

REPROCESSED SINGLE USE MEDICAL DEVICE PATIENT SAFETY AMENDMENTS OF 1999

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my grave concerns about the practice of reprocessing and reusing single-use medical devices. There have been several recent media reports of medical devices intended for one use only being cleaned and used again on a different patient. Delicate devices, such as balloon catheters and biopsy forceps, are being reused on patients and causing infection and injuries.

It's estimated that as many as one in every three hospitals are reprocessing and reusing medical devices intended for single-use only. They are doing it without the consent of the patient and they are charging Medicare and the Federal Government the full price of a new device.

This practice is both deceptive and dangerous. Unsterile, brittle devices are injuring patients. A recent article in U.S. News & World Report told of a 50-year old woman who needed surgery when two reprocessed catheters broke during a brain scan. Premature babies have suffered infections from unsterile sutures. A biopsy patient was contaminated with hepatitis B from reused biopsy forceps.

Mr. Speaker, FDA clearly has the authority to regulate the practice of reusing medical devices yet it has failed to do so. Representative UPTON and I are introducing legislation today to ensure FDA regulation so that patients are protected. Our bill, the Reprocessed Single Use Medical Device Patient Safety Act of 1999, will require reprocessed medical devices to undergo pre-market approval for safety and effectiveness. The bill will also require hospitals to get a patient's informed consent before reusing a single-use medical device on them. Finally, the bill will require hospitals to monitor and report any injuries or infections that occur as a result of using a reprocessed medical device.

I understand the fiscal constraints hospitals are under. Managed health care has cut their payments so drastically that they feel pressured to cut costs wherever possible. However, we can't continue putting patients at risk in order to save a few dollars. We must put patients before profits. I urge my colleagues' support for the Reprocessed Single Use Medical Device Patient Safety Act of 1999.

TRIBUTE TO SETH RITCHIE, A
"NATIONAL CHAMP"

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to tell you of a truly remarkable young man. He has seen hardships in his life that no one should ever have to endure. In 1994, he was in a terrible automobile accident that left him paralyzed and took the life of his dear friend Delano Garcia. Despite all this,

Seth Ritchey has risen above his grave personal adversity to win his division at the U.S. Wheelchair Open Tennis Championships.

Although Seth picked up wheelchair tennis just a year and a half ago, already he has excelled beyond anyone's expectations. Three months after his first tennis clinic in Grand Junction, Colorado, he was playing in his first tournament. Although he met some adversity in that tournament, he came right back, showing his true spirit in the next tournament held in Florida. There he was matched up against the best competition on the Eastern Seaboard, but still managed to win his division. Last summer at the Doris Denker Wheelchair Tournament he again ran into some tough competition. This did not slow him down. He traveled to San Diego, California to compete against players from all over the world in the U.S. Wheelchair Open Tennis Championships earlier this month. There he played in two matches a day that each lasted for up to three hours against players that had twenty years of experience on him. He won his division and became national champion.

Rarely do I hear a story like Seth Ritchie's. He is a truly remarkable young man who gives me inspiration to achieve more. I hope that more people can hear his story and gain from it what I have. So, it is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say congratulations to Seth Ritchie for all of his accomplishments. He is a true hero and an inspiration to us all.

HONORING ANGUS C. BULLIS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angus C. Bullis, a resident of Mariposa for many years. Angus died on September 19, 1999, he was 74.

Mr. Bullis entered the service in 1941 where he served in the Navy Air Corps as a navigator until 1945. He started his painting contracting business in Fresno in 1956, and continued it for 43 years. Angus moved with his wife Helen and their family to Mariposa in 1968.

Angus Bullis served on the Mariposa County School Board for 12 years. He was also active in many organizations: Oddfellows Lodge #39, Rebekah Lodge #326, Life Member-Mariposa Golden Agers, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mariposa County Republican Central Committee, Mariposa County Farm Bureau as 4-H Council President, Mariposa Contractors Association, Mariposa Wine and Grape Growers Association and he received the Honorary PTA Service Award.

Angus' hobby for the past seven years had been developing a seven-acre Zinfandel grape vineyard that produced gold medal award wines.

Mr. Bullis is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, Helen, his children and many family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to the Bullis family. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Angus Bullis for his devotion to his family, the community and the United States Navy Air Corps.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent Monday, October 25, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 533 through 536. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 533, "yes" on rollcall vote 534, "yes" on rollcall vote 535, and "yes" on rollcall vote 536.

COMMEMORATING JUDGE DANIEL LEE KONKOL AS THE SOUTHSIDE BUSINESS CLUB MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge Daniel Konkol, named Man of the Year by the Southside Business Club. We celebrate his recognition because it is an affirmation of the American Dream, the story of a hardworking, first generation Polish-American who, by dint of hard work and perseverance, became one of the most respected jurists and community leaders in the Milwaukee area.

Daniel Lee Konkol attended DeSales Prep Seminary High School and graduated in 1969. Later he attended Marquette University where he received his B.A. degree in 1973 and his J.D. degree in 1976. Dan worked his way through high school and college holding many jobs, from a maintenance worker at various schools—and even a convent—to a short order cook at a drive-in run by his neighbor.

It didn't take long for Dan's talent and commitment to catch the eye of those in the legal community. Following graduation from law school, Dan was hired as an assistant district attorney for Racine County. He worked there for eight years under three district attorneys, gaining experience in prosecuting all types of criminal matters including homicides, armed robberies, burglaries, domestic violence, and welfare fraud.

In 1985, Dan was appointed an assistant Milwaukee County court commissioner by Circuit Court Chief Judge Victor Manian. While a commissioner in 1988, Dan published in the Milwaukee Lawyer an article titled "The New Paternity Law: Law and Procedures." In 1990, he received a Wisconsin State Bar Commendation for an article he published in the Wisconsin Lawyer titled "Civil Restraining Orders, Distinguishing Domestic Abuse and Harassment."

In 1992, with extensive help from many friends and relatives, Dan ran a low-budget election campaign and was selected by voters as judge of the newly created Milwaukee County Circuit Court Branch 44. In 1998 he was re-elected without opposition.

He is known for his signature sky blue judicial robes, his excellent judicial record and his involvement in numerous fraternal, business, and civic organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly commend Judge Daniel Konkol, named Man of the Year by the Southside Business Club.

CIVITAS PROGRAM RESTORING
HOPE IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks a delegation of educators and education officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina traveled to my district to continue their work with the Center for Civic Education in implementing a successful civic education initiative called Civitas @ Bosnia and Herzegovina which is restoring hope to that divided nation.

The Civitas initiative consists of an education for democracy program for elementary and secondary students in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the goal of promoting the development of a political culture supportive of democratic values, principles, and institutions.

The distinguished members of the delegation include: Rahela Dzidic, Executive Director, Civitas @ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Mile Ilic, Professor of Pedagogy and Psychology, University of Banja Luka, Banja Luka, Sanja Kantar, Philosophy Professor, Prijedor, Dejan Kronic, Counselor for Physics and Astronomy, Pedagogical Institute of the Republika Srpska, Civitas Regional Coordinator, Banja Luka, Anton Milos, Elementary School Principal, Civitas Municipal Coordinator for Kiseljak, Brestovsko, Ismet Salihbegovic, Deputy Minister of Education, Sarajevo Canton, Sarajevo, Halil Spago, Counselor for Education, Mostar Canton, Ministry of Education, Mostar, Esad Toromanovic, Sociology Professor, Civitas Cantonal Coordinator, Una Sana Canton, Bihac, Karlo Zelenika, Psychology and Pedagogy Professor, Civitas Cantonal Coordinator, Sikoki Brijeg, Masa Miskin, Translator, student, University of Sarajevo, Philosophy Faculty, Sarajevo, Aida Skaljac, Civitas Translator/Assistant, Sarajevo.

The Civitas initiative in Bosnia has produced impressive results. More than 2,500 teachers in all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been using Project Citizen, a program translated and adapted from a successful civic education middle school program used in the United States. The teachers also are using translated and adapted versions of selected lessons on basic concepts of democracy. In all of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the program has reached more than 100,000 elementary and secondary students since its inception in 1996.

The initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of the broader Civitas: An International Civic Education Exchange program administered by the Center for Civic Education. The program provides for a series of exchanges among leaders and educators in civic education in the United States and emerging and established democracies worldwide.

I applaud the promising results the Civitas initiative has already achieved and look forward to the continued success of the program.

IN MEMORY OF PRESIDENT
JULIUS NYERERE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a student, active in the African liberation movement, President Julius Nyerere was a source of inspiration to me. As a supporter, educator and celebrator of indigenous African cultures, Nyerere was a President who left an indelible mark not only on Africans of all countries, but of people of all nations.

It is fitting at this time to pay the utmost respect to his insight, which recognized the beauty and value of cultures that have so traditionally been devalued or exploited. President Nyerere, for example, promoted the use of Swahili, making this native African language the official language of Tanzania.

Those of us who were active in the movement against apartheid in South Africa, looked to Nyerere for this leadership, and emphasis on a collective system of government in which all people in the community are valued and provided for, ujamaa, or "familyhood".

Fittingly, President Nyerere was and is addressed throughout the world as "teacher", and his legacy of supporting and upholding the beauty of Africa for the world will live on in the people of Tanzania and everywhere.

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES SPENDING

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I am a longtime opponent of congressional pay raises and pork barrel spending. The time for us to make tough choices is most certainly here. I am encouraging the leadership of the House to reject attempts to cut spending on vital government programs across the board. Instead, let's eliminate the proposed congressional pay hike and the countless budget earmarks.

I staked out this proposal in a letter today to Speaker of the House DENNIS HASTERT requesting that he reject the proposed across-the-board spending cuts at a time when Congress is scheduled to receive a pay raise. I am also suggesting that Speaker HASTERT should turn back the spending programs we call "earmarks."

In light of budget realities and constraints on spending, we must define and protect our priorities as we are forced to make other spending sacrifices. The proposed 1.4 percent across-the-board spending cut would have disastrous effects on critical programs such as defense and education, as well as vital programs for senior citizens.

This reckless round of cuts would threaten our military's readiness and reduce the number of men and women in uniform. Cutting across the board could deprive almost 7,000 children and their families of the proven value of the Head Start program. Furthermore, the cuts would reduce aid to our nation's farmers. Disaster assistance and income assistance would both be reduced at a time when they are so badly needed.

My proposal could save the government billions of dollars. Giving up the 3.4 percent pay raise and cutting away earmarked proposals would eliminate the need for indiscriminate spending cuts which would devastate already under-funded programs.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. We have to make the tough choices that the American people sent us here to make. For us to meet our obligations and protect Social Security, we will have to make sacrifices. We will have to do the right thing.

I am hopeful that the House leadership will make the right choice at this critical moment in the budget debate. It will take courage. It will require us to make tough choices. And that's our job.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MARY FARLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker. It is with great honor and profound sadness that I now rise to pay tribute to the life of Pueblo, Colorado's great civic matriarch, Mary Farley. After living a remarkably accomplished life that spanned 94 years, sadly, Mrs. Farley passed away earlier this month. But even as we mourn her passing, everyone who knew Mary should take comfort in the truly incredible life she led.

Since the 1930's, few can claim a place in the Pueblo community as lofty as Mary. Her accomplishments and contributions, Mr. Speaker, were many. During WWII, she co-chaired Pueblo's war bond drive and also served as secretary for the Community welfare council. In the 1960's, she and her husband—the equally distinguished late Dr. John Farley—founded the Farley Foundation which quickly became a leading philanthropic force in the community, state, and nation.

In recognition of her tireless civic endeavors touting noble causes like historical, environmental, and cultural preservation, Mary was inducted into the Pueblo Hall of Fame in 1994.

While her personal accomplishments are many, none are more weighty than the remarkable legacy she has left in her family. Mary's son, Tom Farley, now a leading attorney in the Pueblo area, has been a powerful voice in Colorado's political circles, serving as a state legislator and political activist. Kathy Farley, Mary's daughter, has followed her mother's lead as a community activist, serving as the Director of the Southern Colorado Community Foundation after a two term stint as a powerful advocate on the Pueblo County Commission. Ultimately, while John and Mary can be proud of all the many things they accomplished together, none could surpass what they have left in their children.

It has been said, Mr. Speaker, that the ultimate measure of a person's life is the extent to which they made the world a better place. If, indeed, this is the measure of worth in life, Mary's friends, family, and the Pueblo community can all attest to the success of the life she led. Indeed, both the Pueblo community and the great State of Colorado will benefit for many generations from Mary Farley's tireless drive to make her world a better place for us all.