

The American people should be outraged that their President is holding the Congress hostage, trying to force us in order to get home to campaign, for us to grant a blanket amnesty to millions of illegal aliens which then in the long run will drain money from education benefits, drain Federal dollars from health care benefits, will make our Social Security and Medicare systems less stable.

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Why, because we put millions of new people into the system who have come here illegally from other countries. When they were in the other countries of course, they never paid into those systems. So granting an amnesty, blanket amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants is demonstrably against the well-being of our people; and Congress should stay here and fight to the last ounce of our strength to prevent this travesty from happening.

We have also compromised somewhat. We have said we will go along with the President and agree to a family reunion for those immigrants who are here legally now and have families and have been separated and overseas for a number of years waiting to get in and we will let them come into the country. There is a responsible number of people that we would then permit to come in for humanitarian reasons.

But to grant a blanket amnesty for millions, the last time we did this was 1986 and what happened after 1986? It was like a welcome sign had been lit over the United States, "come on in" to everybody in the world who would want to participate in our free society and receive government benefits, I might add.

What we had was a flood of illegal immigration that in my State of California has come close to destroying the viability of our health care system, of our education system. If we take a look at the education scores in California, much of it has to do with the fact that we have had a massive flood of illegal immigrants into our society and we have to pay for their education, even though they just arrived and never paid into our system. That is unfair to our people.

Mr. Speaker, we care about the people of the United States of America. Yes, we care for other people as well. And most immigrants, illegal and legal, are wonderful people. But this bill that the President is demanding insults those people who are legal immigrants, who have stood in line and proven to be our very best citizens because they have come here legally. They respect our laws and they love the United States of America. We cherish their citizenship. But we have made fools out of them if we grant amnesty to people who have just jumped the line and come into our country illegally, thumbing their noses at our laws.

We must resist the President's efforts to force this Congress to ignore the

well-being of our own people and bring in millions upon millions of illegal immigrants and give them blanket amnesty. It is unfair. It is not right. We have agreed to a compromise here. We have agreed that we will have some family reunification and that is a responsible position, because it helps those people who are here legally and already in our country to unite with their loved ones. But a blanket amnesty is outrageous, and I ask the American people to pay close attention.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XXII, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer the following motion to instruct House conferees on H.R. 4577, a bill making appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. HOEKSTRA moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4577 be instructed to choose a level of funding for the Inspector General of the Department of Education that reflects a requirement on the Inspector General of the Department of Education, as authorized by section 211 of the Department of Education Organization Act, to use all funds appropriated to the Office of Inspector General of such Department to comply with the Inspector General Act of 1978, with priority given to section 4 of such Act.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XXII, I hereby notify the House of my intentions to offer the following motion to instruct House conferees on H.R. 4577, a bill making appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. SCHAFFER moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4577 be instructed to insist on those provisions that—

(1) maintain the utmost flexibility possible for the grant program under title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and

(2) provide local educational agencies the maximum discretion within the scope of con-

ference to spend Federal education funds to improve the education of their students.

HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) is recognized for one half of the time remaining before midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) to talk about health care in America. It is Sunday night. We are in Washington. The politics, rather than people, are front and center stage within the House and the White House and the Senate.

A lot has happened in the last 6 years since I have been in Congress, but nothing has happened to fix the real problems. I want to spend just a little bit of time creating a set of circumstances that the American public might hear tonight about where we find ourselves.

If Americans are in an HMO today or in an insurance plan that is a PPO, a Medicaid HMO or if they happen to be fortunate enough to have pure fee-for-service medicine, the one thing that they know is that over the last 10 or 15 years they have lost a tremendous amount of their freedom. They have no ability to choose the physician or the health care provider that is going to care for them. That very personal aspect of their life, they no longer have a choice.

If Americans are in Medicare, they cannot go outside of Medicare to a physician who would not take Medicare. They have no right to do that under the laws of Medicare. A doctor in this country today, if, in fact, they do not take Medicare and then treat a patient who is in Medicare, will be fined for treating that patient because they are not a contractor to Medicare, even though the patient might want to pay that money themselves.

The point I am making is that all of us, the vast majority of us, have lost a significant amount of freedom when it comes to making decisions about our own health care. That has been displaced by one or two or three other organizations. The first place it has been displaced is by the Federal Government. The second it has been displaced by the payer, it is actually a part of wages, that benefit, that health care, who is making that decision for the employee. They decide what group of doctors they can go to.

If Americans have Medicaid and are in a Medicaid HMO, they do not have the choice of going to the doctor that they want to. They will go to the doctors they are told to go to.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost a tremendous amount of freedom. We have heard a lot of discussion in the campaign rhetoric about a patients' bill of rights. I want to say that if we really had our freedom back, a patients' bill