

REGARDING TOM JARMAN

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a very close friend of mine who is one of the unsung heroes of America. Tom Jarman is a teacher, a coach, a man of great wisdom, a noted author, and the kind of friend you would want if you ever got in a jam. He was recently inducted into the National Wrestling Coaches Association Division III Coaches Hall of Fame, but that is just one of 6 Hall of Fames that he has been inducted into. He is also a member of the Taylor University Hall of Fame, Wheaton College Hall of Fame, the Oswego High School Hall of Fame, the Indiana Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame, and the Illinois Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame.

Tom was the co-author of *Beginning Wrestling*, one of the all-time best selling books for young wrestlers in history. Apart from teaching young kids how to wrestle, he has also coached successfully at Manchester College, Northwestern University, and Taylor University. He has coached nineteen All-Americans, along with nineteen Academic All-Americans. He has an outstanding overall record of 394-126.

Throughout his career, Tom has emphasized to his wrestlers the importance of character, the value of hard work, the best virtues of competition, and the glory of fair play. He has done so with dogged determination and with the humility and humor of a first-class teacher. I don't know what all of Tom's former students are doing now, but I guarantee you that they are better citizens because of the time they spent with him.

I first met Tom Jarman when I was in junior high, and I wrestled with him at that level, in high school and at Wheaton College. Even back then, I knew that he had the makings of a great coach and teacher. In fact, at Wheaton College, Tom was the 1963 NCAA Collegiate Division National Champion at 158 pounds, and he was twice named an NCAA All-American. While 158 pounds is a long time ago, I still remember vividly Tom's will to succeed.

All to often, in this day and age, many universities are dropping their wrestling programs for legal or financial reasons. I think that is a big mistake, because when I look at the career of someone like Tom Jarman, who has been in the trenches for so many years, molding the characters of so many young men, teaching them to succeed at wrestling and succeed at life—I think how much better off this country is because of his efforts.

So, to my good friend, Tom Jarman, I salute you on your latest honor, and I salute you for being one of America's unsung heroes. Thank you for your great contributions to American society.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE
COALITION ACT**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Quality Health Care Coalition Act,

which takes a first step towards restoring a true free market in health care by restoring the rights of freedom of contract and association to health care professionals. Over the past few years, we have had much debate in Congress about the difficulties medical professionals and patients are having with Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). HMOs are devices used by insurance industries to ration health care. While it is politically popular for members of Congress to bash the HMOs and the insurance industry, the growth of the HMOs are rooted in past government interventions in the health care market through the tax code, the Employment Retirement Security Act (ERSIA), and the federal anti-trust laws. These interventions took control of the health care dollar away from individual patients and providers, thus making it inevitable that something like the HMOs would emerge as a means to control costs.

Many of my well-meaning colleagues would deal with the problems created by the HMOs by expanding the federal government's control over the health care market. These interventions will inevitably drive up the cost of health and further erode the ability of patients and providers to determine the best health treatments free of government and third-party interference. In contrast, the Quality Health Care Coalition Act addresses the problems associated with HMOs by restoring medical professionals' freedom to form voluntary organizations for the purpose of negotiating contracts with an HMO or an insurance company.

As an OB-GYN with over 30 years in practice, I am well aware of how young physicians coming out of medical school feel compelled to sign contracts with HMOs that may contain clauses that compromise their professional integrity. For example, many physicians are contractually forbidden from discussing all available treatment options with their patients because the HMO gatekeeper has deemed certain treatment options too expensive. In my own practice, I have tried hard not to sign contracts with any health insurance company that infringed on my ability to practice medicine in the best interests of my patients and I have always counseled my professional colleagues to do the same. Unfortunately, because of the dominance of the HMO in today's health care market, many health care professionals cannot sustain a medical practice unless they agree to conform their practice to the dictates of some HMO.

One way health care professionals could counter the power of the HMOs would be to form a voluntary association for the purpose of negotiating with an HMO or an insurance company. However, health care professionals who attempt to form such a group run the risk of persecution under federal anti-trust laws. This not only reduces the ability of health care professionals to negotiate with HMOs on a level playing field, but also constitutes an unconstitutional violation of medical professionals' freedom of contract and association.

Under the United States Constitution, the federal government has no authority to interfere with the private contracts of American citizens. Furthermore, the prohibitions on contracting contained in the Sherman antitrust laws are based on a flawed economic theory which holds that federal regulators can improve upon market outcomes by restricting the rights of certain market participants deemed too powerful by the government. In fact, anti-

trust laws harm consumers by preventing the operation of the free-market, causing prices to rise, quality to suffer, and, as is certainly the case with the relationship between the HMOs and medical professionals, favoring certain industries over others.

By restoring the freedom of medical professionals to voluntarily come together to negotiate as a group with HMOs and insurance companies, this bill removes a government-imposed barrier to a true free market in health care. Of course, this bill does not infringe on the rights of health care professionals by forcing them to join a bargaining organization against their will. While Congress should protect the rights of all Americans to join organizations for the purpose of bargaining collectively, Congress also has a moral responsibility to ensure that no worker is forced by law to join or financially support such an organization.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that Congress will not only remove the restraints on medical professionals' freedom of contract, but will also empower patients to control their health care by passing my Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts individuals back in charge of their own health care by expanding access to Medical Savings Accounts and providing Americans with large tax credits and tax deductions for their health care expenses. Putting individuals back in charge of their own health care decisions will enable patients to work with providers to ensure they receive the best possible health care at the lowest possible price. If providers and patients have the ability to form the contractual arrangements that they find most beneficial to them, the HMO monster will wither on the vine without the imposition of new federal regulations on the insurance industry.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the Quality Health Care Coalition Act and restore the freedom of contract and association to America's health care professionals. I also urge my colleagues to join me in working to promote a true free market in health care by putting patients back in charge of the health care dollar by supporting my Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS
SHEPARDSON**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas Shepardson. He was a life resident of Syracuse, NY, a graduate of Simmons Institute of Funeral Service and the owner of two local funeral homes. Aside from Tom's loving family, one of his most notable accomplishment was the creation of the Disaster Mortuary Operational Rescue Team, D-MORT. Tom died of a sudden heart attack this past February 18th, he was only 59 years old.

It was Tom's ingenuity to bring together the expertise of pathologists, dentists, morticians, police and rescue workers to collect and identify bodies after incidents of mass destruction. This successful collaboration has grown from a local county response team into 10 regional D-MORT teams across the country. Under