

A conference that produces legislation that looks like the Senate Republican bill would break faith with the American people, make a mockery of the overwhelming vote in the House of Representatives, and cause unnecessary suffering for millions of patients.

That is why more than 300 groups representing patients, doctors, nurses, and other caregivers, and families support the Norwood-Dingell bill, but only the insurance industry supports the Senate proposal.

For every patient right in the Senate Republican bill, there is an industry loophole. If the truth in labeling law applied to legislation, every page of the bill would flunk the test, because every promise of patient protection comes with loopholes to protect HMOs and health insurers. The promise to patients is always broken.

At its most basic level, the decision before Congress is whether critical medical decisions will be made by doctors and patients, or HMO accountants.

It is time to protect families against abuses by a faceless insurance bureaucracy that can rob average citizens of their savings and their peace of mind, and often their health and their very lives.

For the millions of Americans who rely on health insurance to protect them and their loved ones when serious illness strikes, the Norwood-Dingell bill is a matter of life and death, and deserves to be passed by Congress.

Every day we delay in passing these reforms means that more patients will suffer and die. Congress has an obligation to act and to act now.

The abuses that take place every day should have no place in American medicine. Every doctor knows it. Every nurse knows it. Every patient knows it. The American people know it—and it is time the Republican leadership heeded their views.

The first test of the sincerity of the Republican leadership will come this week when the House conferees are appointed. Will a majority of the House conferees come from those who supported the Norwood-Dingell bill, not just on final passage, but on the critical vote to replace it with the leadership-backed alternative?

The second test will come in the conference itself. The danger is that the process will go into slow motion so that nothing happens until Congress adjourns for this session. There is ample time for genuine bipartisan negotiations to produce a strong, bipartisan bill that Congress can pass and the President can sign before the session ends.

The issues are well-known. There is no need for the conference to be time-consuming—no need unless the objective is to pass a watered down bill, or nothing at all. The Norwood-Dingell bill received overwhelming bipartisan support in the House of Representatives. The Senate conferees should do the right thing and simply accept that bill.

The choice is clear. Prompt action to protect patients and their families—or more delay and denial. Those who profit from the status quo have delayed action long enough. It is time for Congress to provide every family the protection they deserve.

Mr. President, Friday, we had the appointment of the conferees to represent the Senate with the House of Representatives on the HMO bill, the Patients' Bill of Rights legislation.

We want to let the Senate know we are prepared to meet today, tomorrow, the next day, and every single day to try to get a resolution of that issue because we know that every single day we do not act and have strong legislation, like the House of Representatives, American families are endangered and Americans are being hurt. That is wrong. We have the chance to act. On our side of the aisle, we are prepared to take action. We are prepared to meet. We believe this is one of the most important efforts we will have in this Congress.

We will continue to challenge our colleagues on the other side to move ahead and have a conference. We have debated these issues. We have had a long time to debate them. We have had extensive debates in committee and for over a week on the floor of the Senate.

Let's get about protecting the American citizens on that Patients' Bill of Rights—letting doctors make decisions rather than accountants. Every day, as I mentioned, that we fail to do so, we fail to protect American families. We want to go about America's business and families' business on health care. We are prepared to meet in conference now and every day in the future.

I thank the Chair.

ON THE 1999-2000 AMERICA'S CUP

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, today I call to the attention of my colleagues the battle for the America's Cup, which begins this week in the Hauraki Gulf off Auckland, New Zealand. Five American and six international challengers are competing for the right to face Team New Zealand in races beginning next February.

This competition, which promises to be a long, hard-fought affair, gives me an opportunity to share with my fellow Senators some thoughts on Rhode Island's celebrated history in yachting. It began in London in 1851, when the America's Cup was designed and crafted as a trophy for a race around the Isle of Wight. The cup was named after the yacht *America* which first won the trophy by beating the British yachts at Cowes. Yacht racing had only recently begun in North America at the time; John Cox Stevens had founded the New York Yacht Club in 1844 and in 1851 was still its first Commodore.

But yacht racing was not so new in Britain, where forms of yachting had been a sport for about 250 years. In the mid-1850's, Britannia ruled the waves in all respects, and it would never have

occurred to them that an American outfit could challenge their yachting dominance.

In 1857, John Stevens decided that the cup would be better in the hands of the New York Yacht Club for safekeeping and for organizing challenges. The cup, which graced the halls of the New York Yacht Club, became known as the America's Cup and this has continued for 145 years. Until 1983, the New York Yacht Club successfully defended the cup in races off Newport, Rhode Island, a venue which deservedly has come to be considered one of the sailing capitals of the world.

During these years, a great many Rhode Islanders stood out and earned outstanding reputations in this sport. Most notably, Nathanael Greene Herreshoff, "The Wizard of Bristol," joined his visually impaired brother in the manufacture of boats and went on to design six successful America's Cup defenders—*Vigilant* (in 1893), *Defender* (1895), *Columbia* (1899 and 1901), *Reliance* (1903) and *Resolute* (1920). In addition, the celebrated sailmaker and designer Ted Hood had more to do with the development of the America's Cup from the 1950's to the 1970's than any other person. Hood also won the Cup, helming *Courageous* in 1974.

Today, Hood's shipyard and many others in Rhode Island continue this proud tradition in the sailing world and have made the state's boatbuilding industry second to none. The east shore of Narragansett Bay has 13 boatyards representing some of yachting's most famous labels. In the words of one expert, "people across the world think of quality boats when they think of Rhode Island." Combined with tourism from recreational boating, the state's marine industry generates about \$1.2 billion annually and employees about 6,000 workers. Rhode Island yards built boats for three America's Cup syndicates in 1995 and two more this year.

One of the American challengers is of particular interest to me and to my constituents in Rhode Island. Young America, a two-boat syndicate put forward by the New York Yacht Club, is one of the strongest challengers in these races. The club has stated its intent to bring America's Cup back to Newport, Rhode Island if—or should I say "when"—it dethrones Team New Zealand next March. Many, many Rhode Islanders eagerly look forward to the return of this great tradition to Newport, where it had such an outstanding record of success for one hundred and thirty-two years.

Young America's president, John Marshall, has been long involved with world-class sailing. Marshall won a bronze medal at the 1972 Olympics, and has been involved with eight America's Cups since 1974. Marshall is a former president of and serves on the Board of Directors for North Sails, the largest sailmaker in the United States.

Young America is skippered by Ed Baid, who played a key role in winning the 1995 America's Cup as coach, trial

horse skipper and sparring partner for Team New Zealand. Baird was the 1995 World Champion of Match Race Sailing and placed second at the Worlds in 1997, 1996 and 1993. He is the only American to ever reach No. 1 in the World. The 1995 Rolex U.S. Yachtsman of the Year, Baird is a multiple world champion.

Let me also pay tribute to the several Rhode Islanders that have been named to the Young America team. They include Newport sailors Ed Adams, Tom Burnham, Jamie Gale, Jerry Kirby, Tony Rey and Joan Touchette. The shore support and technical team includes Stewart Wiley of Portsmouth; Ken Bordin, Steve Connett, Matthew Gurl and Bernie Roeder of Newport; Wolfgang Chamberlain of Bristol; and Michael Spiller of Jamestown.

Young America's two boats were built by Bristol, Rhode Island's Eric Goetz shipyard, recognized as one of the world's foremost manufacturers of racing sailboats. I had the pleasure of visiting and touring the Goetz shipyard last April, and was greatly impressed with what I saw.

Goetz has built seven America's Cup contenders for the last two series of America's Cup races—including boats commissioned by competing U.S. racing teams. This year's boats, which cost about \$3 million each, are the product of a first-rate team of technicians and employ the most modern design and technology. Included is a keel developed by one of Rhode Island's most storied companies, Browne & Sharpe Manufacturing. The competitors in New Zealand are no doubt fixated on the technological advancements being introduced by Young America.

Three sets of round robin races begin this week and end on December 14. The challenger semifinals and finals take place next January 2 through February 4 to determine which syndicate will face the defending New Zealanders. The Finals of this grueling competition do not end until March 4.

So I hope all Senators can take a moment today to recognize the commencement of one of the world's most prestigious sporting traditions, the America's Cup. I wish good luck to all eleven competitors, but particularly to the Young America syndicate. For many of my state's enthusiasts, it has been a long sixteen years waiting for this moment.

HATE CRIMES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, violent acts of bigotry based on race, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender, and disability continue to plague the nation. These vicious crimes are a national disgrace and an attack on everything this country stands for, and it is essential for Congress to act against them.

Earlier this year, the Senate added important provisions to combat hate crimes to the Commerce-Justice-State

Appropriations Act. This afternoon, Senate-House conferees will meet to vote on a conference report that does not contain the hate crimes provision. Behind closed doors, the conferees have tentatively decided to drop the provision, and I urge them to reconsider. It is essential for Congress to take a stand against bigotry, and do all we can to end these modern-day lynchings that continue to occur in communities across the country.

Many of us are aware of the most highly-publicized incidents, especially the brutal murders of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas, and Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming. But these two killings are just the tip of the iceberg. Many other gruesome acts of hatred have occurred this year:

January 14, 1999, El Dorado, California—Thomas Gary, 38, died after being run over by a truck and shot with a shotgun. The assailant claimed that Mr. Gary had made a pass at him.

January 17, 1999, Texas City, Texas—Two black gay men, Laaron Morris and Kevin Tryals, were shot to death and one of the men was left inside a burning car.

February 7, 1999, Miami, Florida—Three young women stalked, beat and stabbed a gay man while yelling anti-gay epithets.

February 19, 1999, Sylacauga, Alabama—Billy Jack Gaither, a gay man, was abducted, beaten to death with an ax handle, and set on fire on burning tires in a remote area.

February 24, 1999, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.—A black woman, Jody-Gaye Bailey, died after being shot in the head by a self-proclaimed skinhead. Minutes before the shooting the perpetrator reportedly boasted of wanting to go out and kill a black person. Bailey and her boyfriend, who is Caucasian, were stopped at a red light when the killer fired at Bailey seven times. The boyfriend was uninjured.

February 1999, Yosemite National Park, California—An individual charged with the murder of four women—one of whom was a 16-year old girl—in Yosemite National Park told police investigators that he had fantasized about killing women for three decades.

March 1, 1999, Richmond, Virginia—A gay, homeless man was killed and his severed head was left atop a footbridge in James River Park near a popular meeting place for gay men.

May 1999, Kenosha, Wisconsin—A 27-year-old man intentionally swerved his car onto a sidewalk to run over two African-American teens. After hitting the two cyclists, he left the scene and kept driving until stopped by police. Eight years earlier the same man rammed his car twice into a stopped van carrying five African-American men and drove away.

June 2, 1999, West Palm Beach, Florida—Two teenagers admitted that they beat a gay man, Steven Goedereis, to death on April 27, 1998 because he called one of them "beautiful."

June/July 1, 1999, Northern California—Three synagogues in the Sacramento area were destroyed by arson. Two brothers, who have links to an organized hate group, are suspects in the arson as well as the shotgun murders of two gay men in Redding, Calif., Winfield Scott Mowder and Gary Matson.

July 4th weekend, 1999, Illinois/Indiana—An individual associated with a racist and anti-Semitic organization, Benjamin Smith, killed an African-American man, Ricky Byrdson, and wounded six orthodox Jews in Chicago before killing a Korean student, Won-Joon Yoon, in Bloomington, Ind.

July 24, 1999, San Diego, California—Hundreds of people were tear-gassed when a military style tear-gas canister was released near the Family Matters group at the San Diego gay pride parade. The 70-person group included small children and babies in strollers.

August 10, 1999, Los Angeles, California—A former security guard for a white supremacist organization, Buford O. Furrow, wounded five individuals, including young children, at a Los Angeles Jewish community center, and later killed a Filipino-American postal worker, Joseph Illeto.

Clearly, the federal government should be doing more to halt these vicious crimes that shock the conscience of the nation.

Dropping the bipartisan Senate provisions from the DJS conference report is a serious mistake. For too long, the federal government has been forced to fight hate crimes with one hand tied behind its back. Congress must speak with a united voice against hate-based violence. All Americans deserve to know that the full force of federal law will be available to punish these atrocities.

Congress has a responsibility to act this year. The continuing silence of Congress on this festering issue is deafening, and it is unacceptable. We must stop acting as if somehow this fundamental issue is just a state and local problem. It isn't. It's a national problem, and it's an outrage that Congress has been missing in action for so long. I urge the conferees to reconsider their action, and include a strong provision on hate crimes in the conference report.

Mr. President, I make these remarks because the timeliness of them is so important. I see my friend and colleague from Oregon, who shares these concerns. Again, we wanted to address this issue, which will be before the conference committee on the State-Justice appropriations this afternoon. We will be faced with this issue in a conference report in these next 2, 3 days. It is regarding the inclusion or exclusion of the hate crimes legislation.

We passed hate crimes legislation as part of the State-Justice-Commerce appropriations. It is in conference at a time when this country has been faced with a series of acts that have been violent on the basis of bigotry—based on race, religion, ethnic background,