

they have two daughters, one of whom, Leah, joins us here in this House of Representatives today.

REJECT QUOTA INCREASE FOR INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations rejected an attempt to give the International Monetary Fund an additional \$14.5 billion. I commend the subcommittee for saying "no" to this vast increase in IMF funds. In the coming weeks, I expect the House will soon vote or on a floor amendment to add the additional money. It is critical that we reject that amendment.

Events in Russia this week prove that the IMF is a destabilizing force in world economic affairs. The ever-present hope of an IMF bailout, reinforced by the unprecedented bailouts offered Asia last year, completely undermine the Russian Government's incentive to reform its economy. IMF, by undermining Russian discipline and underwriting irresponsible policies, played a key role in causing the Russian crash.

The problem is that the IMF creates moral hazard. When you subsidize financial mistakes, you get more financial mistakes. That is exactly what the IMF does. It causes the very panics and crashes it is intended to prevent.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago another Congress passed a hugely popular bill by enormous margins to bail out the domestic American savings and loan industry. It was a disaster. It led directly to the \$150 billion S&L fiasco. I do not want the legacy of the 105th Congress to include a similar disaster on a global scale.

Mr. Speaker, let us break the bailout psychology and strengthen the world economy by rejecting a quota increase for the IMF.

HMO REFORM IS NECESSARY

(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 rise today to testify to the need for HMO reform. By now we have heard the endless list of reasons why HMO reform is necessary, but none are as meaningful as the story I will share with you today.

Chicago residents Barbara and David Smith were vacationing in Hawaii when Barbara noticed that her body was badly bruised. At the hospital she was diagnosed with aplastic anemia and needed an immediate bone marrow transplant. However, her HMO refused to pay for the transplant in Hawaii, insisting instead that she return to Chicago for the operation.

Seeing that she had no other choice, Barbara boarded a flight to Chicago, but suffered a stroke in midair. As a result, Barbara Smith died 9 days later, at the age of 55.

The restrictions of Barbara Smith's HMO cost her her life. Not only did David Smith lose his wife, but he is unable to file a lawsuit against the responsible HMO.

This is a devastating situation, and unfortunately, these situations are all too common. Too many lives have already been lost. Too many families have already been broken. Too many individuals have seen their health decline.

The good news is we can stop this now. We can stop it by passing meaningful HMO reform.

PRO-PATIENT, PRO-SMALL BUSINESS REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE PLAN

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I agree with my friends on the other side of the aisle, we do need to ensure that patients in managed care plans are afforded basic rights and remedies, and the Republican plan does just that. But, unlike the Kennedy bill, the Dingell bill or any of the other alternatives out there, our plan also does something about the 41 million Americans who do not have health insurance today.

By providing small businesses with the ability to pool their resources to achieve economies of scale, we can help to insure millions of Americans who simply cannot afford it now, and we do it without resorting to government-run health care.

While the other plans are good news for bureaucrats, and probably for trial lawyers, too, there is only one plan that reaches out across the United States of America to the mom and pop store employees throughout our land, and that is our plan.

I urge my colleagues to support the pro-small business, pro-patient Republican health plan. It is worth taking a good close look at.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Democrat. Today, Democrats in the House and the Senate will join the President and announce our Patient Protection Act.

Health care is something that every American should have. Our bill and our plan, unlike the other side's, protects every American, and it protects the doctor-patient relationships that Americans want to have with their doctor. It says that the professional

will determine the length of stay and the type of procedure, and not the insurance company or the accountant.

Today is a glorious day for American citizens. The Democratic Health Protection Act. Watch us as we pass it through this Congress. We are serious. We know you need it, and we will be there for you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH IN COLLINSVILLE, IL

(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 an honor to announce that my home church, Holy Cross Lutheran, in Collinsville, Illinois, is celebrating its sesquicentennial, 150 years of laboring for the Lord. Our theme for the celebration is Celebrate, Reflect, Focus.

Holy Cross Lutheran will celebrate this month with a reunion of former church workers, along with sons and daughters of the congregation who have moved on to be pastors and teachers, of which I am one. We will also celebrate the Church's German heritage, using translations of the original services and a sermon preached in 1873.

In addition, Holy Cross will reflect upon its history. The church and Christian day school were founded in 1848 after Pastor Frederick Lockner began meeting with German Lutherans in Collinsville, Illinois.

Our focus will be on God, thanking Him for all the blessings He has given our Church and the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Holy Cross Lutheran Church as they Celebrate, Reflect and Focus on 150 years of hard work and rich blessings.

AMERICA NEEDS REAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, you were correct in saying that the people in the gallery cannot express their opinion for or against those of us who speak on the floor. They have to wait until November to give their opinion on it. That is why I am here to say that I am disappointed to see that after 6 months of debating managed health care, we now see a weak version introduced by the Republican leadership.

The proposal falls short of addressing the health care needs of the American people. It is clear that the concerns of the American people are being ignored again.

The proposal that has been introduced is a fake and (it is) a sham. Real managed care should guarantee a fast appeals process, patient access to specialists, coverage for emergency services without having to call in first, patient choice of plans at their own expense, and also make the people who make those irresponsible medical decisions accountable for those decisions.

That is why the American people in November are going to make that decision, and not necessarily in the gallery of the House today. We need real managed care reform. We need to hold insurance companies accountable for their decision-making, just like we held welfare mothers accountable during the welfare reform bill.

PRESIDENT TO SUSPEND HELMS-BURTON

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today unfortunately, the President will once again suspend the Helms-Burton law, which passed overwhelmingly in the House and allows U.S. citizens to sue those immoral foreign investors who traffic in American confiscated properties on the island.

This decision is yet another sad example of the administration's slippery slide toward further relaxation of sanctions on the brutal dictatorship of Fidel Castro. And what has Castro done to deserve any weakening of sanctions? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. Human rights violations continue, the harassment of dissidents proceeds, and there are no signs of any democratic openings on the island.

How ironic that the President's weak decision comes as we commemorate the fourth anniversary of the massacre by Castro of 50 Cubans, mostly women and children, who attempted to flee the island on a rickety tugboat.

The President can justify his decisions with the legalisms that have now made the White House spin doctors famous, but these false justifications will not help the suffering people of Cuba rid themselves of the totalitarian regime that oppresses them day in and day out.

DEMOCRAT PATIENT PROTECTION BILL

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today millions of Americans will visit their family physician seeking medical care, and, for thousands and thousands of those Americans,

they will be told by their family physician that they will not be able to see the specialist that they need to see, they will not be able to get the medicine that the physician thinks they need, they will not be able to get the medical procedure that their physician believes they should have. They cannot do that because some HMO bureaucrat is saying, we are not going to allow you to do that. We are not going to allow you to do that because we are going to try to save money, as opposed to dealing with your real health care needs.

The Democratic patient protection bill ensures that Americans have access to specialists, that Americans have access to the medicines they need, that Americans have access to the operations that are necessary to preserve their health. It does this in the patient protection bill that the President will be coming to Capitol Hill to support today.

Yesterday the Republicans introduced their HMO protection bill. They decided that rather than protect the Americans for health care, they would protect the HMOs.

□ 1015

While they say they extend protections to Americans, they leave 100 million uninsured Americans out of these protections, 100 million Americans that will not be able to get the medicines, that will not be able to see the specialists, that will not be able to get the medical procedures necessary for their health care.

CONGRESS STANDS BY THE CUBAN PEOPLE AND AGAINST TYRANNY

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, one year ago today, July 16, 1997, four of the most distinguished and respected leaders of the pro-democracy movement inside Cuba were picked up in their homes by the political police and thrown into Castro's prisons.

Economist Marta Beatriz Roque, Social Democratic Party President Vladimiro Roca, former university professor Felix Bonne, and attorney Rene Gomez Manzano have languished in Castro's prisons for 1 year without Castro even having decided what to charge them with.

Yesterday, in an open letter to the foreign press and Diplomatic Corps, Vladimiro Roca asked for "a fair and public trial" for himself and the three other dissident leaders.

The letter, distributed by his wife, states, "We wish to draw public attention to our situation, and to demand a fair and public trial in the presence of the foreign press and any diplomats accredited in Cuba who may wish to attend, in proceedings both transparent and above board."

Mr. Speaker, in what constitutes an embarrassment to mankind, there is a

conspiracy of silence regarding the suffering of Cuba, but the Congress of the United States of America will continue to stand on the side of the Cuban people and against the tyranny that oppresses them until Cuba is free.

WE NEED A PATIENT PROTECTION ACT NOW

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we need a Patient Protection Act. I know because I have heard from the people in my district. I have heard from a mother with a sick baby who had to travel 30 miles to a hospital when there was a hospital nearby. I heard from a doctor who had to fight to get coverage to treat his cancer. Mr. Speaker, too many patients are paying more and getting less. Under the present system, too many patients are getting a raw deal. They need a fair deal, a good deal, a better deal.

If insurance companies want to make decisions about medical care for our children and our families, then they must be held accountable. The Democratic bill will give us those rights. The Republican bill will deny them.

Mr. Speaker, we need a real Patient Protection Act and we need it now; not tomorrow, not next week, not next year, but now.

TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last year Republicans passed the first tax relief bill in 16 years. Did Members know that even after that, the tax burden on American workers is still nearly 40 percent? Americans ought to be enraged over that, and I am.

Just yesterday we find out, after a fourth revision, that we now have a surplus of \$580 billion over 5 years. It is only right we return some of that money back to hardworking Americans. After all, it came right out of their back pocket.

Mr. Speaker, the President and some of the Senate are balking at returning this money to its rightful owners, American citizens. As part of our balanced budget and protection of Social Security, the House voted to give \$100 billion in tax relief, which equals only one penny on the dollar. Americans want, need, and deserve tax relief, and I think surely we can find one penny on the dollar to give back to hardworking citizens in this country.

BEWARE OF THE REPUBLICANS' INSURANCE BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address