

to protect doctors, nurses, and patients. It's called the "Patient Right To Know Act," and it says that the professionals cannot be gagged from giving you the information you're entitled to and cannot be punished if they give it to you, so that we'll have the best of all worlds, managed care plus consumer protection. And I want—will you help me pass that bill? [Applause] Thank you.

Again, I want to be clear: There are an awful lot of HMO's, PPO's, and other health care plans that give patients very good care at good value, even better value with more choices and less inflation in the health care premiums. But we have to make sure that we don't give up the quality of care. Doctors just must not face discrimination when they uphold their oath to give patients the best care. Patients should feel safe in the knowledge that they have been given the full story of what all their treatment options are and what are best for them. They should be told about the best treatment, whether it's the cheapest or not.

There is also more to do. There are millions of Americans who are affected by the changes in our health system which ought to feel comfortable about the health care they receive. I have asked our Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, and our Labor Secretary, Bob Reich, to form an advisory commission about the quality of care for health care consumers with health care providers, health plans, consumers, business people—all on a bipartisan basis, everybody having their story heard, but to evaluate the ways that health plans can best serve their customers over the long run so that we can have a health care system we can afford and one we can be proud of because it keeps life expectancy going up and it keeps the health of our people improving.

The Vice President I have asked to review this report because he has done such great work in other areas where we have tried to reinvent our Government and improve things. And what we're trying to do is to understand how these changes in the health care system are going to affect America's families, all generations of families, yours, mine, everyone else's; what are the financial implications; what are the health care implications; what else should we do.

But I am confident that being for a consumer's right to know is the right thing to do here. And I am confident—I will say again—I am confident that we can find a way to preserve the Medicare program in a way that gives you more options, keeps it affordable, and doesn't divide it into a two-tier system where the elderly in our country who happen to be the oldest or the poorest or the sickest wind up getting the short end of the health care stick. I don't think any one of you want that, and I'm going to do my best to avoid that. We can do what we need to do.

All of this is a way of building a bridge to the future. I believe that we have to make it possible—let me say again—for families across the generations to succeed at home and at work, to honor the obligations to parents and children and still be successful in the workplace and as citizens. I believe we can do that. I believe we can do it if we build the right kind of bridge to the future, including the health care reforms I have discussed today. And I hope that every one of you will help me and yourselves and your children to build that bridge.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. at the Sunrise Musical Theater. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Steve Effman of Sunrise; Mayor Nancy Graham of West Palm Beach; Sheriff Ron Cochran of Broward County; Jack and Janet Boyle, owners, Sunrise Musical Theater; and Sallie A. Richardville, secretary-treasurer, Broward AFL-CIO, who introduced the President, her mother, Edith B. Tuten, her daughter, Mary K. Leake, and her granddaughter, Nicole "Nikki" Washburn.

**Executive Order 13017—Advisory
Commission on Consumer
Protection and Quality in the Health
Care Industry**
September 5, 1996

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. (a) There is established the Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry (the "Commission"). The Commission shall be composed of not more than 20 members to be appointed by the President. The members will be consumers, institutional health care providers, health care professionals, other health care workers, health care insurers, health care purchasers, State and local government representatives, and experts in health care quality, financing, and administration.

(b) The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Commission. The Co-Chairs shall report through the Vice President to the President.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Commission shall advise the President on changes occurring in the health care system and recommend such measures as may be necessary to promote and assure health care quality and value, and protect consumers and workers in the health care system. In particular, the Commission shall:

(1) Review the available data in the area of consumer information and protections for those enrolled in health care plans and make such recommendations as may be necessary for improvements;

(2) Review existing and planned work that defines, measures, and promotes quality of health care, and help build further consensus on approaches to assure and promote quality of care in a changing delivery system; and

(3) Collect and evaluate data on changes in availability of treatment and services, and make such recommendations as may be necessary for improvements.

(b) For the purpose of carrying out its functions, the Commission may hold hearings, establish subcommittees, and convene and act at such times and places as the Commission may find advisable.

Sec. 3. Reports. The Commission shall make a preliminary report to the President by September 30, 1997. A final report shall be submitted to the President 18 months after the Commission's first meeting.

Sec. 4. Administration. (a) To the extent permitted by law, the heads of executive departments and agencies, and independent

agencies (collectively "agencies") shall provide the Commission, upon request, with such information as it may require for the purposes of carrying out its functions.

(b) Members of the Commission may receive compensation for their work on the Commission not to exceed the daily rate specified for Level IV of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5315). While engaged in the work of the Commission, members appointed from among private citizens of the United States may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707) to the extent funds are available for such purposes.

(c) To the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide the Commission with administrative services, funds, facilities, staff, and other support services necessary for the performance of the Commission's functions. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall perform the administrative functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), with respect to the Commission.

Sec. 5. General Provision. The Commission shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report, but not later than 2 years from the date of this order, unless extended by the President.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 5, 1996.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
10:28 a.m., September 6, 1996]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the
Federal Register on September 9.

Remarks at the Meeting of the National Baptist Convention USA in Orlando, Florida

September 6, 1996

The President. Thank you. Thank you.

Audience members. Four more years!
Four more years! Four more years!