

the Dingell-Ganske Patients' Bill of Rights, has determined that the bill would cost beneficiaries only \$2 a month. That is right. For the cost of a Happy Meal at McDonald's, patients in managed care would have what they need: accountability; access to specialists; no gag rule on their providers; and a swift insurer appeals process.

It is the simple, most logical provision in the Patients' Bill of Rights because it puts the HMOs on the same level as every other industry in this country. They have to be accountable for their actions and their decisions. The bottom line is if you are making medical decisions, you should be held accountable. If you are not making medical decisions, you should not be accountable.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(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, yesterday the President vetoed legislation allowing parents to create education savings accounts. These accounts would have given parents the ability to save for their children's education and use these savings for books, tutors or to choose which school educates their children. Why? Why did he do this? Because Washington insiders still think they know how to educate children, better than the parents of the child.

You see, freedom of choice in education threatens the special interests who are allowed to deliver an inferior product year after year with absolutely no accountability. These education savings accounts the President vetoed would have benefited poor families and middle-class families; they would have benefited all families in this country. Anything that helps children in this fashion deserves to be the law of the land. I deeply regret both the President's action, as well as his priorities.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the 73 percent of Americans presently covered by managed care plans in this country know it is time for a Patients' Bill of Rights. The over 200,000 West Virginians covered alone under HMOs, health maintenance organizations, know it is time for a patient protection act. It is important to outlaw the gag rules. It is important to permit quick appeals, to permit seeing specialists, but it is also important to do something else, and that is to bring enforceability and accountability.

Right now the insurance companies who make the basic decisions are not being held accountable. A doctor, say, may order a CAT scan thinking it is necessary for the patient. The insur-

ance company overrides that decision. The illness goes undiagnosed. Who is held responsible? The doctor who knew that the CAT scan was necessary can be held responsible, but not the insurance company.

That is why this has to change. Those who profit from making health care decisions, the insurance companies, the managed care plans, those who profit from making these basic health care decisions must also be held accountable for their patient care decisions. That is why we support the Dingell-Ganske Bill of Rights.

CHINA'S MISSILE ARSENAL

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

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, Pentagon intelligence officials are reporting that communist China will add eight ICBM missiles to its arsenal. That is in addition to the 13 nuclear missiles that it already has pointed at American citizens.

This weekend the President said that he would veto the defense bill over a House provision blocking the transfer of missile technology to China.

Mr. President, exactly whose side are you on? China is not a friendly ally. It aggressively builds nuclear missiles and aims them at American children. What is the Commander in Chief's response? Will he build a missile defense system? No. He vetoed that legislation 3 years ago.

The President has no response to the news that China is building more, not less, nuclear missiles to aim at American children. Instead, he has threatened to veto the only legislation that attempts to stem the flow of technology between the Clinton White House and Beijing.

Mr. President, shame on you. I yield back my time and any missile technology secrets that the administration cares to keep from the communists.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded, as are all Members in the Chamber, that remarks should be directed to the Chair and not to the President, personally.

AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the World Bank makes loans to communists with American dollars. The World Trade Organization regularly rips us off. The United Nations sends American troops into war. That is right. We are not sending the Peace Corps here, folks.

If that is not enough to compromise your Viagra, the United Nations has created a world court with universal authority and jurisdiction. Unbelievable. What is next, a world tax? Beam me up.

I say the Constitution of the United States should not be surrendered to a bunch of international bureaucrats who regularly rule against us, ladies and gentlemen.

Now, I do not know about you, but I did not pledge an oath to the charter of the United Nations. I pledged an oath to the Constitution of the United States and I think the Congress of the United States should put its foot down before we become known as background music in some doctor's office. I yield back any courage we have left.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISM PERPETUATES WILDFIRE

(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, the tug of war between the common sense of ordinary people and the nonsense of government bureaucracy continues. Recently a wildland fire started in my district and has continued to burn unabated for the last 3 days. This fire could have been put out in its very early stages only if Secretary Babbitt would have just let the firefighters do their jobs.

The fire started in not a wilderness area but a wilderness study area and since mechanical vehicles are not allowed in the so-called study area, firefighters must carry their equipment 2½ miles just to reach the flames. Not only that, 12 planeloads of fire retardant have been dropped which have cost the taxpayers \$60,000, to no avail.

This environmental extremism has allowed the fire to burn nearly 1,000 acres, and that is strange since firefighters believe they could have put the fire out on the first night had they been able to use their mobile equipment.

The lack of common sense and the bogus government extremism are wasting taxpayer dollars. This could threaten our land and destroy human lives in the process.

Let us pray that this government nonsense does not get out of hand, destroy lives, homes and create a truly desolate America.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership has finally agreed to bring a managed care reform bill to the floor. Unfortunately the GOP proposal is so watered down that it could have been written by the insurance industry itself. It should be called the Profit Protection Act.

Simply put, the Republican plan would allow the insurance companies to continue to place healthy profits over healthy patients. The Republican bill does not end the outrageous practice of drive-through mastectomies. In fact, it leaves medical decisions in the hands of the insurance company accountants instead of doctors. In fact, it does not provide any mechanism to hold the plan accountable when the plan abuse kills or injures someone and when they deny care to someone.

Democrats have introduced a real managed care bill to insure that doctors and patients and not insurance company bureaucrats are making those critical health care decisions. It is time we had a scheduled debate on real managed care in this House and that we pass the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights Act.

BEST WISHES TO THE HONORABLE TOM MANTON ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

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

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to reach across the aisle and extend my sincerest best wishes to my good friend, TOM MANTON, who yesterday announced his retirement after this session of the United States Congress.

I have had the privilege of knowing TOM MANTON for almost 20 years and despite any party differences we may have, I can honestly say I have never met a more decent man, a man of greater integrity, a man of greater commitment to his community and to this Congress.

TOM MANTON was an outstanding police officer, he was a member of the Marine Corps, he was a member of the New York City Council and a Congressman for the past 14 years.

TOM has worked in many areas, probably none more than the quest for Irish peace and freedom, and certainly the Good Friday Agreement that was reached in Belfast this past April is as much a tribute to TOM MANTON as any Member of this body or any person in this country.

TOM, I wish you the very best, I wish you and your family many years of health and happiness, and thank you for your years of service to this country.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party has introduced the Insurance Industry Protection Act instead of the Patients' Bill of Rights. Make no mistake about it, there are major differences between the Patients' Bill of Rights and the Republican fig leaf proposal.

The Republican plan still leaves medical decisions in the hands of insurance company clerks. It allows for drive-through mastectomies; does not give access to specialty care when needed; does not allow women to choose their obstetrician or gynecologist as a primary care doctor; does not provide for the continuity of the doctor-patient relationship; provides no effective mechanism to hold accountable an HMO plan when it abuses or kills or injures someone. There are only two organizations in this whole country that have immunity, HMOs and foreign diplomats.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic plan wants to make sure that good health care is the right of every American. If you pay for it, you deserve it. You have the right to demand the treatment you need from your managed care plan.

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THE TRUTH ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

(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, I have sat here and listened to the berating of the health care plan on the Republican side. It really disturbs me, the distortion, the lack of truth, the lack of facts that are being put out.

The Republicans have and are putting forth a strong health care plan, one that will not put hundreds of thousands of Americans without insurance, as the trial lawyer plan that the Democrats have would, but one that allows us to have a review process first. It does not eliminate the ability to go to court, but it allows a review process first that makes the system work.

Now, our friends on the other side are still sweating because they did not get socialized medicine. We have a plan here that will work for America. We have the strong bill, not the weak bill. The weak bill is just to go to court. Of course, you are probably dead, but you get your decision.

Let us get to the facts and the truth here.

DEMOCRAT PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week I join more than 160 Members of Congress in signing a discharge petition to force the Republican leadership of the House to allow the Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights to be voted on in the Congress. The Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights states that managed care should be more about managing the health of our loved ones, and not about managing and protecting the profits of HMOs; about protecting the

health of patients, not the financial stability of the HMOs.

Mr. Speaker, HMO reform must provide that if the HMO wrongly denies coverage and that wrongful denial causes the injury or death to a patient, that that patient or his family can hold the HMOs accountable for their decision. That is, in a nutshell, the difference between the Republican and Democratic patient plans. The democratic proposal would allow patients to hold HMOs accountable; the Republican plan does not.

Moderates on both sides of the aisle have endorsed the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights, but the Republican leadership in the House refuses to allow the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights to be voted on.

I urge Americans, call your Member of Congress and demand a vote on the Democrat Patients' Bill of Rights. Hold HMOs accountable.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALISON RENEE BARTON

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, July 22, 1975, was a hot sultry day in Crockett, Texas. Early in the morning my wife woke me up and said, "I think the time has come to take me to the hospital." We did, and, luckily, within an hour or two, we had a beautiful young baby daughter, Alison Renee Barton.

Alison grew up to be a delightful young girl, playing in the sandbox, playing house. As a teenager, she was the lead in a one-act play in her high school, and, now, as a beautiful young woman, she has graduated from Texas A&M and is going to be a teacher.

Today, on her birthday, I just want to say, that Alison, your father loves you, your mother loves you, your brother and sister love you. Happy birthday.

ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO STOP WORLD ECONOMIC CONFLAGRATION

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

Mr. LAFALCE. Alison, happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, we have a very, very fragile global economy today, and, in a good many areas, Asia, Russia, et cetera, it is burning. Unfortunately, this burning flame is spreading, and while the world economy burns, unfortunately, the House Republican leadership is fiddling. They are fiddling with the replenishment of monies for the only financial mechanism that exists to deal with international economic problems, the International Monetary Fund.

There was supposed to be a markup in the full House Committee on Appropriations today. It was called off. We