

If you look, for example, at the PARCA bill, it is largely a design of all the professionals who now want their share of the pie, and it's their version of how they would redesign it if health care was a pork-barrel project. But what you need to understand is, that is a natural partner of historic evolution once you politicize these decisions.

I'm not up here today to say anybody is right. I'm up here today saying let's look at the whole country. The M.D. is going to be threatened because the truth is we can begin to turn into expert systems. We can begin to have more preventive care. We can begin to have more patient responsibility. We can begin to have more information to the patient.

All of that is going to threaten the medical doctor. But their problem now is going to be science and the Information Age, not the HMO administrator. The HMO administrator must recognize that if you don't have a very high-quality response, if you're not very customer oriented, and if you haven't built a very good response system for your customer so that they have a ventilation point where they can get a second opinion, where they can appeal to a higher authority against the authority that's made them mad, you're guaranteed to get political action; that the only way to avoid political action is to have a self-fine-tuning, a self-responding, and a self-evolving system that is customer-friendly and consumer oriented.

In addition, I would argue that if we are really at the vision level talking about the future of health in America, it's likely to be a different system than anything we've seen, that the ideal model is one that goes back to dramatically strengthening the patient, that the patient ought to have a lot more choices and more responsibilities.

I've always like the International Paper model where they list every doctor in the area and every hospital in the area, and they say, here is how much they cost, and here is their background, and, by the way, we'll pay 100 percent of the median price. Go to anybody you want to. Now, if you want to go to a more expensive doctor, fine, you pay the additional costs. But it begins to dramatically transfer knowledge and power and responsibility.

Dr. Tom Coburn, who serves as a Member of Congress for Oklahoma, came up to me at our retreat in Williamsburg, and he said, I think we ought to reapply free-markets principles to health care; and being a conservative, I promptly said, yes, what do you mean? I know it's right theoretically. I know Adam Smith is right theoretically, but what does it mean in the middle of this 1943 tax code, third-party payment, highly convoluted, big structure, HMO, provider-sponsored network, hospital-based, doctor-based, secondary professions—in this mess, this huge, complex ecosystem of health, what does "free market" mean?

He said, I'll tell you a true story. He said, during the break, I had a couple who were between jobs and they had lost their health coverage, but they had savings. She needed an operation. I gave her five surgeons and three hospitals to call. They negotiated. They got an \$11,000 procedure for \$5,000, but they paid in cash without paper work.

Now, that's a fairly astonishing number. My guess is all of you could find similar stories or already know similar stories. From my standpoint, what I want to do is say, so how do we maximize the rate of change? Because what the human genome projects is telling you and what lasers are telling you and what all the other breakthroughs are telling you is you're going to see a rate of change in health capabilities. And, again, I don't want to talk about health care yet. You're going to see a rate of change in health capabilities that is stunning.

So how do we maximize that rate of change? How do we maximize the citizens' access to knowledge, including their knowledge about their own responsibilities and knowledge about their own characteristics and knowledge about how to stay well rather than get sick? How do we maximize the ability to connect the citizen to the professional at the minimum cost with the maximum choice? How do we create feedback loops, both so that we know it's the right professional, and so if something goes wrong, we can check on it?

And if you could tomorrow morning take your HMO or take your health organization and find a way to have 100-percent deductibility for health, so that a person who paid out of their own pocket had exactly the same deductibility as a big corporation and said to all of your members, "Here is basically a cafeteria plan. Which of these nine things do you like better?" you would lose some of your mass purchasing power, but you would put back on their shoulders their responsibility. So you like the HMO? Fine. Come in and join one. You would rather go and buy it all on your own? Fine. Go buy it all on your own.

And what I'm suggesting is that where we need your help is not only doing better, and a lot of you represent some of the most enlightened and most aggressive and most patient-oriented and also most health-research-oriented people in the country. But I'm also asking you to take a little extra time, go back up to the vision level. Help us solve the big issues. Help us think about what do we mean in the 21st century by health in America. What should a citizen have access to? How do we maximize the rate of change?

And I'll just close with this thought. Health is not a problem. Health is an opportunity. Health will be the largest, foreign-exchange, income earner in the 21st century. If we have the best system of health on the planet, if we have the best research on the planet, if we provide the best care on the planet, as people get wealthier worldwide, they will come to America, either personally, or by electronic means, in order to have access to the finest health in the world.

We will earn far more money out of providing the best health capabilities on the planet than we will earn out of the motion picture industry, jet airplanes or computers, and we ought to see health as that opportunity—the opportunity to provide the best health for our own citizens and to provide the highest-paying jobs on the planet in a growth industry of enormous potential if we maximize the rate of change and innovation and bring to bear the best science we can as rapidly as we can.

And if we then educate our citizens into a knowledge-based model of caring for themselves, we will maximize their health and minimize their costs, and we will do so in a way that I think will be profoundly different than the current debate between more bureaucracy-less bureaucracy, more trial lawyers-fewer trial lawyers, and I think we need this much larger level dialogue in order to define where we want to go over the next 15 or 20 years.

#### DRUG-FREE AMERICA TASK FORCE AWARENESS

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 1998*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Drug-Free America Task

Force, I have had the opportunity to meet with numerous organizations and individuals interested in finding ways to reduce drug use. One of the studies that caught my attention was a study by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. It stated that a 12-year-old who smokes marijuana is roughly 80 times more likely to use cocaine than one who does not, adults who as adolescents smoked marijuana are 17 more times likely to use cocaine regularly, and 60 percent of adolescents who use marijuana before age 15 will later use cocaine.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the key to reduce overall drug use is to find ways to curtail the number of our children who use drugs. As a parent, I realize that the lifestyle decisions my wife and I make will impact our children. Our children are fortunate that they have had a good example set for them, but there are many kids whose parents or other role models send them the wrong message that drugs are acceptable by their own drug use. I believe the government has an obligation to punish more severely those who influence the children of America by using or possessing drugs in their presence.

Mr. Speaker, the Save Our Children Act, which I am introducing today, sends a strong message that drug use or possession of drugs around children will not be tolerated. Under current law, there are enhanced penalties for the distribution of a controlled substance to persons under age 21 by persons over age 18 (21 U.S.C. 859); employment of persons under age 18 for violation of the Controlled Substance Act or unauthorized distribution to a pregnant individual (21 U.S.C. 861) and distribution or manufacturing of a controlled substance in or near schools, colleges or youth-centered recreational facilities (21 U.S.C. 860).

The Save Our Children Act, Mr. Speaker, fills a gap in our Sentencing Guidelines by directing the U.S. Sentencing Commission to enhance the sentences for the commission of a drug offense in the presence of a minor. While the Sentencing Commission is given discretion to amend the Sentencing Guidelines, the Save Our Children Act sets a minimum of two offense levels greater or 1 year whichever is greater for the first offense, and 4 offense levels greater or 2 years for a second offense.

I urge all my colleagues to consider becoming a cosponsor of my legislation.

#### WEST LIBERTY CLASSICAL ACADEMY HONORED BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 1998*

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the students, faculty, and administration of West Liberty Classical Academy, whose outstanding performance was recently honored by the Department of Education and the National Association of State Coordinators of Compensatory Education. West Liberty is one of only 109 schools nationwide to be recognized by the Title I Recognition Program. The Title I Recognition Program honors schools that have set and reached high student achievement goals, fostered professional development, and built partnerships with parents and the community.

West Liberty Classical Academy is a magnet middle school located on the South side of Pittsburgh. Using a team approach, the staff plans interdisciplinary lessons like Classical Studies, African-American history, and Contemporary Crafts. They also created an 8th period every Wednesday so that students could participate in the band and orchestra ensemble, or choose among a journalism program, the science club, the garden club, the hiking club, creative writing lessons, or the drama club. The students also participate in School-to-Work activities in which they visit senior citizen centers, a neighborhood school for handicapped children, several area elementary schools.

Parents are an integral part of the learning experience at West Liberty. A "Computer Night Live" gives parents and students the opportunity to learn to use computers. Parents and children can also work on their math skills during "Family Math Night."

Thanks to the effort of teachers, students, administrator, and parents, West Liberty provides a quality learning experience while living up to its school motto, "Safe and Secure." I commend West Liberty Classical Academy and the Pittsburgh Public School System for their accomplishments.

THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 1998*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1998, legislation to streamline and improve the federal grant process.

I'm sure all of us have heard from state and local governments or non-profit organizations in our districts who have grown frustrated with the federal grant application process. Most recently, I have heard concerns express from around the country about the implementation of the Drug-Free Communities Act, legislation I sponsored that was enacted last year. Anyone who has attempted to apply for a federal grant has grown frustrated by the miles of red tape, regulations and duplicative procedures they encounter. Applying for the grant is just the beginning of the problem—the administrative and reporting requirements attached to certain grants often make potential recipients wonder whether to apply for funding in the first place.

The legislation we have introduced addresses these concerns. It requires relevant Federal agencies, with oversight from OMB, to develop plans within 18 months that do the following: streamline application, administrative, and reporting requirements; develop a uniform application (or set of applications) for related programs; develop and expand the use of electronic applications and reporting via the Internet; demonstrate interagency coordination in simplifying requirements for cross-cutting programs; and set annual goals to further the purposes of the Act.

Agencies would consult with outside parties in the development of the plans. Plans and follow-up annual reports would be submitted to

Congress and the Director of OMB and could be included as part of other management reports required under law.

In addition to overseeing and coordinating agency activities, OMB would be responsible for developing common rules that cut across program and agency lines by creating a release form that allows grant information to be shared by programs. The Act sunsets in five years and the National Academy for Public Administrators (NAPA) would submit an evaluation of the Act's effectiveness just prior to its sunset.

The bill builds on past efforts to improve program performance through the Government Performance Results Act and to reduce federal burdens through the Paperwork Reduction Act and Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. It has been endorsed by state and local organizations such as the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities. Identical legislation, sponsored by Senators GLENN and THOMPSON, was recently reported out of the Senate Government Affairs Committee.

This is a good government measure that will make it easier to interact with our federal government, and result in cost savings for grant applicants and federal agencies.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER, and the other original co-sponsors for joining me in this bipartisan effort and I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S HOME, BOONTON, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 1998*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the New Jersey Firemen's Home located in Boonton, New Jersey on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. This anniversary marks the culmination of a long, proud history of providing housing for retired, disabled and indigent firefighters of all ages in the State of New Jersey.

The firefighter's home was the vision of Bird Spencer, President of the New Jersey Firemen's Association. A couple of years before the turn of the century, at the nineteenth annual New Jersey State Firemen's Association convention, President Bird Spencer addressed the need of suitable housing for the state's firemen. He promised that he would make an effort to obtain legislation for the purchase and building of such a place.

Early records indicate that on April 2, 1898 the New Jersey Firemen's Home was incorporated by the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly and on June 27, 1898 the Firemen's Home was purchased.

On June 23, 1900, President Bird Spencer's promise was realized as the doors of the New Jersey Firemen's Home were officially opened during a dedication ceremony attended by Governor Voorhees. In September 22, 1900, the first two New Jersey firemen from Paterson, New Jersey entered the home as the first residents.

For over a century the Firemen's Home has offered housing for any paid or volunteer firefighter who has served at least one year on a department, or who was injured while on duty. Since its inception, the New Jersey Firemen's Home has housed approximately 1,775 men. Some have been guests others have been long-time residents. Today the home is operated by a twenty-three member board and the staff is made up of one or two firefighters from each county in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its long history, the New Jersey Firemen's Home has provided a place to live for retired and injured firefighters from across the state. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, to please join me in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the New Jersey Firemen's Home.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 1998*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of the City of Port Arthur, Texas and request that the following Proclamation be made a part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas Arthur E. Stilwell of Rochester, New York founded the City of Port Arthur on the western shoreline of Lake Sabine in 1898, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has grown and developed into a major center of petrochemical manufacturing, shipping, and offshore oil exploration, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has been home to such industrial giants of the 20th Century such as Texaco, Inc., the Gulf Oil Company, Chevron Companies, Fina Oil and Chemical Corporation, Clark Manufacturing Corporation, Star Enterprise, Huntsman Corporation, Equistar Corporation, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has served not only the industrial and consumer needs of the United States and the world, it has also contributed significantly to the defense of the nation in World Wars I and II and other international conflicts by providing men and women as well as ship construction, merchant marine services, and a sea of petroleum products necessary to win those wars, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has been home to some of the most colorful people of the 20th Century including former Texas Governor Allan Shivers, Oscar award winner Leach Rhodes, former President of the American Medical Association Daniel "Stormy" Johnson, NFL Coach Jimmy Johnson, rock icon Janis Joplin, abstract expressionist Robert Rauschenberg, motion picture actress from Hollywood's Golden Era Evelyn Keyes, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Lucian Adams, Texas businessman and Presidential appointee Mach Hannah, rhythm and blues great Ivory Joe Hunter, and hundreds more who have contributed not only to life in this community, but persons whose contributions are recognized not only to life in this community, but persons whose contributions are recognized throughout Texas, the nation and around the world.

Now therefore be it resolved that the City of Port Arthur, a progressive community proud of its multi-cultural heritage of 60,000