

citizens. Let us not let them down. Vote for the Norwood-Dingell bill today, the most effective of all the proposals.

GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO'S CALL FOR DRUG LEGALIZATION

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

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, the Governor of New Mexico, Gary Johnson, has been calling for the legalization of mind-altering drugs. His rationale for throwing in the towel is his mistaken belief that we are losing the war on drugs.

Regrettably, under the Clinton administration, there has not been a balanced supply-and-demand-side fight against drugs. In fact, the war on drugs never truly began at its source in places like Colombia, since all of it was concentrated on treating the wounded here at home.

During the Reagan and Bush era, when we fought this battle against drugs on both the supply side and demand side simultaneously, we made real progress. Between 1985 and 1992, we reduced monthly cocaine use by nearly 80 percent. That is real progress.

In the city of Baltimore, we have learned firsthand the disastrous impact of a de facto legalization program and the lax attitude as has been proposed by Governor Johnson. The number of heroin addicts increased dramatically during a long laissez-faire period while population declined. Today, one in 17 citizens of Baltimore are heroin addicts. No one would agree that is any solution to the drug use problem. That is what Governor Johnson's legalization plan would bring to our Nation.

I urge the Governor to reconsider his stand.

WEST VIRGINIANS DESERVE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. WISE. Madam Speaker, today, almost 200,000 people in West Virginia in HMOs and thousands more in managed care are watching Congress today. Today, this Congress has a chance to pass real health care reform.

If one's car is sick, one gets to choose one's mechanic. Do not my colleagues think people have the same rights when they are choosing their doctor?

This bill provides guaranteed access to emergency room care. It protects the doctor-patient relationship. It gives more rights to choose OB/GYNs and pediatricians. It has strong enforcement provisions against violation of patient rights. It holds HMOs and insurance companies accountable for their medical decisions. It has a real appeals process when an insurance company denies treatment.

From the Northern Panhandle, where 44 percent of all insured in Ohio County

alone are in HMOs, to the growing 25 percent in the Kanawha Valley, to the thousands more across the State of West Virginia, there is a bill of rights for all citizens. Should there not be a bill of rights for patients in managed care?

I urge Congress to pass this today.

BIENNIAL BUDGET: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, in the next 3 weeks, we will see, perhaps, the best and worst of democracy in action; and that is why I have called for a biennial budget review process.

I have a bill, H.R. 493, I hope my colleagues will look at this. I am a firm believer that, by adopting such measure, we will remove this inherent politics every year that so often occurs during budget negotiations.

What I would like to see is the first session of Congress being dedicated to passing all of the 13 appropriations bills, then the second session of Congress would be dedicated to authorizing these bills, and then to look at oversight of the laws that we have passed.

Let us investigate and evaluate all these laws we pass every year. The current way of doing business often leads to a stalemate where politics prevails. This country deserves better.

IT IS NOT MANAGED CARE ANY MORE, IT IS MANAGED COSTS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, America's the land of the free, but one cannot choose one's doctor. Freedom of speech; but doctors are gagged. Judicial review; HMOs are judge and jury.

Madam Speaker, health care in America has gone from the Constitution to HMOs. Beam me up. It is not managed care any more; it is managed costs. It is time for Congress to vote on behalf of the American people and pass the Patients' Bill of Rights, stone cold simple remedy today.

I yield back more medicine than ever in America and less health care.

IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING AWARENESS OF THYROID DISEASE

(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. Madam Speaker, the women of our country form the backbone of strong, healthy families. However, it is American women who are often subject to debilitating and sometimes life-threatening diseases which subsequently deteriorate the stability of American households.

This week, I had the privilege of speaking to a remarkable woman who fights a valiant battle against a thyroid disorder known as Graves disease. This woman is none other than three-time Olympic track and field gold medalist Gail Devers. In spite of her illness, Gail will compete in the upcoming Olympics.

Approximately one in eight women will develop a similar thyroid disorder during her lifetime, and more than half of American women over 40 experience three or more common symptoms; yet, they fail to discuss them with their doctors.

To help raise awareness, Gail has joined forces with the American Women's Medical Association to launch a public, nationwide education campaign designed to increase awareness of thyroid disease.

Yesterday, the Congressional Prevention Coalition provided free thyroid screening, and I encourage all of our colleagues to embark on an educational campaign on the dangers of thyroid diseases.

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS MANAGED CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2723, the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act of 1999.

Enactment of this bill is the answer to the letter I received from a mother and a constituent in my district. She wrote, "When my middle son was born, the insurance company wouldn't let my son stay in the hospital one extra day to finish the course of antibiotics. They sent him home with a shunt in his arm. The neonatologist has warned us that typically in babies so small the shunt comes out and then you have to start the antibiotics all over again orally and that they would upset the baby's symptom, causing severe intestinal distress and diarrhea, not good for a newborn. My son's shunt came out, and he screamed for 2 weeks."

This baby deserved better. This bill assures that doctors, not insurance companies, decide how long newborns get to stay in the hospital when they are sick. Let us act now. Let us pass H.R. 2723.

GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA SHOULD BE HONORED WITH NATIONAL DAY OF RECOGNITION

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I am here today to propose a national holiday in honor of the Governor in Minnesota, Jesse Ventura.

After all, he confounded the pundits, the pollsters, and the prognosticators by winning the highest office in the State at a time when most voters thought of him as "Jesse the Body."

He continues to confound everyone. Not too much notice was made when he indicated he would like to be re-incarnated as a large bra, but eyebrows did raise when he referred to members of the Armed Forces as Frankenstein monsters that cannot be controlled.

Then, of course, he outdid Oliver Stone by suggesting that President John Kennedy was killed by our own military-industrial complex in order to stimulate business.

Who can forget his plunge into theology? "Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers," the Governor said.

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So today I am proposing we name a day after Jesse Ventura, and the day I have chosen is April 1. That is right, April Fool's Day, because I can think of no one that so embodies the spirit of that day as the Governor of Minnesota.

AMERICANS SHOULD VOICE THEIR SUPPORT FOR NORWOOD-DINGELL BILL

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday I introduced into the RECORD the testimony from Dr. Thomas W. Self, an M.D. educated at Yale and UCLA, but an M.D. that has fallen victim to being terminated because his only grievance and error was spending too much time with patients.

Today, America's voices can be heard, and we ask that all Americans' voices be heard on a revolutionary idea, that is, that the patient and the physician are the two most important individuals who should assess the health condition of American patients on the precipice of the 21st century.

Today we have the opportunity to defeat poison pill bills that will do nothing but undermine the true essence of what we are trying to do. The Norwood-Dingell bill will emphasize the relationship of patient to physician. It will allow individuals to get into an emergency room, allow them to get the care that they need; it will allow women to have a relationship with their OB-GYN, and it will ensure that a patient can press their grievance when medical care is denied.

This is a day when patients will be able to determine that they are not commodities but that they are people. America should, today, let their voices be heard on the floor of the United States Congress that the Norwood-Dingell bill should pass.

TO DETERMINE CREDIBILITY, LOOK TO THE RECORD

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, sometimes it is difficult for people to tell who is being straight with them and who is being misleading or disingenuous. One way to help decide who ought to be believed and who not is to look at the record and the credibility of those making various claims.

Take Social Security, for example. The record will show that the other party controlled this House for 40 years, along with its appropriations process, and not only failed to put aside one dime of the Social Security surplus; but 30 years ago they began the annual practice of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for things other than Social Security and left us with a huge Federal debt.

Just a few months ago, the other party turned their backs on the President's own Commission on Social Security because bipartisan Social Security reform would take away their ability to scare seniors on the issue in the next election process.

Republicans, on the other hand, have passed Social Security lockbox legislation that locks away 100 percent of Social Security taxes for Social Security and Medicare, and they have been reserving H.R. 1 even to this day for the President's proposal on Social Security reform.

So in judging credibility, look at the record, not just rhetoric.

VOTE AGAINST COBURN SUBSTITUTE AND FOR NORWOOD-DINGELL

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

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, as a former member of a State legislature, both the House and Senate, I implore my colleagues today to support the Dingell-Norwood bill because it reserves in the States what for 2 centuries has been a clear right of every State in this Nation, and that is to control the medical malpractice laws of our country.

Why should we be able to sue a doctor for malpractice in State court but have to go to Federal Court to sue a managed care company? That is what the Coburn substitute does. That proposal is wrong; it does injustice to our State legislatures who work hard to be sure that we have malpractice protections for our citizens. It creates a new Federal cause of action that means individuals will have to go into Federal court.

If we read the Coburn substitute carefully, we will find out that it denies due process even after someone gets to Federal court, because the Coburn substitute says that when an individual gets to Federal court, it is the decision of the external review panel that governs and that individual has no right to challenge that once they get to Federal court.

I think it is a travesty of justice to support the Coburn substitute, and I

urge the passage of the Norwood-Dingell bill.

WILDERNESS ISSUES IN THE WEST

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

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, one of the most contentious issues we have in the West is called wilderness. We find it very interesting, because whole industries have started because of this. They come in and have their attorneys and their accountants, and they come up and do all they can to get all our brethren to sign on to their bills, which everybody knows means nothing. We find it interesting because they start out with a small amount, and it just keeps going up.

Today, I am introducing a bill which will solve many of the problems of the great State of Utah, and I think this particular bill would be something that we could finally resolve this. This bill will call for 2.3 million acres of wilderness in the State of Utah.

But we have to be concerned about the local people there. For some reason, a lot of our people from the East think it is a throw-away vote to give away our western land. The people who live on the land, who make their living there, who recreate on the land should have a hand in this.

Today, I am very concerned about the Utah Test and Training Range. For those of us who sit on the military committees, we realize that the Utah Test and Training Range is the best training range the United States Air Force has. And if another bill goes through, we will find that we are killing the golden goose, and we will not be able to train our pilots. I will assure the military there will be nothing in this bill that will be detrimental to this.

Madam Speaker, I would hope that my colleagues could join us on this good piece of legislation and finally resolve an issue that has been very contentious to the West.

SUPPORT DEMOCRATS' PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. KLICK. Madam Speaker, back in 1994, the insurance companies of this country spent tens of millions of dollars having Harry and Louise tell us that we did not want the Government to control our health care, and they won. And as a result, now the insurance companies control our health care. Now managed care means if we need health care, we are going to have to learn to manage.

Beginning in early 1997, when I heard complaints from doctors and from patients, I held a series of health care forums across my district. Over 60 hours