

Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act of 1996 ensures portability, it fights waste, fraud, and abuse, it cuts redtape and creates a medical savings account program to help the self-employed and employees of smaller businesses.

Mr. Speaker, this is a win-win situation for the American people. We emphasize people over bureaucracy, choice over centralization.

But, unfortunately, a small group of liberals in the other body have held up this commonsense legislation for 57 days. These liberals are holding out for the centralized Clinton Care that was rejected by Congress and the American people 2 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, we should break this logjam. Obstructionist liberals should end their campaign to take over the Nation's health care system.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all members it is not in order to cast reflections on the Senate or its Members, individually or collectively.

CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT OR APPEASEMENT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we are told that the United States of America is engaged in a policy of constructive engagement with the gerontocracy that runs China. We have just completed our second annual negotiations to allow the Chinese to continue to pirate over \$2 billion a year in intellectual property rights from American companies. There is no change; they are still producing those disks today.

Yes, there was a little show of closing down a few, but that will not last. We are going to run a \$41 billion deficit with China, the most unfair trading nation on Earth, the most protectionist society on Earth. That means, according to our own Commerce Department's numbers we are going to lose 800,000 jobs to the unfair trade practices of the People's Republic of China.

At some point the policy of constructive engagement starts to look an awful lot like appeasement, and we all know how effective the policy of appeasement was in dealing with Hitler's Third Reich.

ENDING HEALTH CARE REFORM GRIDLOCK

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the American people have two major concerns about their health care insurance. One is can they afford it;

and, second, will they be able to take it with them when they have to move from one job to another?

First, the good news. A bipartisan majority in the House and the Senate supports passage of the Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act, which addresses both of these problems. Now the bad news. One Member from the other side of the aisle in the other body is standing in the way because of his opposition to providing more Americans the option of choosing a medical savings account, or MSA, for their health insurance.

Dozens of companies and thousands of employees around the country have MSAs. They love MSA's for three reasons. MSA's give employees control over how their health care dollars are spent and make them careful but satisfied shoppers.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I thought the Chair had said that we could not impugn motives to Members of the other body.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELLER). The gentlewoman is correct. The Chair was attempting to ask the gentleman to suspend.

The Chair would ask that Members refrain from disparaging remarks about Members of the other body.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned no specific Member of the other body.

Mr. Speaker, dozens of companies and thousands of employees around the country have MSA's. They love MSA's for three reasons: MSA's give employees control over how their health care dollars are spent and make them careful but satisfied shoppers. They provide them freedom from worry by eliminating out-of-pocket costs for those with chronic or catastrophic illnesses. MSA's save money for employees and for the companies. Americans want this kind of health care coverage. We should move to make it possible for them.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET DOES NOT REFLECT THE PRIORITIES OF MIDDLE AMERICA

(Mr. MINGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, despite the heated rhetoric surrounding the budget debate, the Republican budget passed last week. It will tragically increase the deficit from \$130 billion to \$153 billion. Just when most of us who are deeply committed to deficit reduction thought that we had the opportunity to address the budget in a forthright manner, we have been duped. If we have learned anything about the tragic budget debate of last year, we have learned that if it is going to succeed, the design and the details of the budget must reflect the priorities of modern Americans.

Middle America wants to see the deficit decreased. Middle America does not want to see education and health care programs cut while defense spending increases. Middle Americans are willing to share in the sacrifice necessary to balance the budget. Yes, most support tax cuts. So do I. However, we should not borrow money temporarily to pay for a tax cut if we are sacrificing the future of our children and grandchildren. We must be willing to set our priorities straight and make the tough choices necessary to balance the budget.

END THE APATHY AND THE POLICY OF APPEASEMENT TOWARD CHINA

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in 1980, China was first granted MFN status. Since then, very little has changed. In fact, it would be easy to argue that the situation has worsened. In the last 5 years, China has accumulated a \$117 billion trade surplus with the United States, most of which is being used by the Chinese Government to build a war machine—a United States financed and outfitted Communist army.

Also troubling is the continued theft of American intellectual property rights. Even the Clinton administration has called the Chinese "the most egregious violator of agreements intended to combat the piracy of American products."

Our apathy and appeasement have actually worsened our position as a trade partner and as a steward of democracy in one of the world's most volatile regions.

The House will soon vote to end China's privilege. We will soon have the opportunity to send a message to the world that America will not support a rogue nation. We cannot continue to ignore the truth; we must be proactive in changing China's policies.

THE 1996 CHICAGO BULLS MADE AMERICA PROUD

(Mr. DURBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, let me join the chorus of Chicagoans, Illinoisans, and fans everywhere in saluting our world champion Chicago Bulls. The Seattle Supersonics were a worthy team, but 1996 was the year of the Bulls: a regular season record of 72 victories, a playoff record of 15 wins and 3 losses.

Why were they so successful? The greatest coach in the NBA, Phil Jackson, the man who proved that Zen can win; the greatest player in the history of the sport, Michael Jordan, whose athletic ability is only surpassed by his class; and a great team, with players

from Australia, Canada, Croatia, and Mars. The 1996 Chicago Bulls made America proud: four championships in 6 years, and more to come.

COMMENDING THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice for the peaceful resolution reached last Thursday in the armed standoff involving the so-called Montana Freeman who are charged with threatening public officials and other crimes.

The potential for violence was high throughout this confrontation. The fact that the suspects surrendered without a shot being fired speaks well of FBI negotiations and the reforms instituted at DOJ for dealing with such crisis situations.

I particularly note FBI Director Louis Freeh's personal oversight of the case and his determination to see the lessons of past standoffs institutionalized at the Bureau. Federal law enforcement is the target of a great deal of second-guessing when tragedies occur. They deserve recognition for their professionalism when a tense situation is resolved peacefully.

Mr. Speaker, not every warrant can be executed without incident. That goes with the turf. All the more reason to commend the FBI for a job well done.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REVERSE THE ACTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S BUDGET VOTE AND STILL CONTINUE TO ATTACK THE DEFICIT

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, it is not too late to reverse the actions of last week's budget vote and still continue to attack the deficit. I am very, very concerned that after 4 years of continuously declining deficit, we now see again in the chart that instead of continuing the trend to balance, we are going to borrow an additional \$99 billion over the next 2 years in order to give ourselves a tax cut with borrowed money. That does not make sense.

Also when we look at the budget last week, and now we hear the discussions going on about whether we are going to combine welfare and Medicaid with a tax cut, we find we are postponing the difficult choices. The difficult cuts are going to be postponed until 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Mr. Speaker, please, let us reverse that. Let us get the House back in the same direction we were going in 4 consecutive years of the deficit coming down. Let us not give up now. Let us

continue now with some good bipartisan support for deficit reduction and not increasing our Nation's debt.

URGING SUPPORT FOR COMMON-SENSE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. HASTERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, the time for health care reform is at hand. Congress, for the first time, will deliver health care reform that will attack waste and fraud, make health care more affordable and make health care insurance more available for the American people.

The President has a simple choice. He can do what the American people want, and sign this very important reform package. Or he can work to derail this reform bill and please the left wing of his party.

According to press accounts, liberals in the Democrat caucus are deathly afraid of medical savings accounts, because it gives more power to families to make their own health care decisions.

These liberals want the Government to call the shots. They want Washington bureaucrats to decide what kind of health care families can or can't have.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want health care portability. They want to make health care insurance both available and affordable. And they want to get rid of the waste and fraud that every senior citizen knows is in the health care delivery system. And they want it now.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense reform.

VOTING "NO" ON MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS FOR CHINA

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of June the President asked for a special waiver in order to grant most-favored-nation status to China. The House will soon be taking up this vote. In the past, since the Tiananmen Square massacre, I have worked with our colleagues to try to shape a compromise measure. The actions on the part of the Chinese Government in terms of violation of trade proliferation and human rights have been so extreme that this year I am forced to vote no on MFN for China.

In terms of trade, the Chinese want favorable trade treatment for their products coming into the United States while having huge barriers to United States products going to China, to the tune of one-third of their exports coming to the United States and only 2 percent of United States exports being allowed into China.

In terms of proliferation, the Chinese are proliferating chemical, nuclear,

and missile technologies to unsafe guarded countries like Iran and Pakistan, and all this money they earn from their missile sales and trade consolidates their power to allow them to continue to repress their people. Some will say that economic reform will lead to political reform. This has not been the case, even according to the Clinton administration's own country report.

REJECT MOST-FAVORED-NATION TRADING STATUS FOR CHINA'S DICTATORSHIP

(Mr. ROHRBACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, we will be discussing most-favored-nation status for China. Of course, Communist China is one of the worst violators, if not the worst violator, of human rights in the world. If not one of the worst, it is the worst in terms of stealing American technology and intellectual property rights. It is the worst violator of our agreements to stop nuclear proliferation.

It is, of course, one of the most beligerent countries in the world toward its own neighbors. It is one of the worst protectionists. They have a totally unfair trading relationship with us, putting our people out of work, making tens of billions of dollars on that trading relationship. What do they do with those tens of billions of dollars? They are building up their military, plus they are bolstering their ability to copy our technology.

What more does it take before this administration and the powers that be in this country realize that we should not be treating Communist China, this horrible violator of human rights, as we do other democratic nations? If we believe in free trade, let us have free trade between free people, instead of bolstering dictatorships all over the world with these favorable trade agreements at the expense of the American people. No most-favored-nation status for this dictatorship.

NO SPECIAL TRADING PRIVILEGES TO THE BUTCHERS OF BEIJING

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today the House Committee on Ways and Means will vote to renew Chinese most-favored-nation status, which means our country will again grant China the same privileges in our market as we do to democratic states like England.

As the committee casts its vote, may I remind my esteemed colleagues of the Golden Rule: Free trade can only occur among free people. By any measure, China is not a nation of free people. Let me read from Amnesty International's report on China, and I quote: "Torture remains endemic, causing