

the 1960's and it was home to the Marine Corps Reserve during Operation Desert Storm. Mr. Speaker, let us preserve it.

**PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS
FAVORS HMOs**

(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, we finally have a debate today on the Patients' Bill of Rights but it is not a good deal. In the dark of night we have an agreement that is masquerading as a Patients' Bill of Rights, but it is a patients' bill of wrongs. For example, one proposal gives rebuttable presumption to HMOs, placing the burden on the patients to get the care they need. This provision stacks the decks against patients and makes it nearly impossible to prove that the HMO, when they are denied care, was negligent.

Additionally, the compromise would change State law. Even in my home State of Texas and we have had a law for 4 years, federal law will change our Texas law. Texas has a meaningful patients' bill of rights on the books since 1997, and it has resulted in strong protections for both patients, doctors, and insurers. But under the Bush-Norwood plan, the Texas patients will have their case heard under federal law but in State court. So we are changing the rules in the State of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) worked long and hard on this issue, but every compromise in this proposal is in favor of the HMO and not the patient. I came here to vote for a strong patients' bill of rights, not an HMO's bill of rights.

**IN SUPPORT OF THE PATIENTS'
BILL OF RIGHTS**

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, if we listen to the other side of the aisle, we get a clear theme coming out this morning. If it is not our way, send it down the highway. They say bipartisanship, but all they do is deride the things we have worked so hard for.

I have worked with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) since 1995 on a Patients' Bill of Rights and that man's heart is with patients. Their hearts are with trial lawyers. If we want to see how quick it is to file an action in court to get health care relief, our constituents will be waiting 5 years for a court to render a verdict.

Under the Norwood bill and the President's proposal they will get health care now, not 5 years from now. To malign this bill and say it was done in the dead of night does a disservice to every Member who has fought for good patient protection.

Now they are abandoning the very architect of that plan in the name of

politics. They want to win the next election, but they will do it on the back of sick people. I believe people need help today; and if we pass the bill, they will get it today, not 5 years from now when a court may or may not rule in their favor.

**REPARATIONS FOR AMERICAN
PRISONERS OF WAR**

(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, it is bad enough that Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Reports now confirm that Japanese companies like Mitsubishi and Matsui forced American soldiers into slave labor camps, many even murdered.

If that is not enough to eat your Toyota, our VA Secretary said and I quote, "America demands an apology."

Beam me up. American prisoners of war from World War II do not deserve an apology. They deserve compensation for Japanese war crimes, period. I yield back all those Japanese cars on American streets, painted and tainted with the blood of prisoners of war, American prisoners of war from World War II.

□ 1100

NEW BEGINNING FOR INDONESIA

(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, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Megawati Sukarnoputri, the new President of Indonesia, and I commend the people, the government, and the military for the smooth, nonviolent transition of power.

I also urge President Megawati to use her leadership to address widespread human rights abuses, such as the bloodshed and destruction in the Malukus, the arrests and deaths of innocent civilians in Aceh and Irian Jaya, the shaky court cases established against pastors in Poso, and the intentional manipulation of religious tensions in a number of areas of the country.

The instability and human rights abuses can be involved through the arrest and bringing to justice of the perpetrators, such as Laskar Jihad leader, Mr. Jafar Umar Thalib, and his cohorts.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Indonesia deserve a peaceful and prosperous nation in which the fundamental rights of all people are respected. The President has a real opportunity to shape a new future with her cabinet appointments to shape the new future for the Indonesian people and ensure that democracy and civil society will reign.

VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, the violence in the Middle East continues. In December, I visited with wounded and with family members of the dead on both sides. Let me share with my colleagues some of the faces of violence.

This lovely young woman, a Jewish family and her in-laws, her husband was executed with a bullet to the head in an Israeli office in Arab East Jerusalem 6 weeks before I arrived.

This young man was shot in the chest, a Palestinian young man, the day before I arrived. This is at a hospital in Ramallah.

And finally, this mother and her son. This man was shot in the upper abdomen about 10 days before I arrived. Several years before she had had another son that was shot in the head in the violence. This is also at a Ramallah hospital in the West Bank.

An end to the violence, a solution, a peace agreement must come, because every traumatized family plants the seeds of more rage and more violence in the Middle East.

**REPUBLICANS GIVETH AND
DEMOCRATS TAKETH AWAY**

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, while traveling in Iowa recently, the minority leader said, in reference to the very, very large tax cut in 1993 that raised income taxes, gasoline taxes, and taxes on Social Security benefits, he said, I will do it again. He went on to say that the biggest tax increase in U.S. history was the right thing to do.

My colleagues, the message is clear, Republicans giveth and Democrats taketh away. Americans are just now receiving their tax refund checks, and Democrats are already trying to yank it back so they can spend more here on wasteful programs in Washington, D.C.

It is not terribly surprising that Democrats want to raise taxes, but one would think that they would let the American people get the check first. An enormous tax increase would be the wrong thing, the worst thing for our fragile economy at this time.

Mr. Speaker, now it appears the minority leader is back-peddling from the statement he made earlier. We need to find ways to get money back to the people, not to the Federal Government.

**REJECT 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, as the representative here in Washington for the capital city of the Lone Star State of Texas, I take pride in the fact that our State has provided national leadership in protecting patients from their

insurance companies with a model patients' bill of rights.

Now, all America should know that our success in Texas came despite the continual objection of then-Governor Bush, who threw up as many roadblocks as he could to those meaningful guarantees, in fact, almost as many as he now throws up to the bill we consider today on the Federal level for a national patients' bill of rights.

Incredibly, President Bush now seeks to override the effective State guarantees that we got enacted over his objection in Texas. And like the fine print in one of those policies that only pays if you get struck by lightning at leap year on a midnight summer day, this patients' bill of rights is riddled with loopholes for insurance companies to take advantage of sick patients and distressed families.

It should be rejected in favor of a real patients' bill of rights, the kind we got in Texas over President Bush's veto.

DONATING BONE MARROW FOR EMILY KIM

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to call a time-out on some of our other debate for today and bring to the attention of my colleagues a young girl, 6 years old, named Emily Kim. Emily is very bright, very beautiful, and unfortunately, she is dying of leukemia. This spring doctors gave her and her parents only 6 months for her to live.

There is still hope, though. A bone marrow transfusion could save her life, literally, and doctors are hoping to find a bone marrow donor, a genetic match that is almost like finding a needle in a haystack, 1 in 100,000. It is even tougher because Kim is an Asian American, and not many Asian Americans have signed up with the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry. So I am calling on my colleagues to contact their constituents in the Asian American community and ask them to take a simple test to see if they might be that one-in-a-one hundred thousand donor match for young Emily. You must be 18 to 60 years old and in good health.

I know how important this is, because my brother died of liver cancer last year. We could not find a liver match that would have saved my brother's life, but we might save Emily's life. Take a few minutes, go to www.marlow.org, or contact your doctor or local office of the American Cancer Society. Working together, my colleagues, we may yet find that one-in-a-thousand donor match for young Emily Kim.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2037

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the name of

the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) be removed as a co-sponsor of H.R. 2037.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSELLA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

HMO HORROR STORIES

(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, I hope Emily does not have membership in an HMO. Because if Emily is covered by an HMO, it does not matter whether or not we find a donor because the HMO will not support it.

Mr. Speaker, we came here to represent people like Emily, but instead we have a bill that has been transformed into representing the HMOs and insurance companies. That is a travesty on the people of this Nation.

It is clear that what is being said about these new proposals for the HMO simply does not have a history of being true. I am a native Texan. We have a patients' bill of rights. We do not want this bill to tear it up. Our premiums are below the national average, more people are insured, and only 17 lawsuits in the last 4 years for 20 some million people. Now, is that extreme?

Let us represent the people.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY FOR PRESIDENT

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, next month this House will consider granting trade promotion authority to our President. One-third of all American families depend directly or indirectly on trade for their family incomes. America is the number one exporting nation, but unless we act, that leadership may fade.

The European Union has concluded dozens of trade agreements with other nations. We have signed only two. In the center of America's heartland, my State of Illinois is home to our country's first and second top exporters. We are also home to half of all Internet sales on the World Wide Web, which in reality is the American exporting web.

Trade authority will lay the foundation for continued American leadership with the highest paying jobs in the economy. I urge Members, when they return, to master the export opportunities ahead and give the President his authority.

PATIENTS' BILL OF WRONGS

(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, yesterday, late in the evening, one of the authors of the bipartisan patients' bill of rights, a bill that the majority of the House of Representatives supports and the President does not support, the author of that legislation turned the good bill, under the pressure of the White House, into a patients' bill of wrongs.

Today, we will be voting on the President's idea of an insurance bill of rights, a bill that will kill the bill in the first place by putting impossible roadblocks in the way of patients getting effective care in a timely manner. This patients' bill of wrongs would also roll back protections already provided by States right here in this country today.

Do not vote for the patients' bill of wrongs.

COLORADO WING OF CIVIL AIR PATROL

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, I introduced a resolution, with the support of all five of my colleagues from Colorado, honoring the Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The Colorado Wing was stabilized 60 years ago as a volunteer organization to conduct air and ground searches for downed or missing airplanes, hunters, hikers, and other missing persons across the State of Colorado.

Last year, the Colorado Wing was accredited with safely flying 1,216 air search and rescue hours and saving the lives of 15 people. It continues its efforts to aid the people of Colorado through annual camps, training Civil Air Patrol cadets in ground search and rescue, field and emergency skills, in leadership, and in self-discipline.

Having witnessed firsthand the invaluable and exemplary service the Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol provides the people in the State of Colorado, I am extremely proud to introduce this resolution commending their excellent work and devotion to our community, and I urge my colleagues in support of this resolution.

VOTE DOWN BAD PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(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, it has been 5 long years that many of us have toiled and worked and collaborated and offered legislation that really puts the patient-physician relationship as a top priority.

There is not one of us in America that has not confronted the health system in a David-and-Goliath posture, with the HMOs being Goliath and the patient, David. Sometimes David has won, maybe other times David has failed.