

Colorado, for their accomplishments in the health care of our nation's veterans and say thank you for their care and hard work.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK FARRELL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Massachusetts' finest leaders, Frank Farrell. Frank is retiring this year after many years as President of the Worcester/Framingham Central Labor Council. I know that thousands of working families throughout Central Massachusetts join me in thanking Frank Farrell for his years of hard work and dedication.

Since 1955, when he was hired as a quality control inspector at Olson Manufacturing in Worcester, Frank Farrell has been a member of the United Steelworkers of America. He has very active in his local union and rose to its presidency in 1965.

He has also been active in the Worcester/Framingham Central Labor Council, and was elected as its president in 1970—a post he has held for the last 20 years. For those 20 years Frank has fought the good fight—he has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the men and women in organized labor and their families. He has advocated for better wages, better health care, better retirement and better working conditions. Central Massachusetts is a better and safer place to work today because of the hard work put in by Frank Farrell.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Frank; his wife Jan; their 3 children Frank III, Steven and Lisa; and their two grandchildren Bernard and Meressa. I wish them best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement. No one deserves it more.

CYPRUS PEACE TALKS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Clinton and Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit on the significant progress made on the subject of Cyprus during their recent talks in Washington.

I have always felt that Cyprus presents an exceptional opportunity for the United States to facilitate a successful solution because a settlement on this island is within reach. Cyprus is small in size and population, has clearly discreet borders as an island nation, and the international community is committed to the removal of Turkish forces and return of Cypriot sovereignty. Many United Nations and United States Congressional resolutions have been passed over the years expressing the internal community's and United States' commitment to a just and peaceful resolution to this conflict. Failure to secure a solution in Cyprus would undermine international law and UN resolutions, as well as contradicting official U.S. foreign policy, and our national interest in deterring aggressor states.

Failure to solve this problem also bolsters the false notion that ethnic conflicts are

unsolvable and that their use as a pretext for international aggression is acceptable. However, over the past decade in Northern Ireland, in the Middle East, and in the former Yugoslavia, have proven that the international community, led by the United States, can and should negotiate and work for peace and an end to ethnic division and conflict.

Late last year, I urged President Clinton to get personally involved in resolving the Cyprus conflict by sending a special envoy, as he did in the Middle East and Northern Ireland. This past summer, I also asked the new Turkish Prime Minister to accept such an offer. I am extremely gratified by recent reports that these events have indeed taken place.

During their recent talks in Washington, Prime Minister Ecevit accepted President Clinton's offer to dispatch a special envoy to work toward a settlement of this quarter-century-old dispute. Indeed, special envoy Al Moses has already been appointed and soon will be beginning his work in this troubled region.

Again, I applaud the leadership of both President Clinton and Prime Minister Ecevit. The time has come for all efforts to be dedicated to resolving the abhorrent injustice of the division of Cyprus. We must all now redouble our efforts to bring peace and justice to the Mediterranean.

IN HONOR OF THE TEMPLE-TIFERETH ISRAEL ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of The Temple-Tifereth Israel in Cleveland, OH. The Temple begins its year long celebration on Friday, October 15, 1999 with a Shabbat service and reception. This surely will be a historic occasion for the Temple members.

Just 11 years after the first Jewish settlers came to Cleveland, The Temple-Tifereth Israel was founded. In the past 150 years The Temple has been a cornerstone of the Jewish community in the Greater Cleveland Area. Rabbis with extraordinary vision and leadership and members with great commitment and activism have guided The Temple throughout its 150 years. The Temple has developed a flourishing religious school, passing on the traditions of the study of Torah and mitzvah to countless children, and currently boasts a membership of 1,600 families.

Organizations like The Temple-Tifereth Israel must be applauded and recognized for passing on traditions to so many generations of Ohioans. It is not often that organizations can last as long as The Temple, let alone thrive as has been the case for The Temple.

I urge my fellow colleagues to please join me in recognizing the dedication and faith of the families of The Temple-Tifereth Israel as they celebrate 150 years of service in the Greater Cleveland Area.

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS MANAGED CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2723) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased that on October 7, 1999, the House of Representatives passed the long-overdue Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act (H.R. 2723) by such a large margin. I truly believe that H.R. 2723 is good, common-sense legislation that will protect the interests of patients in contracts with health insurers. I am attaching a letter signed by representatives of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine, the Kansas Dental Association, the Kansas Medical Society, the Kansas Pharmacists Association, the Kansas State Nurses Association, the National Association of Social Workers—Kansas Chapter and the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association expressing support for H.R. 2723.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2723 and supported passage, although I was very disappointed that the Republican leadership did not allow Representatives Norwood and Dingell to offer an amendment to pay for provisions in the managed care bill. Their amendment would have provided \$7 billion in offsets for revenue losses estimated to result from increased deductions for higher medical premiums. I fully expect the conferees to offset this cost to gain my support for the final bill, and I am encouraged that the President has said that he will not sign the final bill unless it is fully offset.

On October 6, 1999, I opposed final passage of H.R. 2990, the so-called "access" bill. This bill was estimated by the Joint Committee on Taxation to cost \$48.7 billion over 10 years with not offsets. Sponsors of H.R. 2990 claim that it will be paid for out of the projected budget surplus, which is based upon the assumption that Congress will abide by the spending caps enacted in the 1997 budget agreement. The Congressional Budget Office, however, has estimated that Congress has already voted to increase spending by at least \$30 billion over the caps for fiscal year 2000, which will require tapping into the Social Security Trust Fund. I voted against H.R. 2990 because I made a commitment not to spend one penny of the Social Security surplus.

Let me make one thing clear—I do not believe that legislation to protect patients and efforts to make health care more accessible are mutually exclusive. As a member of the Small Business Committee, I am working hard to expand health coverage to the 43 million Americans who lack it, since more than 60% of the uninsured have one thing in common—they are either self-employed, or their primary breadwinner is employed by a small business that cannot afford to provide health benefits.

To this end, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 1496, the Small Business Access and Choice for Entrepreneurs Act. This legislation would do two things: 1) Offer immediate 100% health insurance deductibility for the self-employed; and 2) strengthen and expand Association Health Plans (AHPs) for small business owners. AHPs would allow small businesses and the self-employed to join together to obtain the same economics of scale, purchasing clout, and administrative efficiencies from which large health insurance purchasers currently benefit. AHPs will give small employers the ability to design more affordable benefit options, offer workers more choices, and promote greater competition in the health insurance market.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure adequate patient protections and access to health care for all Americans.

KANSAS STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

October 5, 1999.

Congressman DENNIS MOORE,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MOORE: On behalf of organizations concerned about health care in our state, we are writing to ask your support of the bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act (HR 2723) by Charlie Norwood and others.

It is our understanding that this important legislation will be up for consideration the week of October 4. We ask that you support this legislation because it provides the best patient protection by addressing these important elements:

- Allows patients to obtain the medical care they need
- Protects nurses, physicians and other health care professionals who advocate for their patients
- Holds health care plans accountable by removing the ERISA preemption
- Has a strong external review component
- Determines “medical necessity” according to generally accepted standards of medical practice by a prudent physician
- Prohibits gag clauses and practices
- Provides accurate disclosure of costs and benefits

Kansans, just like the majority of Americans, want strong patient protections from managed care. H.R. 2723 represents your best opportunity to provide these protections. Please don't vary from this approach.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

CHIP WHEELAN,

*Kansas Association of Osteopathic
Medicine.*

KEVIN ROBERTSON,

Kansas Dental Association.

JERRY SLAUGHTER,

Kansas Medical Society.

BOB WILLIAMS,

Kansas Pharmacists Association.

TERRI ROBERTS,

Kansas State Nurses Association.

SKY WESTERLUND,

National Association of Social Workers,

Kansas Chapter.

TERRY HUMPHREY,

Kansas Trial Lawyers Association.

TRIBUTE TO GREG MAJORS, A
DEDICATED INDIVIDUAL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I take a moment to recognize Greg Majors who has routinely gone above and beyond the usual duties to make his business and community a better place. He has recently been awarded the 1999 Sam Walton Business Leader Award, which honors local business people who best exemplify the principles of Wal Mart founder, Sam Walton.

Greg Majors is a driven man who has many positive ideas for change and improvement. He is involved in many organizations which are both business and community oriented. For the past nineteen years he has been with Norwest Banks. The last eight he has spent in Montrose as manager of Business Banking. There he is revered among his employees as an honest and likeable man.

In addition, Greg has served as director of MEDC for the past four years, two of which he served as president. He has also been the director of the Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees for the past three years. As if the aforementioned activities are not enough for one man, Greg also serves on the board of trustees of the Montrose United Methodist Church and for the past six years he has been an active member of the Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, Greg Majors is a valuable asset to the community of Montrose. So, it is with this that I say thank you to this man on behalf of the people of Western Colorado for his dedicated service and I wish him well in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY SHERIFF
ERIC ANDREW THACH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congresswoman MARY BONO, with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a fallen deputy sheriff from Sun City, California. Deputy Sheriff Eric Andrew Thach died Friday in the line of duty for his Riverside County community. We send our condolences and prayers to his family, neighbors and the community.

Eric Thach was 34 years of age and employed with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for three years, since September 1996. He leaves behind his young wife, Evelyn, and daughter, Shana. He also leaves behind neighbors and a community that will miss his constant self-sacrifice, generosity and quiet demeanor. And, now those left behind must pull together to support and strengthen each other during the coming months and years as they heal.

“Deputy Sheriff Eric Thach lived his life with strength and courage. He was a good man, taken from us too soon . . . He will live on in our memory and in the many respects paid to him by the community,” stated Riverside County Sheriff Larry D. Smith.

Eric Thach's sacrifice will be further remembered as his name is engraved next to the names of three fellow officers, also felled in the line of duty. The marker sits outside the Riverside County Sheriff's Department as a reminder to us all of the selfless duty for law enforcement officers assume as they protect the people or Riverside County—a sacrifice that we often take for granted. As Madam de Stael once said, “We understand death for the first time when he puts his hand upon the one whom we love.”

The National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial, though, says it the best, that “it is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived.” Many of us can not truly understand the latent danger associated with the day to day routines of our law enforcement officers. They put themselves in the line of danger everyday as they stop a vehicle, respond to an incident or a suspicious circumstances—like Deputy Thach. The danger and violence they face day in and day out is very real and it is times like these—sadly—that make us stop and honor our law enforcement officers. We hope that they be given such honor, respect and thanks always—not only when life's fragile nature is revealed. Deputy Eric Thach lived his life with this constantly in the forefront and his memory can be best served by us all doing the same.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that you and our colleagues join us today to remember this fine deputy. On behalf of the residents of Riverside County, we extend our prayers and most heartfelt sympathy to his family and loved ones.

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS MANAGED CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2723) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to share with my colleagues the stories of families in my District who have needlessly suffered in the absence of a real Patients' Bill of Rights.

I want to share with you a story that happened to one of my constituents in what is believed to be the first real brittle bone disease case in Orange County that has gone to trial.

Imagine this man's horror when his son was taken away and given to Child Protective Services because of alleged child abuse. This child was not abused, the child had an incurable disease that was mis-diagnosed.

It is unfathomable to me that the system, which is here to protect patients, would use outdated methods to diagnose this disease, have the patient suffer and not have Patient Protection Legislation for the worst case scenario to safeguard them from medical incompetency.