

Health Plan is a Medicaid prepaid health services plan approved by the New York State Department of Health to operate in the State since March 30, 1994. At present, as I mentioned, the plan operates in the five boroughs of New York City, as well as Westchester County, which I also represent, and in 11 other counties, and serves over 41,000 enrollees, including 37,000 Medicaid recipients.

Surveys conducted by the State of New York have not reported any quality of care deficiencies with Better Health. For the last 3 years, Better Health has operated under an exemption to the 75-25 rule that was granted by HCFA in June 1994. The waiver period ended last week on June 30 and Better Health will be required to send out notices of disenrollment to its enrollees unless this legislation is enacted. That is why it is so important we enact this legislation today. We must pass the measure before us today in order to ensure that the patients continue to receive the care they need.

I also want to mention, Mr. Speaker, that in addition, there are two other plans in New York that are also requesting waivers and find themselves in the same predicament that Better Health has found itself, and these two other plans are Health First and Genesis, the latter of which is in my district to a very large degree.

While both plans will not have to disenroll patients until later this year, because their waiver lasts a little longer, I would have preferred to see waivers granted for these plans also. I would have preferred to have seen it all in one bill. But should there be delays or problems arising in the future on the budget plan, I plan to work with my friend from New York, Mr. PAXON, and the Committee on Commerce should we need to address the situation later on in the year with regard to the other plans that I mentioned. So, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. TOWNS].

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time, and I want to begin by saying that I want to thank Members on both sides of the aisle and the leadership for moving this bill very quickly. Also I want to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle who have done a superb job. I could call the names, but I will not get into that because I might just leave a name out.

The Better Health Plan serves over 40,000 Medicaid recipients in the New York area. This plan provides services all over the five boroughs of New York City, including my district, which has close to 2,000 beneficiaries. Better

Health Plan offers many innovative health care programs for its Medicaid members and helps them become better consumers of health care, which is very, very important.

The plan also offers a wide variety of preventive services, including vision, hearing, lead screening tests and also provides counseling services for alcohol and tobacco and drug habits as well. The legislation waives the Medicaid 75-25 rule and will continue to make this plan available to New York residents.

My colleague mentioned earlier that there were some other New York plans that were also concerned about the fact that they were not included in this legislation. It is my hope that the waiver will come about and that we will not have to do that, but in the event it does not occur, I would like to assure him that I will join him in doing everything that I can to make certain that they are included because we need to make certain that people do not need to have frustration and tension because of the fact the 75-25 rule is in effect.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, the gentlemen from New York, Messrs. PAXON, ENGEL, MANTON and LAZIO, and also thank my staff person, Brenda Pillors, who worked very hard on this.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of this legislation, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2018, a bill to extend the 75-25 Medicaid waiver for Better Health Plan of Amherst. I want to thank my colleagues on the Commerce Committee, particularly Representatives PAXON, TOWNS, ENGEL, and LAZIO for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor in such a swift manner.

Better Health Plan of Amherst provides essential services to its beneficiaries in the five Boroughs of New York City and eleven counties throughout New York State. Of the 40,000 individuals Better Health Plan serves, 36,700 are Medicaid recipients. H.R. 2018 would ensure uninterrupted delivery of quality health care for those who rely on the services provided by Better Health Plan. The quality services provided by Better Health Plan range from increased access to health care to intensive health education for its members.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation which would guarantee that Better Health Plan of Amherst can continue to provide quality, low-cost health care to its numerous beneficiaries.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2018, a bill that provides a temporary Medicaid waiver for the Better Health Plan in New York. This is a bill that I strongly support, Mr. Speaker, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Thousands of Medicaid patients in New York are anxiously waiting to see if the doors to their health care office will remain open tomorrow morning, due to the 75/25 Medicaid enrollment provision. According to this provision, 25 percent of a health plan's patients must be enrolled from the private sector. If a health plan cannot meet this goal, they must start disenrolling patients. The Better Health Plan, in Amherst, NY is in danger of having to disenroll more than 36,000 Medicaid recipients, since their 75/25 waiver expired on June 30 of this year.

This bill will grant the Better Health Plan an extended waiver of the 75/25 provision until December 31, 1998, thereby aiding low income New York residents. I remain committed to ensuring quality care for New York Medicaid patients, which can be done by other means than a 75/25 provision. However, we cannot and should not sit here and order health care providers to close their doors on more than 40,000 patients. Quick action is needed to ensure that the quality care that Medicaid patients are now receiving from health plans will continue. The future of Medicaid recipients hangs in the balance at this time while the very real threat of termination of care and services to these lower income residents is dependent upon this vote. Please don't let these people down, support H.R. 2018.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. PAXON] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2018, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2018 and to insert extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2016, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 178 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 178

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2016) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or

6 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be fifteen minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. MYRICK] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL] pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 26, the Committee on Rules granted, by voice vote, an open rule providing 1 hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations for the consideration of H.R. 2016, the military construction appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998. The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill which do not comply with clause 2 of rule XXI prohibiting unauthorized appropriations and legislation on general appropriations bills, and clause 6 of rule XXI prohibiting transfers of unobligated funds.

The rule provides for priority recognition to those amendments that are preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The rule also provides that the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone recorded votes on any amendment and that the Chairman may reduce voting time on postponed questions to 5 minutes, provided that the votes take place immediately following another recorded vote and that the voting time on the first series of questions is not less than 15 minutes.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Today we will consider the first bill in the annual appropriations process. Because the other body and conference action on the National Defense Authorization Act has not been completed, the Committee on Appropriations considered only projects recommended for authorization when crafting H.R. 2016.

All projects included in H.R. 2016 are approved subject to authorization.

This is a product of a bipartisan effort to ensure that the needs of our service men and women are effectively addressed. The committee chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Construction both testified that debate on the measure was very short in both the subcommittee and full Committee on Appropriations where it passed with a voice vote.

The living conditions of our Nation's fighting men and women have been the focus of much attention and grave concern. Currently, 62 percent of troop housing spaces and 64 percent of housing family units are unsuitable. It is imperative we work to improve their living conditions, which are directly linked to readiness, morale, and retention.

I am proud of our continued efforts to improve the housing for the Armed Forces, those brave Americans that protect our freedoms. In particular, the need for improved family housing has increased dramatically. Since the 1950's the all-volunteer structure of the Armed Forces has resulted in the steady rise of married service members. More than 60 percent of those serving today are married. It is important that we have a sustained, flexible approach to meet their needs.

H.R. 2016 addresses the severe backlog in readiness, revitalization and quality of life projects. To address this problem, the committee included funding above the administration's request to fund the planning and construction of several barracks, family housing and operational facilities. Included in the additional funding is:

Ten additional unaccompanied housing projects; new construction and improvements to family housing units, benefiting approximately 2,438 military families; four child development centers; operational and training facilities for the active service; and operational, training, environmental compliance and safety related activities for the Reserves.

Good infrastructure is key to military installations operating effectively and achieving their mission. They need good transportation networks, rail lines, roads, airports and seaport facilities, communication systems, telephone lines and satellite uplinks and downlinks, and mundane but vital support like water and sewer systems, and electrical generation and distribution systems.

There have been reports that aging installations are suffering from crumbling infrastructure and support facilities. It is crucial we give the revitalization of these facilities sufficient priority so that they are able to meet their mission requirements. This bill dedicates funding to continue to address these problems.

Other commitments addressed in the bill include funding for the continued implementation for the base realign-

ment and closure program. The funds are necessary so that the base closure schedules can be met and the savings realized. The bill gives the Department of Defense the flexibility to carry out this complex task in the most efficient manner possible.

This is a good bill that honors the commitment we have to our Armed Forces. It helps ensure that the housing and infrastructure needs of the military are given proper recognition so that our Armed Forces can continue to defend the freedoms we all cherish.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the open rule on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and thank my colleague from North Carolina, Mrs. MYRICK, for yielding me this time.

This resolution is an open rule. It will allow for full and fair debate on H.R. 2016, which is the military construction appropriation bill for fiscal year 1998.

Under this rule, germane amendments will be allowed under the 5-minute rule, which is the normal amending process in the House. All Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer amendments. The Committee on Rules reported this rule without opposition in a voice vote and I certainly plan to support it.

This bill appropriates \$9.2 billion for military construction, family housing and base closure construction projects. And though the bill provides \$800 million more than the administration's request, the funding level still represents a reduction of \$610 million, or 6 percent below last year's appropriation.

The bill funds necessary capital improvements to our Nation's military facilities. And continuing the trend of recent years, the Committee on Appropriations paid special attention to facilities that improved the quality of life for our service men and women. This includes an emphasis on family housing, barracks, and child development centers.

The bill contains funding for four projects at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which is partially located in my district.

One of the four is a new building to consolidate the Aeronautical Systems Center's acquisition support functions, and this will result in cost reductions and improved efficiency. The new building will help enhance current weapon systems as well as developing new ones, such as the Joint Strike Fighter.

Another project is a child development center, which will assist Air Force parents stationed at Wright-Patterson.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, passage of this bill is important to our national defense and

to the welfare of our fighting men and women; and I certainly would urge the adoption of this open rule and the bill.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1775, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mrs. MYRICK, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-172) on the resolution (H. Res. 179) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1775) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 858, QUINCY LIBRARY GROUP FOREST RECOVERY AND ECONOMIC STABILITY ACT OF 1997

Mrs. MYRICK, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-173) on the resolution (H. Res. 180) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 858) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a pilot project on designated lands within Plumas, Lassen, and Tahoe National Forests in the State of California to demonstrate the effectiveness of the resource management activities proposed by the Quincy Library Group and to amend current land and resource management plans for these national forests to consider the incorporation of these resource management activities, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5:15 p.m.

□ 1715

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOODLING) at 5 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair will now put the question on the bill called from the Corrections Calendar and each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which each question arose.

Votes will be taken in the following order: H.R. 849 by the yeas and nays, Senate Joint Resolution 29 by the yeas and nays, H.R. 1658 by the yeas and nays, and H.R. 748 by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

PROHIBITING ILLEGAL ALIENS FROM RECEIVING RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of passage of the bill, H.R. 849, on which further proceedings were postponed.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 0, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 246]

YEAS—399

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Armedy
Bachus
Baesler
Baker
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Berry
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Bunning
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell

Canady
Cannon
Capps
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cook
Cooksey
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crapo
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeLay
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle

Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Ensign
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fawell
Fazio
Filner
Flake
Foglietta
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fowler
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Furse
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Green
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)

Hamilton
Hansen
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hefley
Hefner
Herger
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Horn
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hutchinson
Hyde
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (WI)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy (MA)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kim
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klecza
Klink
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Latham
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lucas
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manton
Manzullo
Markay
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McDermott

McGovern
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek
Menendez
Metcalfe
Millender
Shaw
McDonald
Miller (CA)
Miller (FL)
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Molinar
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Neal
Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pappas
Parker
Pascrell
Paul
Paxon
Payne
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Poshard
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Redmond
Regula
Reyes
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryun

Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Schaefer, Dan
Schaffer, Bob
Schumer
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Skaggs
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (OR)
Smith (TX)
Smith, Adam
Smith, Linda
Snowbarger
Snyder
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Stokes
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Talent
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Thomas
Thompson
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Torres
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—35

Becerra
Bilbray
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Cox
Dellums
Edwards
Fattah
Frost
Gejdenson
Gilman
Hayworth

Hilleary
Hostettler
Hunter
Ingilis
Kennedy (RI)
Lantos
Largent
LaTourette
Lowey
Mica
Owens
Pastor

Riggs
Rush
Sanford
Scarborough
Schiff
Shadegg
Sherman
Sisisky
Smith (NJ)
Solomon
Taylor (NC)