

by, barely making it to the next pay-day.

I think that is wrong.

MANAGED CARE DISCHARGE PETITION

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, instead of addressing the crisis of health care in our Nation, we keep finding excuse after excuse to block progress on this issue.

Let us stop the delay. We have a road map for reforming HMO care, the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights.

There is not a one of us who would choose an MBA over an M.D. when it comes to our family's medical health, but that is exactly what has happened to our health care system. We have taken the power away from those who know and care about saving lives and we have given it to people whose priority is simply making money.

It needs to change, and that change can begin today.

I ask every Member on both sides of the aisle to join me in signing this petition to make sure that the needs of America's families are not pushed aside yet again, and to make sure we fulfill our responsibility to working families and prevent them from worrying about whether their children will get the care they need and deserve for another year.

Let us stop the obstruction, let us sign the petition, and let us get to work.

KHRUSHCHEV'S SON WILL NOT VOTE DEMOCRATIC

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, last month the previous speaker suggested Congress raise taxes and lower our national defense. Last week, the head of the Democrat Congressional Campaign Committee said Democrats have written off rural America in the 2000 election. What could be next?

According to the Washington Post, Nikita Khrushchev's son, Sergei Khrushchev, becomes a United States citizen today after living in the United States for 8 years.

Now, before my Democrat friends celebrate another socialist joining their ranks, consider this. Mr. Khrushchev says, "I will not vote for Democrats. It is too dangerous now for the country."

At a time when even the children of Communists have rejected the Democrats as too dangerous, the American people are preparing another message for them in the 2000 election: "We will bury you."

MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, some of us think the problem is that too many people across America are being buried, buried unnecessarily because they have been managed out of their managed health care.

We gather here today to sign a petition to discharge from a Republican committee stranglehold a bill of rights for health care consumers. We gather to discharge this vital legislation because the Republican leadership has failed to discharge its responsibilities to the American people.

For too many folks, managed health care just means being managed out of the care that they need. Under our bill, physicians will be able to provide the best quality health care available rather than having some clerk be rewarded for denying care with a bonus.

The Republican leadership has served the insurance industry very well in blocking this bill. We believe it is time to discharge it for floor action, time to serve America's health care consumers, not the insurance lobby and the HMOs that are denying Americans the quality of care and the rights that they deserve.

BATTLE BETWEEN CONGRES- SIONAL LIBERALS AND REPUB- LICAN PARTY

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, there is a battle going on in this country, a fierce struggle between two opposing forces, each of enormous strength.

The battle is between the greedy hand of big government and the people. Individual liberty is at stake.

On one side stands the defenders of the greedy hand of big government, the liberals in Congress. On the other side stands the defenders of individual liberty, the Republican Party.

One side defends the greedy hand of big government at every turn, every day, on every bill, on every bureaucratic decision. The other side strains mightily to provide tax relief for working Americans and resists the siren call of the Washington politicians who claim that big government is the answer to all our problems.

Does anyone doubt the truth of this? If so, who on the other side will step forward and refute them? Who on the other side will denounce the greedy hand of big government and voice this support for individual liberty through tax relief and against the forces which erode our liberty with each passing day?

INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW VIO- LATIONS COST 10,000 STEEL- WORKER JOBS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, over 10,000 steelworkers have lost their jobs because Japan, Russia, South Korea and China are violating international trade laws. And after all of that, the White House says, America will not violate international trade laws, and the White House has helped to kill the import steel quota bill.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. There is not one citizen of Japan, Russia, China or South Korea that voted for this White House crew. Nearly 99 percent of those steelworkers who lost their job voted for that White House crew.

I think it is time that Uncle Sam requires everybody to heed the law, but if they are going to break it, by God, we should impose strict import quotas.

I yield back any manufacturing jobs still left in our country.

TIME FOR A TAX CUT

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, time and time again my liberal friends march down to the well of the House to rail against tax cuts for the rich. Ironically, their misleading rhetoric never includes a definition of what constitutes being rich. This is because many of the people they are talking about would be shocked to learn that big-spending politicians consider them rich.

Take, for example, a young married couple earning \$72,000 a year. This couple falls into the top 10 percent of tax-paying households and would surely be branded as greedy and undeserving of any tax relief by the rhetorical rants coming from the left side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, this is demagoguery, it is disingenuous, and it is not true. I would hope it would come to an end. I implore my Democratic colleagues to stop their misleading tactics and join the Republican Party's majority effort to provide an across-the-board tax cut to every American who pays Federal income taxes.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here this morning, we know that we are in the greatest country in the world. We have been responsible for finding all kinds of interventions for our health care, and we enjoy the best skill and best knowledge in the world for health care.

Yet American people do not have access to that care, the care that they have paid for through their tax dollars for the research. And yet we beg now and plead with the HMOs and the managed care insurance to allow people to have access to just basic health care. They need access to just needed care. They do not want to be treated one-size-fits-all.

Whether you are 7 or 70 in this country under HMOs, if you have got a certain diagnosis, you all get treated the same. That does not address individual needs. Doctors need the freedom to practice the art and the science that they have learned and that they are capable of doing. They do not have that right under our present system. They are pushed out on the line and given instructions by the HMOs, and yet the HMOs do not even want to be responsible for what they tell the physicians to do.

It is time for change. The American people are calling for it.

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FREEDOM FOR EDUCATION

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, the essence of America, as we all know, is freedom, but somehow, that does not apply to education. Because the door slams shut on so many parents across this country when they want to have the freedom to choose the best education possible for their children.

Too often, too many Federal dollars are wasted here in Washington and not enough spent back home in Staten Island and across this country where the parents and the teachers, the local communities know better how to spend their funds.

Well, the Republican Party recently is embarking on a path towards freedom when it comes to education, and that is to allow States the opportunity and local communities to spend the money as they see fit. Can anyone in this country acknowledge that the folks here in Washington are in a better position to spend the money on education than back home where they are? Where the parents and teachers and administrators are? I think not.

Mr. Speaker, let us support freedom for education. Let us support the opportunity to send Federal money back home across America, and not be wasted here in Washington.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Colorado that said he would bury us as Democrats, I guess going on their experience, they buried

managed care reform for 2 years, so they have that kind of experience.

Let me talk this morning about some ads that are in the Washington publications that talk about how the Dingell bill will be more expensive. Well, let me give my colleagues the Texas experience. We have had managed care reform in Texas for 2 years and the reason it is going to be more expensive is that they are going to have to start paying claims. They have lost half of the appeals process, so I would much rather have better than a flip-of-the-coin odds if I am going to managed care for health care.

Mr. Speaker, a 500 percentage may be great if one is a baseball player who will be making \$10 million, but when one is deciding whether one is going to have adequate health care, I would rather have a better percentage than a flip of the coin. They are actually going to have to pay those claims.

We need a real patients' bill of rights that has everything in it: accountability, access to specialists, a real appeals process, and no gag rules and medical necessity. That is why I do not think they are going to have the experience in burying this bill any more.

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS FOR MEDICARE PATIENTS

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

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am a physician. Thirty years ago when I finished medical school, most of the patient's care was in-patient, and most of the pharmaceutical benefit was in-patient. Today, 25 percent of the cost of health care for Medicare patients is the pharmaceutical benefit. This is because most of health care for seniors and for everyone else is carried out on an out-patient basis today.

I feel that Medicare patients need some help with their pharmaceutical benefits. The truth is, two-thirds of Medicare patients already have a benefit. This two-thirds of the Medicare population does not need a pharmaceutical benefit. That leaves one-third who, in many cases, have high expenses for their pharmaceutical costs and desperately need some help with their Medicare benefits.

Medicare needs an integrated system with Medicare that will pay for these benefits. We have the best pharmaceutical industry in the world. We do not need to put them under the bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican supports a Medicare benefit for pharmaceuticals.

IMPROVING AMERICANS' ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, first it was campaign finance reform, then it was gun safety and school violence, now it is health care reform. There is an unfortunate pattern taking place here with the Republican leadership. On issue after issue, issues that are important to the people, the Republican leadership uses its power to stomp out real discussion.

Fortunately, we have an alternative, and that is the discharge petition, and we are signing it here today. Democrats have been waiting for 2 years to pass the Patients' Bill of Rights, and today we step forward to improve Americans' access to health care. Let us not be fooled by breaking last year's sham bill into eight pieces. The Republican leadership wants health care reform to be in small pieces. This will not sell. The American Medical Association says that the Republican package of bills falls short of the mark and it does not solve any of the problems of doctors and patients.

It is time to put doctors and their patients back in charge of health care reform.

FREE SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKBOX LEGISLATION

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today is day number 63 of the latest hostage crisis. It is a hostage crisis that is not getting much attention in the mainstream media, but it has grave implications for current and future retirees nonetheless.

Since April 21 of this year, Democrats in the other body have blocked a Herger lockbox proposal, refusing to allow it to even come to a vote.

What is being held hostage is legislation to create a Social Security lockbox; in other words, legislation to create a safe deposit box that would put an end to the time-honored practice in Washington of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund whenever politicians want to expand government.

Republicans in the House of Representatives have passed Social Security lockbox legislation. We want to protect the Social Security Trust Fund from further raids. The other side is adamantly against it. Once we get into the habit of raiding a cookie jar, it is awfully tough to quit. It is time to end the hostage crisis and free the Social Security lockbox and protect seniors from more raids on the Social Security Trust Fund.

FEDERAL RESERVE SHOULD NOT RAISE INTEREST RATES

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board appearing before the Joint