva	Paul	Wicker
Hastings (FL)	Pickering	Young (AK)
Honda	Sanchez, Loretta	
Johnson, E. B.	Schakowsky	

## NOT VOTING—13

Berman	Emerson	McMorris
Campbell (CA)	Engel	Rodgers
Cardoza	Jones (OH)	Murphy (CT)
Davis, Jo Ann	Lewis (GA)	Oberstar
DeGette		Radanovich

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and Wednesday.

Mr. WYNN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mrs. EMERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for May 24, on account of attending her son's graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

## 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. MCDERMOTT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SARBANES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SESTAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. McCarthy of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and June 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and June 6 and 7.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today and June 6.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today and June 6.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, on June 6.

Mr. MACK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, on June 7.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, on June 11 and 12.

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

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.

## SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 231. An act to authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 398. An act to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. Con. Res. 32. Concurrent resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

## ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 414. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 60 Calle McKinley, West in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, as the "Miguel Angel Garcia Méndez Post Office Building".

H.R. 437. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Eisenhower Street in Rio Grande City, Texas, as the "Lino Perez, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 625. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4230 Maine Avenue in Baldwin Park, California, as the "Atanacio Haro-Marin Post Office".

H.R. 1402. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, as the "Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building".

H.R. 2080. An act to Amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to conform the District charter to revisions made by the Council of the District of Columbia relating to public education.

H.R. 2206. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

## SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 214. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 28, United States Code, to preserve the independence of United States attorneys.

S. 1104. An act to increase the number of Iraqi and Afghani translators and interpreters who may be admitted to the United States as special immigrants, and for other purposes.

## BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reports that on May 24, 2007, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 988. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, as the "Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office".

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reports that on May 25, 2007, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 2206. Making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 454, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. today, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable CRAIG THOMAS.

Thereupon (at midnight), pursuant to House Resolution 454, the House adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable CRAIG THOMAS until today, Wednesday, June 6, 2007, at 10 a.m.

## EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the first quarter of 2007, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows: