

Whereas health insurance premiums rose by 11% in 2001, driven largely by the increased cost of prescription drugs;

Whereas state Medicaid spending increased by 11% in Fiscal year 2002, driven primarily by increased prescription drug spending and enrollment growth;

Whereas the number of individuals with health insurance declined by 1.4 million in 2001, a function of the faltering economy, rapid health inflation, and a growing number of states in which public insurance programs are outpacing budgets;

Whereas prescription drugs are prescribed by licensed healthcare professionals to consumers as a non-discretionary purchase essential to their welfare;

Whereas it is in the public interest to grant a limited period of exclusivity to inventors of prescription drugs, but extending that exclusivity places an inappropriate fiscal burden on consumers, insurers, and public sector payers;

Whereas generic drugs are sold as alternatives to medical inventions for which exclusivity is no longer available;

Whereas generic drugs have the same dosage, safety, strength, quality, and performance as the medical inventions for which they serve as substitutes, according to the Food and Drug Administration;

Whereas limitations on exclusivity have allowed prescription drug prices to drop 40–80 percent when generic drugs enter the market;

Whereas limitations allowing generic drugs to enter the market saved consumers \$8–\$10 billion in 1994 alone, according to the Congressional Budget Office;

Whereas the failure to apply limitations to the Exclusive rights granted under Public Law 98–622 has afforded widely used medicines, including Prilosec and Paxil, an indefinite period of exclusivity;

Whereas Prilosec and Paxil were among the 50 medicines seniors used most in 2001;

Whereas the Senate has passed S. 812, which amends Public Law 98–417 to restore constitutionally mandated limitation on medical inventions;

Whereas the House has not considered Legislation to amend Public Law 98–417 to restore constitutionally mandated limitations in medical inventions;

Whereas it is the obligation of the House to consider such legislation in keeping with its constitutionally mandated obligations to secure for Limited Times to Authors and inventors the right to their Writings and Inventions;

Whereas the failure of the House to restore limitations on the exclusivity afforded to the inventors of prescription drugs, if not remedied, will cost consumers and other purchasers \$60 billion over the next ten years, according to the Congressional Budget Office;

Whereas the failure of the House to restore limitations on the exclusivity afforded to the inventors of prescription drugs, if not remedied, will leave more seniors and other Americans without access to needed medicines;

Resolved, that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the House should consider pending legislation to amend Public Law 98–417 to restore constitutionally mandated limitations on medical inventions on behalf of American consumers, including seniors, American businesses, and tax-funded federal and state health insurance programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only

at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Ohio will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask to be heard at the appropriate time on the question of whether this resolution constitutes a question of privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That time will be designated.

CONGRATULATING OAKLAND ATHLETICS FOR SETTING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL RECORD FOR LONGEST WINNING STREAK

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 530) congratulating the players, management, staff, and fans of the Oakland Athletics organization for setting the Major League Baseball record for the longest winning streak by an American League baseball team.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 530

Whereas on September 4, 2002, the Oakland Athletics set the Major League Baseball record for the longest winning streak by an American League baseball team by winning 20 consecutive games;

Whereas before September 4, 2002, the record for the longest winning streak by an American League baseball team had stood for 55 years;

Whereas the only other 2 American League baseball teams to win 19 consecutive games were the 1947 New York Yankees and the 1906 Chicago White Sox;

Whereas only 2 Major League Baseball teams have won 20 or more consecutive games—this year's Oakland Athletics with 20 consecutive wins and the 1935 Chicago Cubs with 21 consecutive wins;

Whereas the team also set a record for the Oakland Athletics by winning 24 games during the month of August;

Whereas during their winning streak the Oakland Athletics outscored their opponents 141 to 65 and trailed their opponents during only 10 innings of the 180 innings of the streak;

Whereas the starting pitchers of the Oakland Athletics—Barry Zito, Tim Hudson, Mark Mulder, and Cory Lidle—pitched into the seventh inning in all but 6 of the games won as part of the streak and were credited with 15 of the 20 consecutive wins;

Whereas shortstop Miguel Tejada and first baseman Scott Hatteberg each hit walk-off hits or home runs during the streak;

Whereas the Oakland Athletics were 4½ games out of first place in the Western Division of the American League and 2½ games out of the lead for the American League wild card at the beginning of the streak, and ended the streak with a 2 game lead in the division;

Whereas the Oakland Athletics accomplished this feat with the help of wise decisions by Manager Art Howe and General Manager Billy Beane; and

Whereas the Oakland Athletics had to sweep some formidable opponents in order to

achieve this record, including the leader of the Central Division of the American League, the Minnesota Twins: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the players, management, staff, and fans of the Oakland Athletics organization for setting the Major League Baseball record for the longest winning streak by an American League baseball team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 530.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the House consider House Resolution 530, legislation introduced by my distinguished colleague from California (Mr. OSE). This resolution congratulates the players, management, staff and fans of the Oakland Athletics organization for setting the Major League Baseball record for the longest winning streak by an American League baseball team.

The Athletics, or A's as they are affectionately known, won 20 straight games earlier this season en route to winning their second American League West Division championship in the last three seasons.

During their remarkable streak, the A's outscored their opponents 141 to 62. The A's were defeated 2 to 1 on August 12 by the Toronto Blue Jays and did not lose until September 6 against the Minnesota Twins.

After the game that ended the improbable streak, Twins third baseman Corey Koskie said, "To win 20 games in a row, I don't know too many high school teams that do that. To do that at the major league level is an amazing feat."

Mr. Speaker, manager Art Howe and the Oakland Athletics have enjoyed a wonderful season, winning 103 games and qualifying for the playoffs, highlighted by their phenomenal 20-game winning streak.

I ask that all Members honor the efforts of the Oakland Athletics this season by supporting the adoption of House Resolution 530.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, on the evening of Wednesday, September 4, the Oakland

Athletics made baseball history by becoming the first American League team to win 20 consecutive games.

With a 12-11 victory over the Royals before a record crowd at Network Associates Coliseum of 55,528 fans, the A's passed the 1947 Yankees and the 1906 White Sox for the longest-running streak in American League history.

The game had plenty of drama and made-for-television episodes. The A's jumped out to an 11-0 lead after 3 innings, but ended up getting caught with 11 unanswered runs. The game was tied when the A's pulled off a game-winning homer in the bottom of the ninth.

The Oakland A's accomplished this feat by beating many formidable opponents, and I, too, want to congratulate the team for earning its place in the baseball record book, and I would urge adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, it is October 1, and every October 1 every American wakes up and realizes that it is playoff time. Today we across the country and in the cities fortunate to enough to have teams still participating, those play-offs started.

In the National League, the defending world champion Arizona Diamondbacks face off against the St. Louis Cardinals while the San Francisco Giants challenge the Atlanta Braves. Over in the American league, the Yankees face the Anaheim Angels, and the Oakland A's take on the Minnesota Twins.

It is only appropriate that we take this opportunity at the end of the season to look back at the season and at an amazing record by those amazing A's.

The truly historic part of this past season is what we are here to honor today, and that is the record 20-game winning streak of the Oakland A's. When the A's took the field on August 14, they were 4½ games back in the American League West division standings. They were 2½ games out in the wild card race, and they got hot. They did not just get hot, Mr. Speaker, they started to cook.

Left-handed pitcher Barry Zito took the mound that night and, as he has for much of the Athletics' season, set the tone for what was to come. Zito led the A's to a narrow 5-to-4 victory, and he started something truly amazing.

The A's won their next 19 games in a row. They had a second victory against Toronto.

They took three against the White Sox where shortstop Miguel Tejada got his 100th RBI of the season.

They took four against the Cleveland Indians, including pitcher Corey Lidle's one-hit shutout.

They took three against Detroit where even Mother Nature, Mother Nature, conspired to try to stop them, but where the A's returned from a 2-hour rain delay to keep on winning.

They won three against Kansas City, took all three, and Zito led them to their 10th straight road victory.

At that point, they took three more against Minnesota where Tejada went yard off the almost unhittable Twins closer Eddie Guardado and kept the streak alive.

Then two more against the Royals where Tejada and first baseman Scott Hatteberg led the A's back in the late innings with game-winning hitting, but as everything must, this came to an end.

Finally, Twins pitcher Brad Radke stopped the seemingly unstoppable A's, and that is what makes today's game, incidentally between the A's and the Twins, round 1 in the American League West playoffs. That is all much more exciting. Guess who is pitching for the Twins today? It is Brad Radke, and I just want to bring my colleagues up to date.

It is the third inning, and the A's are up 5 to 3.

□ 1730

The 20 games the A's won is the longest winning streak in American League history. In the past 55 years, no team had even won 19 in a row. In fact, the only two American League teams to win 19 straight were the 1947 Yankees and the 1906 Chicago White Sox. In fact, only one other Major League Baseball team has ever won 20 in a row and that is the '35 Chicago Cubs who won 21 consecutive games.

Baseball is a game of statistics. Think about this. This is truly amazing. Every year every major league team has 142 opportunities to create a 20-game win streak; yet for 55 years, 55 years, this is 2002, so that would have been back to just after the end of World War II, for 55 years no team has accomplished what the A's did this year. Right in the face of a heated pennant race, they kept at it.

Let us look at some of their numbers. During this winning streak, the A's outscored their opponents 141 to 65 and trailed their opponents during only 10 innings of the 180 innings of the streak. Their starting pitchers, Zito, Tim Hudson, Mark Mulder, and Corey Lidle, pitched into the seventh inning in all but six of the 20 games won and were credited with 15 of the 20 wins; and even when they did trail, as we all would hope, they fought back.

I mentioned that Tejada and Hatteberg each had walk-off hits contributing to victories, game-ending rallies. This is a team that was trailing the Seattle Mariners and the Anaheim Angels when August began, and they came back to win the division. It was a great run.

Mr. Speaker, as in everything we do in this country, this 20-game winning streak took true teamwork. Defense,

baseball is defense, baseball is pitching, baseball is offense, baseball is scouting. Credit not only goes to the players, but to the entire A's organization. I join with my colleagues in congratulating owners Steve Schott and Ken Hoffman; Billy Beane, who used to play himself; manager Art Howe, who used to play for Houston; and the other members of staff who contributed to building this record-setting team. They put this remarkable squad together despite losing many team leaders to free agency and with one of the smallest budgets of the league. Despite these challenges, they not only set records, the A's finished the season with a better record this year than last. In Sacramento, home of the A's AAA affiliate, the Sacramento River Cats, we watch many of the young men hope to make it to the big leagues with Oakland. It is truly a great pleasure to see them move up and move into the majors and make such an impact.

I look forward to seeing more great baseball as the playoffs begin today, but in my mind 2002 will always be the year of the Oakland streak.

I would like to thank my colleagues for their support of this resolution, especially my cosponsors, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE), the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI), the gentleman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK), the gentleman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER), the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), and the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA).

Mr. Speaker, it is still 5 to 3. The A's are winning. The streak is alive.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE). I do not know if she has had a 20 and 0 record, but I know that she has won many victories for the people of Oakland and for people all over the country.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the very distinguished member of the Committee on Government Reform, for yielding me this time and for his leadership on so many issues that we are tackling here in this House.

Also I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) for his efforts in bringing this resolution to commend my hometown team of the Oakland A's to the floor today.

This is a bipartisan effort; and, Mr. Speaker, as a Democratic sponsor of this resolution, I rise today to congratulate the amazing Oakland A's, the players, the management, and the staff, for setting the Major League

Baseball record for the longest winning streak by an American League baseball team.

On September 4, 2002, the Oakland A's set the major league record for the longest winning streak by an American League baseball team by winning 20 consecutive games. Prior to this accomplishment, the record for longest winning streak by an American League baseball team had stood for 55 years. Only two major league baseball teams have won 20 or more consecutive games, this year's Oakland Athletics with 20 consecutive wins, and, it is my understanding, the 1935 Chicago Cubs with 21 consecutive wins.

During the winning streak, the Athletics outscored their opponents 141 to 65 and trailed their opponents in only 10 of the 180 innings of the streak. The key to any successful baseball team is of course its pitching staff. During the streak and for the duration of the season, Oakland's pitchers have been nothing short of spectacular. During the streak, Cy Young hopeful Barry Zito, Tim Hudson, Mark Mulder, and Corey Lidle pitched into the seventh inning in all six of the games, won as a part of the streak, and were credited with 15 of the 20 consecutive wins.

The phenomenal success of the Oakland Athletics can also be attributed to the team's clutch hitting. While the A's have a different hero really every night, Miguel Tejada's emerging superstardom and really uncanny knack for late-game heroics has led the A's and truly energized the fans. The A's began the streak four and a half games out of first place in the Western Division of the American League and just concluded the regular season four games ahead of second place Anaheim. Remarkably, the A's accomplishments and continued success has come with the third-lowest payroll in the major leagues. Who said that low-budget teams cannot compete and really win?

The success of the A's can also be attributed to the managerial skills of Art Howe and the unique ability of general manager Billy Beane to build a perennial contender with a very limited budget.

The winning streak and success of the Oakland A's has brought together people from all walks of life and has really brought a new-found excitement to Oakland fans and the community. The accomplishments of the Oakland Athletics organization really extend far beyond their 20-game winning streak or their American League West title. For example, the Oakland A's community fund supports charitable organizations in their efforts to improve educational programs, aid to the underprivileged. They assist in crime and drug prevention and service to children, service to our senior citizens and those who work to improve the quality of life for people throughout the Bay Area.

On September 15, another example, the Oakland Athletics organization hosted their fourth annual Breast Can-

cer Awareness Day and raised over \$100,000 for the cause. The athletic scholarship programs, disaster support fund, Little A's, and A's Amigos are just a few examples of how the athletics organization is really truly involved in our entire community. The accomplishments and contributions of the Oakland Athletics organization both on and off the field are worthy of recognition. So today I would like to congratulate the A's and its fans on a truly remarkable record-breaking regular season.

Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) know are we still in the third inning with the A's up?

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Ms. LEE. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I do not know. My last report is 3 to 5 A's. Go A's.

Ms. LEE. The fans are rooting and cheering them on to win their real first post-season game. I know that I am not alone in wishing the amazing A's the very best in their race for the pennant. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me the time.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am pleased and delighted that Oakland has had such a great run. It is also great to know that Chicago teams, although quite away back, 1905 and 1936, at least we were there at that time; but I certainly congratulate Oakland fans, the team, its management.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague from California for bringing this resolution to the floor. We congratulate the Oakland Athletics for the terrific 2002 season highlighted by their 20-game winning streak. I urge all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, growing up in Tracy, California, I have been a fan of the Oakland Athletics ever since they first came to Oakland in 1968. I was 7 years old at the time.

I remember their World Series Championship three-peat teams from 1972, 1973 and 1974, which featured players like Vida Blue, Bert Campaneris, Rollie Fingers, Jim "Catfish" Hunter, Joe Rudi and a young "Mr. October," Reggie Jackson. Being from the northern part of California's Central Valley, just over the Altamont Pass, the fact that their 1974 World Series Championship came by defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers made the victory even sweeter.

And what baseball fan can forget the 1989 World Series, the "Bay Bridge Series" between Oakland and the San Francisco Giants? A great Oakland team, led by Jose Canseco, Dennis Eckersley, Rickey Henderson, Mark McGwire, and Dave Stewart prevailed in that

series, but it was an earthquake that registered 7.1 on the Richter Scale, and the area uniting in response to the emergency situation, that we remember best.

Today, Mr. Chairman, as the Major League Baseball postseason begins, I am proud that the House of Representatives is taking a moment to recognize the latest accomplishment by the Oakland A's, their amazing 20 game-winning streak. And I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution honoring this great team.

Mr. Chairman, winning 20 games in a row is no fluke. It takes a sustained effort both by the pitching staff and batting line up to win 20 in a row. I'm proud to say that the fearsome Oakland starting pitching staff, Barry Zito, Tim Hudson, Mark Mulder and Corey Lidle won 15 of the 20 games in the streak.

At the plate, the A's showed a never say die attitude, with shortstop Miguel Tejada and first baseman Scott Hatterberg each hitting an RBI at the final at bat of the game, winning the game and keeping the streak alive. This streak is the longest in American League history, second only to the 1935 Chicago Cubs' 21 game-winning streak. As we enter baseball's post season, the 20 game-winning streak serves notice to the other teams in the playoffs that the Oakland A's are a team to be reckoned with.

I congratulate Manager Art Howe, General Manager Billy Beane and the entire Oakland Athletics organization.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 530.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING JOHNNY UNITAS AND EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY ON HIS PASSING

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 538), honoring Johnny Unitas and extending condolences to his family on his passing.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 538

Whereas, as a member of the Baltimore Colts, Johnny Unitas' leadership and passing skills helped change the game of football;

Whereas throughout his life, Unitas defined humility, grace, and determination;

Whereas in 1955 Unitas played for the love of the sport of football, earning just \$6 per game as a player in the Greater Pittsburgh Football League;

Whereas Unitas led the Baltimore Colts over the New York Giants for the 1958 NFL championship in what came to be known as "The Greatest Game Ever Played" and quarterbacked the Colts to a 2nd consecutive title in 1959;

Whereas Unitas threw a touchdown pass in the Colts victory over the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl V;