

far and in the wrong direction, changing Medicare from a reliable health care insurance for our seniors to a second-class health care system for Medicare recipients.

Under the Medicare plan, seniors will pay more and get less. The plan would allow doctors and hospitals to charge seniors above and beyond the established Medicare reimbursement rate. Balance-billing will bottom the norm as providers shift more cost to the seniors, the proposed cuts by the Republican Congress will show up as bills on the backs of the Medicare elderly who earn an average of \$10,000 or less yearly.

Perhaps even more damaging than the Medicare cuts are cuts and program changes planned for Medicaid. Under the Republican plan seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families who receive help from Medicaid, would be at risk of losing their coverage. In addition, States will be allowed to reduce their own share of funding for Medicaid, making the actual cuts more severe than they first appear.

Two-thirds of all nursing home residents receive help from the Medicaid system to pay their nursing home bills. The Republican plan will allow States to target the assets of seniors' children to help pay nursing home bills, which average \$38,000 per year. Again, the plan is really nothing less than a form of cost-shifting.

The plan cuts Federal expenditures but does not limit consumer costs. In fact, these programs were put in place to permit families to take care of themselves when a health care crisis occur. Now, the changes being proposed would pull the plug on the 30-year commitment to Medicare and Medicaid.

Republicans have shown that they are indifferent to the elderly and willing to send the American working families and seniors the bill for tax breaks for the wealthy. But these are not responsible or fair priorities for our Nation's future. The American people expect shared sacrifice, not cuts for people programs and tax breaks for wealthier individuals, but there they go again, hoping that the bumper sticker slogan of a tax break will cover up the cuts of people programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members of this body to strongly oppose these proposals again as were proposed last year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. EWING] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. EWING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO ST. MARTHA'S STUDENTS—INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CYBERFAIR 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Michigan [Mr. CHRYSLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students of St. Martha's Elementary School of Okemos, MI. Mr. Speaker, the students of St. Martha's recently became one of the grand prize winners of the International School CyberFair, a global competition celebrating the ability of on-line communications to share and unite students throughout their communities, their nations, and indeed the world.

Placing second in their category, the third, fourth, and fifth grade students of St. Martha's created an Internet web site highlighting familiar treasures of the mid-Michigan area so that students throughout the world could explore their community.

In addition to creating their own web site, the students of St. Martha's incorporated links to numerous other Michigan attractions, such as Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Lansing Community College, and the Michigan State Government Offices.

Mr. Speaker, in receiving this outstanding award, the students of St. Martha's are paving the way for advancement of technologies in our classroom. These students have not only demonstrated exceptional skill and determination in providing their communities with this tool of learning, but they have also become student ambassadors to the world.

As we have now passed the telecommunications bill and it has been signed into law this year, these students are on the cutting edge of the Information Age. As sure as we lived in the agricultural age in the 1800's, and moved on into the industrial age in the 1900's, we are now into the information age of the 21st century.

Between 1600 and 1960, human knowledge doubled. Between 1960 and 1980, human knowledge doubled again. And between 1980 and 1990, human knowledge doubled again. And between 1990 and 1995, it doubled again. And now about every 18 months to 2 years, human knowledge will double again.

The telecommunications bill will not only create 3.2 million new jobs, but it will also create a new America where 40 percent of the working people can work out of their homes.

That means that we will eliminate the traffic jams in the morning and in the evenings. We will stop polluting our air from the cars sitting in the traffic jams idling away. But more importantly, we will have mom or dad, or maybe mom and dad both, at home when these kids go to school and, just as importantly, when they come home from school, and we will start putting American families back together again.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the students and the faculty of St. Martha's in receiving this award. Additionally, I would like to recognize Cisco Systems and the MCI Corpora-

tion for sponsoring this global competition for their commitment to tomorrow's future leaders.

I would encourage my colleagues and citizens throughout the Nation to visit our mid-Michigan community via the web site created by the fine students at St. Martha's. The web site is located on the worldwide web at <http://cyberfair.gsn.org/stmartha>.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE/MEDICAID PLANS ARE "CLUELESS"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative PALLONE for organizing this special order tonight and for his outstanding leadership in protecting Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues, the Gingrich majority just can't keep its hands off of Medicare. For a second year in a row, the new majority is trying to pay for special interest tax breaks by forcing drastic cuts in Medicare.

After shutting the Government down twice, after seeing their approval ratings plummet to record-breaking lows, after the near collapse of their legislative agenda you would think they would learn.

Well, my friends, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle remain clueless. They remain clueless to the fact that the American people want no part of a scheme to make Medicare "Wither on the vine," as the Speaker suggested.

They remain clueless that seniors are not willing to pay more to receive less. The Republican budget cuts \$167 billion from Medicare over 6 years, which will mean drastically higher health care costs and fewer health care benefits for our Nation's seniors.

They remain clueless about forcing Americans into managed care programs without physician choice—the same programs which may force seniors to give up their trusted doctors. And the American people sure don't want to be gouged through excessive copayments, known as balanced billing, which is included in the Republican plan.

And Republicans remain clueless to the fact that the American people don't want their local hospitals closed because of a budget plan that cuts the Medicare Hospital Trust Fund by \$51 billion over 6 years.

Well, I am here, armed with messages from three of my constituents, to help members of the new majority get a clue. Hopefully our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are sitting in their offices, watching C-Span. I urge you to turn up the volume in your office, listen closely, and take note.

First, a 65-year-old man wrote me to say (and I quote): "I worked hard all of my life, raised ten kids, and fought in two wars to live my life in peace. Living on only 801 dollars a month, I need all the help I can get."

This person deserves better. He fought two wars for our country, and he should not live his golden years in fear of getting sick. With his income, he can't pay more for health care. It is wrong that the new majority is asking people like him to do so.

The second message is from Ethel from San Rafael. She wrote to let me know that "Medicare is only barely sufficient as it is. (She continued that) "A cut would be a death knell to help as we know it."

So, I ask you if Medicare is barely sufficient now, what will it be like if the new majority has its way and cuts \$167 billion and weakens anti-fraud laws?

Finally, an elderly gentleman named Vernon, wants all of us to know that he can't afford to pay more for Medicare. He said, "The old folks need money for food. Cutting Medicare will take away our food money."

How much food will Vernon give up, Mr. Speaker, when the new majority cuts Medicare by \$167 billion? Does this Congress really intend for people like Vernon to give up food in order to pay for a doctor's visit or to pay for prescription drugs?

I hope that our colleagues in the majority listen to the heartfelt pleas of these people. I hope that members of the new majority can open their eyes to the devastation that will occur if their Medicare plan is enacted.

So get a clue, my friends. Listen to the American people and stop raiding Medicare for your special interest tax break. Start working with Democrats.

I'm proud to say that I voted for the President's budget, which preserves the solvency of the Medicare system without damaging cuts to services. This Democratic alternative prevents outrageous increases in premiums and copayments, and maintains strong anti-fraud policies.

Let's work together to strengthen Medicare, and preserve it for future generations.

Again, I want to thank Congressman FRANK PALLONE for his leadership on this issue. You have done a terrific job of protecting Medicare from cuts, and it is always a pleasure to work with you.

□ 2300

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ROHRBACHER addressed the house. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

FEDERAL SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, let me start off by saying I have got great

news for Ethel in San Rafael, California and Vern in California also. The Republican plan increases their Medicare from \$190 billion to \$304 billion. Good news.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to send them the information since they are not getting it from that side of the aisle. I will be happy to. Let me yield to the gentlewoman for 20 seconds. But let the Record show Democrats earlier would not yield to me for even 10 seconds. But I got some other stuff I want to talk about.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would have yielded for 10 seconds, believe me.

I would like to point out that Medicare is not growing to cover the cost of inflation, nor the cost of the need for the services and the people who will be needing those services. One thing is increasing an amount, the other thing is to increase the amount to cover those who will be using the benefit.

Mr. KINGSTON. Reclaiming the time, I appreciate that point. Our budget increases Medicare from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per person in anticipation of new enrollees, so that includes new enrollees. Again, I will be happy to send that information to your constituents and work with you on a bipartisan basis.

Let me also, though, address the good old days of Democrat leadership because that is one of the things I really wanted to talk about since the theme on the Democrat side seems to be let us go back to Democrat leadership. What happened when President Clinton, the Democrats controlled the Senate, the House and the White House? The highest tax increase in the history of America, \$265 billion. Highest spending, \$300 billion increase in spending. A \$16 billion stimulus package that President Clinton and the Democrats in the Senate and the Democrats in the House passed, which included, among other important things, is cataloguing fish.

They did not propose a balanced budget when the Democrats controlled the House, the Senate and the White House. The Republicans on the other hand, have passed a balanced budget out of this House for the first time in 26 years. The balanced budget amendment did not get out of the House under Democrat leadership; did pass under Republican leadership.

On welfare reform, the President of the United States in 1992 promised to end welfare reform as we know it, had a Democrat House, a Democrat Senate, and did not introduce a welfare bill. We have passed two out of this body and in the Senate, one passing on a bipartisan vote of 87-12. It was vetoed not once but twice by the President.

On health care, the President of the United States, when he had the two Chambers, tried to pass a nationalized health care plan and increased the bureaucracy by 59 different agencies. It did not move under the Republican

House and the Republican Senate. We have health care reform that is making health care more affordable and more accessible. It is now in conference. It looks good.

New bureaucracy, endless growth of the Government under President Clinton, including AmeriCorps, which is a volunteer program that pays volunteers \$26,000 per volunteer. Let me repeat that: \$26,000 per volunteer. We are trying to downsize the bureaucracy.

Student loans, very little happened under student loans under President Clinton. A lot of defaults, of course, but implemented the first stage of government takeover of the student loan program. We, on the other hand, have a budget that has increased student loans from \$24 billion to \$36 billion. Be happy to share that with any Democrat who does not have that information.

When the Democrats controlled the Senate and the House and the White House, there were no major reforms of Congress. Under the Republican Congress, we passed Congressional Accountability Act, a gift ban. We have cut the staff by one-third. We have required a two-thirds vote for an increase in taxes. We are considering campaign reform as we speak.

For the senior citizens that the Democrats used to love to say that they are great champions of, under President Clinton and the Democrat House and the Democrat Senate, there was an increase on Social Security taxes, taxes were increased on Social Security. Under the Republican House, we have decreased those taxes. Now, that of course was vetoed by the President.

We have also passed an earnings limitation so that seniors who want to can stay in the workplace longer. Even little things, I am not going to say this is little at all, but I mean, things that are less visible, we have done many, many changes on. I will be happy to share that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for one-half the time remaining before midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to begin this special order tonight by pointing out that this evening, when we had the Democratic motion to instruct on the budget, that a major point that was being made in that motion to instruct is that the budget resolution that was adopted here in the House that is put forward by the Republican leadership basically denies basic protection on health care for seniors.

Essentially what we have in this budget resolution are major attacks on the Medicare Program, and also on the Medicaid Program. As a result, in the motion to instruct that was put forward by the Democrats this evening,