

do. It's a very uncertain time. You need to be able to have contact with your primary care physician during that time, and the primary care physician needs to know firsthand what happened to you.

An electronic medical record is extremely important in helping a primary care physician provide the right care for you and prevent a re-admission, which is a huge cost for all of us. We've talked a lot about that in terms of infections, but there are a lot of reasons people get re-admitted to the hospital. If we can prevent that by the right kind of home care, as you pointed out, or by the right care and attention from a primary care physician, that is not only going to help that person stay healthier, but it is also going to help that person get the care he wants.

I know we talked about this, too, which is, in terms of improving quality, there are now critical protocols. We like to think that every one of our physicians knows exactly what to do for us. By and large, most of our physicians, fortunately, are pretty good. As for all of us, if you have to do five things for somebody when one comes to you because one has some particular health condition and you tend to do four of those five most of the time, you're probably pretty good. It turns out, if you actually do all five every time, your patients are going to be a whole lot better off for it.

So, you know, maybe we're not used to the fact that the doctor might actually look that up on the electronic medical record and have to check it off, but it turns out that it really makes a big difference when you really did remember to remind one to stop smoking and when you really did remember to tell a parent to put a child in a seatbelt. I mean all of those things may not seem so directly connected to what a physician was seeing one for, but it enables the physician to make sure one gets the care one needs: Remind them about mammograms. It's time. If a woman hasn't had a mammogram for 3 or 4 years, maybe it's time, not to mention making sure that they take the right medications and follow the right orders.

So electronic medical records are what—you're right—the new Dems have really championed, and we have, of course, a President who has championed it as well. We put in \$19 billion in the Recovery and Reinvestment Act to really help push this forward in a much more ambitious way—the use of electronic medical records in our physicians' offices and in our hospitals and having them be secure, private and interoperable. It's absolutely key.

I don't know if you wanted to comment on that or on other issues related to primary care or on other things that we can do with the delivery system that really will help us be able to contain costs and to give better care to people.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I wanted to comment, following up on the gentlewoman's

comment on quality of care and medical errors.

According to the Institute of Medicine, there are 100,000 people every year who lose their lives due to a preventable medical error. Needless to say, with each one of those individuals, there is a tragic component to their personal stories—to their families or certainly to their own losses of life. There is also a burden to the health care system of medical errors because there are hundreds of thousands more who, because of preventable medical errors, are injured. Their treatment costs more, and each one of those individuals, more importantly, has suffered a severe medical setback. Their families are impacted by that. Their lives may never be the same.

In the aggregate, when we talk about cost reduction, something as simple as preventing infection, as the gentlewoman talked about, or as simple as preventing medical errors through the use of information technology, these are things that are going to save billions of dollars for our health care system in the aggregate. More importantly, they're going to increase quality for every individual who enters our health care system and will prevent these medical errors.

So the gentlewoman is correct that, when you look at even that one segment of health care reform, you're talking about billions of dollars. You're talking about the quality component—impacting lives in a way that is exponential throughout the health care system, not just involving one person.

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Ms. SCHWARTZ. I was going to mention something else, too, that I think that's a really important and good point is that one of the other points that we make that we're also trying to do in health care reform in terms of prevention and chronic disease management is that so many health policies that people buy, the up-front costs are really on them and so that preventative services—the screening, the early intervention, the simple doctor visits that can reduce the incidents of disease and keep you out of the hospital and keep you healthy—sometimes that's what you have to pay out of pocket for.

Some people say, Good. You should pay out of pocket. I think we have to understand what we're doing in health care reform is very much about a shared responsibility.

We were talking about providing some subsidies for lower-income working people. Everybody is going to have to pay into the system. We're going to keep the employer-based system. We're going to help those who really are at a lower income be able to pay on a sliding-scale basis for health insurance either in the private system or public option. But the fact is that we should be creating incentives to get early care: not wait too long, not wait until they're sick, not wait until they go to

the emergency room. And that's what we're going to do as well.

So I did want to just finish up by saying that this health care reform effort that we are engaged in is complicated, but it's also very important. We want to make sure that, again, our businesses are able to continue to provide health coverage for their employees, that families can afford it if they're on their own, and small businesses or individuals can afford to pay for health care, and that government can continue to meet our obligations under Medicare for our seniors, something so important.

And we're only going to be able to do that if we do a better job of incentivizing, providing reimbursement, for delivery systems, medical providers, doctors and nurses, and all of the many health care practitioners that are so important to us. We have to make sure that they have the reimbursement, they have the tools to be able to provide the care in the right settings in the community to help us, have the information we need, have the right medical device to work with us to be healthier.

At the end of the day, our hope, I believe, is not only that we will extend coverage, not only that we will contain costs, not only that we will improve quality, but at the end of the day, Americans will be healthier. And if Americans are healthier, we will, in fact, contain costs and be able to afford to make sure that we have no child in America without health coverage, that we don't have families who are bankrupt as a result of health coverage, that we don't have families worrying every day because they have one family member with a chronic disease and they can't get insurance and that they can't act responsibly. That is certainly something that we want to do.

It's a goal that the President has set out. It's a goal that many of us have worked for years on. We're working hard right now to make it happen, and I look forward to standing on this floor to have the opportunity to vote for comprehensive health care reform that will contain costs, that will improve quality, that will help enable every American to have access to affordable, meaningful health coverage in this country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HIMES (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of death in the family.

Mr. HILL (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today until 1 p.m. on account of personal reasons.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today after 2 p.m. on account of district business.

Mr. BACA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and June 12 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. POE of Texas (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 4 p.m. on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POLIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. GIFFORDS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCCLINTOCK) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PAULSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, June 18.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, June 18.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, June 18.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MANZULLO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOODLATTE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. BACHMANN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CARTER, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 12, 2009, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2106. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Luxembourg, Belgium, France and Kazakhstan (Transmittal No. DDTC 022-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, 36(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2107. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to the United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Luxembourg, Belgium, France and Kazakhstan (Transmittal No. DDTC 023-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, 36(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2108. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to Mexico (Transmittal No. DDTC 015-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, 36(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2109. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement with Israel (Transmittal No. DDTC 039-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, section 36(d); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2110. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement with Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 033-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, section 36(d); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2111. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement with Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 031-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, section 36(d); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2112. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement with Mexico (Transmittal No. DDTC 029-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, section 36(d); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2113. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement with Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 035-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, section 36(d); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2114. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement with the United Arab Emirates (Transmittal No. DDTC 019-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, section 36(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2115. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports for the period October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2116. A letter from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports for the period October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2117. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 0910091344-9056-02] (RIN: 0648-XO38) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2118. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Directed Fishing With Trawl

Gear by American Fisheries Act Catcher Processors in Bycatch Limitation Zone 1 of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 0810141351-9087-02] (RIN: 0648-XO63) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2119. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No.: 060525140-6221-02] (RIN: 0648-XO46) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2120. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Total Allowable Catch Harvested for Management Area 2 [Docket No.: 061228342-7068-02] (RIN: 0648-XO47) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2121. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 0910091344-9056-02] (RIN: 0648-XO32) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2122. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's 2008 Biennial Report to Congress and the National Transportation Safety Board on the regulatory status of open safety recommendations relating to several safety issues, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 1135(d), amended by Public Law 108-168, section 9; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2123. A letter from the Deputy Director, NIST, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Construction Grant Program Notice of Availability of Funds [Docket No.: 080411556-8593-01] received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

2124. A letter from the Deputy Director, NIST, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technology Innovation Program (TIP) Notice of Availability of Funds and Announcement of Public Meeting (Proposers' Conference) [Docket No.: 090318324-9325-01] (RIN: 0693-ZA89) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. POLIS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 532. Resolution providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1256) to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products, to amend title 5, United States Code, to make certain modifications in the Thrift Savings Plan, the Civil Service Retirement System, and the