

SMALLER SCHOOLS, STRONGER COMMUNITIES ACT WILL STRENGTHEN SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN SCHOOLS

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

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the recent violence we have seen in our schools has made all of us take a serious look at our children, our schools, and ourselves. Too many of our children wake up every day and go to schools that make them feel disconnected and detached from their teachers, their parents, and their communities.

I am introducing a bill tomorrow called the Smaller Schools, Stronger Communities Act which I hope will make our schools smaller and strengthen the sense of community and safety that many of our schools today are lacking.

A principal of a successful small high school recently wrote that small schools "offer what metal detectors and guards cannot, the safety and security of being where you are well-known by people who care for you."

I hope this bill will encourage local school districts to find new ways to help their students feel connected to their schools, their communities, and their parents.

DAY 132 OF SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKBOX BEING HELD HOSTAGE

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

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, this is day 132 of the Social Security lockbox held hostage in the Senate. Today's seniors and the seniors of tomorrow demand that we act as responsible stewards of the hard-earned money that they pay into Social Security.

Now there are two things we need to do to protect Social Security: first, we must act responsibly this year and pass spending bills without dipping into Social Security, and we are; second, we must work to see that institutional protections like the lockbox become law.

This House passed the lockbox bill by a vote of 416 to 12 on May 26. For 132 days, the other body has held this bill hostage.

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I hope President Clinton and all who say they are concerned about protecting Social Security call on the Senate for action on the Social Security lockbox bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). The Chair will remind Members to avoid urging action of the other body, the Senate, in their remarks.

AMERICA WANTS HMO REFORM THAT PUTS PATIENTS AHEAD OF PROFITS

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

Ms. DELAUBO. Mr. Speaker, the American public has consistently called for HMO reforms that put patients ahead of profits. Just as we are about to debate the bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights, the Republican leadership and the insurance industry have set traps to weaken and kill sensible patient protections.

Earlier this week, the Republican leadership held a fund-raiser with insurance industry lobbyists, the most rabid opponents of HMO reform, and filled their pockets with campaign donations. Their motives are transparent: set traps for HMO reform and collect checks from the insurance industry. The Republican leadership is displaying upside-down values that put campaign favors ahead of HMO reform.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the Republican leadership that in this body rank-and-file Democrats and Republicans have come together around a bipartisan piece of legislation that is a good piece of health care reform legislation. The Republican leadership in this House is attempting to thwart the will of the Democrats and the Republicans here, and thwart the will of the American people that wants access to emergency rooms and specialty care, that wants to have prescription drugs, and that allows them to sue an HMO if they have proceeded irresponsibly.

AMERICA NEEDS PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS, NOT LAWYERS' RIGHT TO BILL

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the outlook of my colleague from Connecticut, and it is unique in her interpretation of what transpires.

For example, the silence is deafening from my friends on the left when it comes to Communist Chinese contributions to their political party and the President of the United States. Very interesting that they do not have a word to say about that. Oh, they do talk about campaign finance reform. But that is akin to Bonnie and Clyde, at the height of their crime spree, calling for a press conference for tougher penalties against bank robbery.

Make no mistake, my friends on the left love trial lawyers, and what they want instead of a true patients' bill of rights is a lawyers' right to bill. The Wall Street Journal opined yesterday that the left has been held hostage by the trial lawyers' lobby.

I know they will get up and be very clever today, but remember the facts:

We need a true patients' bill of rights, not a lawyers' right to bill.

APPROVE BIPARTISAN PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, of course the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is right. I think all America recognizes it is just a matter of coincidence that the Republican Party here in the House sucked out every dollar it could from the managed care and insurance companies on the eve of the consideration of a meaningful patients' bill of rights.

What I prefer to focus on is not their failure but our success, a success in the Lone Star State. This is experience that this Congress should follow to protect health care consumers across this country. We began in Texas with bipartisan participation in crafting meaningful guarantees for every person in managed health care.

Texas recognized that we have to reject the same sham insurance company talk that is being advanced here today, and the same misinformation that clutters the television airwaves. The result has been what Governor Bush's own insurance commissioner calls one of the most effective consumer laws in the country.

Unfortunately, a Federal law is interfering with the ability of Texas and other States to assure patients full guarantees. Let us approve the bipartisan patients' bill of rights, empower the States, and empower the patients.

REPUBLICANS ARE FIGHTING TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

(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, the previous gentleman from Texas spoke very well, as a trial lawyer would. But I want to talk about the throes of a great struggle we are in to restore the integrity of the Social Security Trust Fund.

If the Republicans in the House are successful, not one penny of the Social Security surplus will be spent on wasteful Washington spending. Last night, the Republicans passed a foreign operations bill that cuts the amount of foreign aid Americans send overseas. Why is that good? It reflects disciplined spending, it cuts growth in the Federal Government, and it protects the Social Security surplus.

The President now has threatened to veto the bill. Why? Because he wants to spend \$2 billion more on foreign aid. Now, that alone troubles most Americans. But what brings us to despair is that this \$2 billion more the President wants to spend will come right out of

the Social Security Trust Fund. The President intends to spend \$2 billion more of the Social Security Trust Fund not here in America but overseas.

Mr. Speaker, we are fighting to protect the Social Security surplus not only for this year but for the next year, the year 2000.

MAKING EDUCATION MORE AFFORDABLE

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire. But, Mr. Speaker, how can our children keep the flames of education alive when for many college education, so necessary in today's job market, seems unaffordable and out of reach.

As a former educator and school administrator, I know of the difficulties that working families encounter with the skyrocketing costs of a college education. While in the Florida legislature, I made it a priority to create the Florida Prepaid College Tuition Plan, helping thousands of Florida's families. In Congress, I have continued to support legislation aimed at providing tax deductions for families of college students, particularly lower-income families.

As legislators, it is our duty to ensure that a college education is made affordable. And tax deductions and incentives are a surefire way of relieving working families who aspire to send their children to college. Our future can only be as good as the education of our children.

Our congressional leadership is making students a priority, and we will work to pass legislation that will enable them to attend college, to reach their goals, and supply them with the necessary tools to create an even better America.

HOUSE FACES HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY IN HMO REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives has an enormously historic opportunity, an opportunity that America has been asking for time, after time, after time. And that is just to provide equity in the health management organizations that provide insurance for a great number of hard-working American families.

All America asks for is that we respond to their desires to emphasize the patient-physician relationship; that we do not have drive-by emergency rooms; that we allow women to use their OB-GYN; and, yes, that we give them the opportunity when an HMO intercedes between a physician-patient relation-

ship and denies coverage or care and our loved one is injured or they are made worse or they die, that they have the opportunity to seek redress of their grievance, similar to the constitutional fathers who came and organized and made this country great.

So I would say, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that we will not interject poisonous amendments that will take away from the American people the opportunity to see a fair and just HMO plan. We should vote for the Patients' Bill of Rights. Let us do this together as one country, one Nation, and one Congress.

FOREIGN AID ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Federal investigators are still sorting through the evidence in what may well be the biggest money laundering scandal in U.S. history.

The United States has provided billions of dollars in direct foreign aid to Russia since the breakup of the foreign Soviet Union. Much of the money is missing, unaccounted for. The taxpayers have also underwritten billions more in International Monetary Fund commitments. What we are apparently seeing right now is a pretty good example of what happens when we throw good money after bad. Let us face it, someone has been asleep at the switch.

This Congress is doing the right thing by reducing foreign aid spending, as we voted to do just last night, President Clinton's objections notwithstanding. But we need to do more. We need to make sure that the Clinton administration ensures that our tax dollars are not being diverted inappropriately or outright stolen. We need to ensure that somebody is looking out for the American taxpayers. We need some accountability, finally, at the White House.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO TAKE UP A SCHOOL FACILITIES BILL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, modern well-equipped schools in good repair are an important part of a good learning environment, yet we are lacking badly in our efforts to keep up with school facilities needs.

In my home State, California, we need 10,791 classrooms in the next 5 years in order to keep up. That is 6 classrooms per day that we are going to need to build for the next 5 years.

Facilities are necessary to keep up with the new technology that we are putting in schools and to meet the needs of the growing student population, enrollment that grew to a record high last year of 53.2 million

students. And it is projected that next year it will grow by another 440,000 students.

Mr. Speaker, it is paramount that we have a school facility bill on this floor to address these needs.

FEDERAL RED TAPE IS STRANGLING AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Federal red tape is strangling America's public schools. As long as the bureaucrats maintain their death grip on school districts across America, schools will struggle with their effort to get better.

So when we talk about how much money we are spending on education, let us also talk about how we are spending that money. Let us stop focusing on process and start focusing on what really matters: Results.

That is what Republican education reform is all about. It is about fewer layers of bureaucracy and more dollars to the classroom. It is about less red tape and more student achievement. It is about allowing parents to take their kids out of bad schools and put them into good ones. It is about putting more decisions into the hands of teachers and parents and fewer decisions in the hands of the bureaucrats. It is about giving America's children the chance for a brighter future.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SERGEANT JASON PRINGLE

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on last Friday, October 1, my hometown suffered a grave loss. A paratrooper, Army Sergeant Jason Pringle, died while serving this country in Kosovo as part of the Army's elite Company A, 1-508th Airborne Battalion Combat Team. Jason, a 24-year-old army medic had served this Nation since his graduation from Palm Bay High School in 1993.

I never had the opportunity to meet Jason, but I wish I had. He was a fine young man with a bright future. I, too, served in the Army in its medical corps, and I met many young people like Jason during my service, and it was always a privilege.

It is tragic that this has happened; that the state of the world is such that we have to have our brave men and women all over the globe. It is tragic that a father has lost his son, a mother has lost her child.

To Jason: Thank you for giving the greatest gift, your life, for our continued freedom and the freedom of others.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND JAMES RIADY IN NEW ZEALAND

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House