

have been discussed by some as the solution to all the problems that face these programs, a quick and easy resolution to the approaching crisis.

But now, strong and decisive steps are necessary to make a serious attempt at reducing the Federal budget deficit. Nevertheless, some Members of this body want to take a walk when it comes time to tackle the fastest growing segment of the Federal budget—health care. It is simply indisputable that we can never make more than a dent in the long-term budget deficit facing our children unless we seriously address reform of our health care system.

Contrary to the rhetoric that has been thrown about by defenders of the status quo, health care reform—sensible health care reform, does not mean mandates and big-government intervention. Instead, sensible health care reform means ensuring that working Americans do not have to live in fear of losing their insurance should they or a member of their family get sick or injured. It means getting a grip on the rampant cost-shifting that raises the cost of health care services for all Americans.

Unfortunately, the leadership of this House has chosen to ignore this complex issue. However, on Wednesday I and several of my colleagues introduced H.R. 2071, the Health Care Improvement Act of 1995. This bill includes many of the reforms on which we can all agree, such as insurance reform and administrative simplification. But, unlike the other incremental health care bills that have been introduced in this Congress, my bill makes long-overdue systematic changes in Medicaid by allowing low-income persons to join the private health insurance market.

My bill will also give much greater choice to Medicare beneficiaries by providing them the opportunity to join a private insurance plan. This is not a push into a low-cost, bare bones plan; it is not a push into anything. It is simply one more option for Medicare beneficiaries to choose from.

Mr. Speaker, health care reform should not be a partisan issue. I wrote this bill in an effort to craft something that could garner the support of the American people, not to simply make a political statement. This bill represents a realistic approach to health care reform, and I encourage each of my colleagues to take a close look at H.R. 2071. I think you will like what you see.

In the meantime, we should all think about whether it is better to reform Medicare and Medicaid, or simply to take a meat axe to those programs in order to fulfill an arbitrarily-set budget number. The answer is clear.

SALUTE TO BERNARDO DE  
GALVEZ

**HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 21, 1995*

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a man whose contributions helped a fledgling America gain its independence. Gen. Bernardo de Galvez, Spain's Governor of the Louisiana Territory, was extremely instrumental in helping us defeat the British in the Revolutionary War. The General personally led

troops in a successful campaign to drive the British from the Louisiana Territory and the Gulf of Mexico. His forces captured Pensacola, Baton Rouge, Mobile, San Antonio, and Galveston from the British to support America's aspirations for freedom.

The General's actions denied these posts to Great Britain and severely pressured British forces in the South. His support of America's Continental Army and militiamen through the provision of munitions, cattle, and uniforms helped to assure America's final victory.

Mr. Speaker, General de Galvez's efforts had a major impact on the war and were a key to this nation's success against the British. As we approach the anniversary of his birth on July 23rd, we as free Americans should take a moment to honor an individual who did much to secure the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness we so enjoy today.

CONGRATULATIONS DOUG BOVIN,  
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 21, 1995*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today, July 21, 1995, marks the beginning of the annual convention of the National Association of Counties in Atlanta, GA. Most of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will likely have one or more of their county officials in attendance, but this year's conference has a very special significance to the First District of Michigan, this Member and especially to one of my constituents, not to mention a friend.

Mr. Doug Bovin of Gladstone, MI, who currently serves as president of the Delta County Board of Commissioners, will be installed as president of the National Association of Counties today, Friday, July 21, 1995. I and the entire First Congressional District of Michigan salute Mr. Bovin on his new office and extend to him our best wishes for a successful term in office.

Doug Bovin has personified public service for the past 28 years. It was in 1967 that he won election to his first public office on the Gladstone City Commission. In just 2 years, he sought and won his race for mayor of the community, and is believed to be the youngest person ever elected to that position in Gladstone.

Recognized by others throughout Delta County for his leadership, understanding of public issues and ability to help people, Mr. Bovin was encouraged to seek the office of county commissioner in 1976, a position he has held for the past 19 years and the last 12 as chairman.

Over the years, Doug has broadened his leadership in several ways. He has served as president of the Michigan Association of Boards of Health and then as president of the Michigan Association of Counties in the mid-1980's. Having a firm grasp on State issues, Doug understood the importance of regional matters and the effect they had on the State and his home area. To this end, he organized the Great Lakes Association, a group of county officials from States that border the Great Lakes as well as Iowa, and served as the first association president in 1990.

Doug's work in the Great Lakes region has led to his deep involvement with the National Association of Counties where he has held three vice presidencies. He now will move to the presidency of the organization. And despite his personal and political growth, Doug has never forgotten his obligations in Delta County and has never placed the interests of his constituents above his own.

Mr. Speaker, Doug Bovin has dedicated most of his life to public service, but to his credit, has always made his family his main priority. His wife, Bonnie, and children, Carrie and Dan are very proud of Doug as are the people of Michigan's First Congressional District.

Again, our congratulations to Doug Bovin, President of the National Association of Counties.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER BLUTE**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 21, 1995*

Mr. BLUTE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 535, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative.

I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD immediately following that rollcall vote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JENNIFER DUNN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 21, 1995*

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall No. 543, I ask that the RECORD reflect that I intended to vote "yes."

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE FOR  
ROLLCALL VOTES NUMBERED  
542, 543, 544, AND 545, RELATING  
TO H.R. 1976, THE AGRICULTURE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FIS-  
CAL YEAR 1996

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 21, 1995*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I regret my unavoidable absence for rollcall votes numbered 542 through 545. I was tending to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall vote No. 542, "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 543, "nay"; on rollcall vote No. 544, "aye"; on rollcall vote No. "545, "nay."