

On April 17, four Canadian soldiers from the 3rd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group were killed and eight others were wounded in a "friendly-fire" incident in southern Afghanistan when they were mistakenly fired upon by American troops. These Canadian soldiers made the supreme sacrifice in defense of liberty and democracy.

Americans are deeply grateful for Canada's staunch support and firm commitment to the war against terrorism. The friendship of the Canadian people has helped America through her own dark hours. I hope that our friendship and support will help the people of Canada through this dreadful event.

We should do all we can to improve the safety of coalition troops in Afghanistan. I strongly favor the conduct of a thorough and timely investigation to determine how this terrible accident occurred in Afghanistan. Casualties due to friendly fire have been called the "unfortunate part of war." We should do whatever it takes to prevent these tragedies and to eliminate this most unfortunate part of war. Even though war is always unpredictable, Canadians and Americans want to know what the exact circumstances were that led to the deaths of these capable and brave soldiers, so other incidents like this one can be averted in the future.

I extend my condolences to the victims' families in Canada, and I express my support to Canadians in this difficult time. I offer my sorrow and sympathy to the Government and people of Canada for this shocking tragedy and truly regret the events that led to the deaths of these fine men.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, this Member rises to express his support for H. Res. 412, a bill expressing the House's regret and sympathy to the families of the four Canadian soldiers who lost their lives and the eight Canadian soldiers who were wounded on April 17, 2002, in a "friendly-fire" mistake in southern Afghanistan. Additionally, this Member would like to express his appreciation for the efforts of the very distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) in drafting this legislation.

Madam Speaker, Canada is a steadfast ally and true friend of the United States. In October 2001, less than one month after the horrific and unspeakable terrorist attacks of September 11th, Ottawa, Canada, served as the host city for the fall meetings of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA). As leader of the House Delegation to the NATO PA, this Member was very grateful for the unwavering support offered by the Canadian parliamentarians to the U.S. for the war on terrorism. Despite their recognition of the dangers involved in sending their armed forces to assist with the war, the Canadians were the strongest supporters of the assembly's endorsement of the use of force against the terrorists and were willing to contribute troops for missions in Afghanistan.

Indeed, the loss of four Canadian soldiers who were killed by a bomb from an American F-16 aircraft in a friendly-fire mistake is a tragic loss which the U.S. and Canada, as steadfast neighbors and true allies, mourn together. Last week, this Member and many of his colleagues were able to express their personal condolences to the Honorable Peter Milliken, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada. It is fitting that this body,

through this resolution, expresses its condolences to the families of the Canadian families who lost their loved ones in the tragic incident.

Madam Speaker, this Member encourages his colleagues to vote for H. Res. 412.

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 412 of offer my deepest condolences to all Canadians, especially the families and friends of Sergeant Marc D. Leger, Corporal Ainsworth Dyer, Private Richard A. Green, and Private Nathan Smith, who gave their lives in the service of defending freedom and security in Operation Enduring Freedom on April 17, 2002, in Afghanistan.

Eight other servicemen were also wounded in this incident. This tragic accident reminds us that our coalition partners remain willing to send their men and women in uniform in harm's way so that our freedoms may prevail. These Canadians have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of all peace-loving people, and my prayers are with their families and loved ones during this difficult time.

After America was so brutally attacked, I addressed the House of Representatives during consideration of H.J. Res. 61, which expressed the sense of the House of Representatives and Senate regarding the assault. I quoted Winston Churchill, whose words are just as salient today as they were then. He wrote, "Civilization will not last, freedom will not survive, peace will not be kept, unless a very large majority of mankind unite together to defend them."

Canada has always been our country's closest ally and friend. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11th, she has offered her steadfast loyalty and support in defense of the values that define and unite us. Canada's leadership during this trying time is invaluable to the American people. We will continue our common defense in unity to defeat the enemy who wishes to destroy freedom.

May God bless Canada and her fallen soldiers who served her with such courage and dignity. We indeed are a safer Nation because of these soldiers and those who continue to serve in our Nations' Armed Forces.

I want to commend my colleague from New York, Mr. HOUGHTON, for this important expression of sympathy. I urge my colleagues to support this passage. Canada shall remain our closest ally and friend.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 412.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SUDAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-209)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my administration on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2002.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,

Washington, DC, May 3, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House, that I have determined that a subpoena for documents issued from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas to the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House. Accordingly, I have instructed the Office of General Counsel to move to quash the subpoena.

Sincerely,

W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN,
Chairman.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 5 p.m.

AUCTION REFORM ACT OF 2002

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 4560) to eliminate the deadlines for spectrum auctions of spectrum previously allocated to television broadcasting, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4560

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Auction Reform Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Circumstances in the telecommunications market have changed dramatically since the auctioning of spectrum in the 700 megahertz band was originally mandated by Congress in 1997, raising serious questions as to whether the original deadlines, or the subsequent revision of the deadlines, are consistent with sound telecommunications policy and spectrum management principles.

(2) No comprehensive plan yet exists for allocating additional spectrum for third-generation wireless and other advanced communications services. The Federal Communications Commission should have the flexibility to auction frequencies in the 700 megahertz band for such purposes.

(3) The study being conducted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in consultation with the Department of Defense to determine whether the Department of Defense can share or relinquish additional spectrum for third-generation wireless and other advanced communications services will not be completed until after the June 19th auction date for the upper 700 megahertz band, and long after the applications must be filed to participate in the auction, thereby creating further uncertainty as to whether the frequencies in the 700 megahertz band will be put to their highest and best use for the benefit of consumers.

(4) The Federal Communications Commission is also in the process of determining how to resolve the interference problems that exist in the 800 megahertz band, especially for public safety. One option being considered for the 800 megahertz band would involve the 700 megahertz band. The Commission should not hold the 700 megahertz auction before the 800 megahertz interference issues are resolved or a tenable plan has been conceived.

(5) The 700 megahertz band is currently occupied by television broadcasters, and will be so until the transfer to digital television is completed. This situation creates a tremendous amount of uncertainty concerning when the spectrum will be available and reduces the value placed on the spectrum by potential bidders. The encumbrance of the 700 megahertz band reduces both the amount of money that the auction would be likely to produce and the probability that the spectrum would be purchased by the entities that valued the spectrum the most and would put the spectrum to its most productive use.

(6) The Commission's rules governing voluntary mechanisms for vacating the 700 megahertz band by broadcast stations—

(A) produced no certainty that the band would be available for advanced mobile communications services, public safety operations, or other wireless services any earlier than the existing statutory framework provides; and

(B) should advance the transition of digital television and must not result in the unjust enrichment of any incumbent licensee.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF DEADLINES FOR SPECTRUM AUCTIONS.

(a) COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.—Section 309(j)(14)(C)(ii) of the Communications Act of

1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(14)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(b) BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997.—Section 3007 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (111 Stat. 269) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "This section shall not apply to the band of frequencies between 698 and 806 megahertz, inclusive."

(c) CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT.—Paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 213(a) of H.R. 3425 of the 106th Congress, as enacted into law by section 1000(a)(5) of an Act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes (Public Law 106-113; 113 Stat. 1501A-295), are repealed.

SEC. 4. TERMINATION OF SCHEDULED AUCTIONS.

(a) TERMINATION.—The Federal Communications Commission shall not commence or conduct auctions 31 and 44 on June 19, 2002, as specified in the public notices of March 19, 2002, and March 20, 2002 (DA 02-659 and DA 02-563).

(b) REPORT.—Within one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit a report to the Congress—

(1) specifying when the Commission intends to reschedule auctions 31 and 44; and

(2) describing the progress made by the Commission in the digital television transition and in the assignment and allocation of additional spectrum for advanced mobile communications services that warrants the scheduling of such auctions.

SEC. 5. COMPLIANCE WITH AUCTION AUTHORITY.

The Federal Communications Commission shall conduct rescheduled auctions 31 and 44 prior to the expiration of the auction authority under section 309(j)(11) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(11)).

SEC. 6. PRESERVATION OF BROADCASTER OBLIGATIONS.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to relieve television broadcast station licensees of the obligation to complete the digital television service conversion as required by section 309(j)(14) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(14)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Auction Reform Act of 2002 will eliminate the statutory deadlines that have prompted the FCC to schedule auctions in June for spectrum in the 700 megahertz band currently occupied by television broadcasters.

This legislation should not be necessary to stop the FCC from conducting the auctions in June. The FCC currently has the authority to delay these auctions and should do so on its own, many of us believe, but in addition to asking the FCC to use its own

authority to delay the auctions, 52 members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce introduced this legislation to remove the deadlines from the statutes. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to report that the bill was passed by voice vote by the Committee on Energy and Commerce just last week.

It is true that the auction of the upper portion of the 700 megahertz band has been delayed five times, but, Madam Speaker, conducting the auctions for both the upper and lower parts of the 700 megahertz band in June would be bad telecommunications policy and bad spectrum policy. These auctions should not go forward.

Let me address some of the reasons why these auctions should not take place.

One, no comprehensive plan exists for allocating additional spectrum for third generation wireless and other advanced mobile communications services. The 700 megahertz band may prove to be the commercial mobile wireless commercial industry's only viable option for obtaining additional spectrum for advanced mobile communications services if spectrum from other bands below 3 gigahertz is not allocated for such purposes.

Two, the study being conducted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA, and the Pentagon to determine whether the Pentagon can share or relinquish additional spectrum for third generation wireless and other advanced mobile communications services will not be completed until after the June 19 auction date for the upper 700 megahertz band and long after the applications must be filed to participate in the auction.

Third, it is difficult for wireless carriers to make sound business decisions concerning what options are available for spectrum for third generation and other advanced mobile communications services until the NTIA/Pentagon report has been released and then evaluated.

Fourth, the Commission is also in the process of determining how to resolve the interference problems that exist in the 800 megahertz band, especially for public safety. One option being considered for the 800 megahertz band would involve the 700 megahertz band. The Commission should not hold the 700 megahertz auction before the 800 megahertz interference issues are resolved or a viable plan has been approved.

Next, the 700 megahertz band is still occupied by TV broadcasters and will be so until the digital transition is complete. This situation creates a tremendous amount of uncertainty concerning when the spectrum will be available and reduces the value placed on the spectrum by potential bidders. The encumbrance of the 700 megahertz band reduces both the amount of money that the auction would be likely to produce and the probability that the

spectrum would be purchased by the entities that valued the spectrum the most and would put the spectrum to its most productive use.

Last, Madam Speaker, the Commission's rules governing voluntary mechanisms for the vacation of the 700 megahertz band by the broadcasters produced no certainty that the band would be available for advanced mobile communications services, public safety operations and other purposes any earlier than the existing statutory framework provides.

Madam Speaker, the FCC and the administration clearly have a lot of work to do with respect to allocating and assigning additional spectrum for advanced mobile communications services and with respect to speeding the transition to digital TV. Until more progress is made in these areas, the 700 megahertz band auction simply should not occur.

The FCC should use its own authority to delay these auctions, and we are making clear that holding the auctions within the FCC's designated time frame is contrary to both sound regulatory policy and contrary to the Communications Act.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I do so in order to compliment the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for his excellent work on this legislation, along with the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), the chairman, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member.

This legislation has very broad based support across party lines, across ideological lines. It is a critical piece of legislation to pass.

Madam Speaker, the reason that we are here today is to take action to correct a mess that Congress created in 1997, when Congress and the Clinton administration used illusory spectrum revenues to cook the books when it enacted the flawed 1997 Balanced Budget Act. Simply put, the Clinton OMB and Congressional budget scorekeepers put the cart before the horse.

The 1997 proposal required the FCC to auction off the airwave frequencies occupied by television channels 52 to 69 many years before those airwave channels were due to be clear of those incumbent broadcasters, and the 1997 law contained no provisions to assure would-be bidders or taxpaying consumers that the digital TV transition would be timely and successful.

Instead, the budgeteers simply assumed that everything would work out and pushed for auctions on a calendar date convenient for scoring purposes of all the revenue that would come in from holding the auction. Forget about telecommunications policy, though.

Today we know that the digital TV transition is woefully off schedule. The current FCC policy for clearing out the broadcast television spectrum in the

area of 52 to 69 channels on our dial seems to be to simply sell off the frequencies and then authorize unseemly windfall profits to the lucky incumbents who, having gotten digital television spectrum for free, only elect to vacate their old analog channels for a price paid to them by auction winners.

Under this policy, the term "auction winner" may well be an oxymoron. What one wins by being the highest bidder in this auction is the right to be subjected to a high tech hold-up by the incumbent broadcaster who will not move unless paid. To make this FCC policy even worse is that when that broadcaster agrees to vacate the area for a handsome fee, the broadcaster may not even broadcast in digital format on its so-called digital pair, the digital spectrum which they have. It may obtain FCC permission to continue analog broadcasting, the same broadcasting we have had since 1948. We will just continue to see the highlights of the first 75 years of NBC broadcasting for the next 75 years and the same television channels with no new digital technology.

I think this whole notion offends most people's sensibility, and I think it underscores the fact that the Commission needs additional time to rethink its mission in this area.

Moreover, we also do not have anything remotely resembling an overarching spectrum plan to address key policy goals, such as fostering a more competitive wireless policy or enhancing public safety needs. We do not yet have a policy to promote new wireless services such as third generation, or 3G, mobile services or other innovative new wireless technologies and services for broadband connections of video applications.

The reality today is that our lack of progress in accelerating the digital television transition is holding two revolutions in check, both the interactive digital television market, which all Americans are waiting for, that inexpensive digital television set costing \$300, \$400 that they have been promised for 20 years, still not affordable to the average American family, still being denied to them by these terrible policies, and advancing the wireless market; that is, the two-way wrist TV that Dick Tracy and his cartoonist Chester Gould promised us in 1960. That still is not possible because we do not have a spectrum policy, and it really is turning into a telecommunications disaster. Disaster.

The utter failure to follow through effectively on the industrial policy we started when we gave the broadcast industry an extra 6 megahertz each, each, for the transition to digital technology means that we are literally holding back the future. No digital television and no third generation wireless. Unbelievable for a country which is supposed to be the leader in new technology.

We are now paralyzed as a Nation. We are stifling innovation. We are

stunting growth and we are needlessly depressing the entire high tech sector of the American economy. We must free up this spectrum but in a way in which we know it is going to be used, both for digital TV and in the wireless area.

It is time to put the telecom policy horse in front of the auction cart. Today, we will pass legislation that wisely deletes the budget-mandated auction dates in the law and requires a report to Congress describing the progress made by the Commission in speeding the digital television transition, as well as identifying slices of spectrum for advanced wireless services, including mobile services such as 3G.

Again, I want to compliment the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), along with the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and all the members of our committee who are working together now on a policy that hopefully will now free up this spectrum. Unless the Federal Communications Commission begins to listen to us, unless the Bush administration starts to listen to us, then unfortunately all we are going to do is continue to repeat the mistakes that were made during the Clinton administration, and I am just afraid that we are not going to see this high tech sector, this telecommunications sector, this NASDAQ sector get off its back unless the Bush administration puts in place a set of policies that gives incentives to hundreds of companies and entrepreneurs across the country to once again invest in this high tech sector.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just note that I am convinced that the Bush administration does not want to repeat the mistakes of the Clinton administration. I look forward to working with the gentleman as we deal with this issue in the future.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Up to this point there is no evidence that can convict the Bush administration of not repeating the same mistakes as the Clinton administration. The only problem is that this high tech boom ended in 2000 and that millions of Americans are now waiting for the next generation of technologies, and unless the policy is forthcoming from the Bush administration, I am afraid we could go through this entire decade and not see a revival.

I think that is a very dangerous prospect, and I am hoping today, on a bipartisan basis, we can send a message to the Bush administration that they can put together a comprehensive policy.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just like to reiterate that Secretary Evans very strongly supports this legislation. We expect the President to sign it should we get it through the other body.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4560, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH CARE EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE MONTH

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 271) expressing the sense of the Congress that public awareness and education about the importance of health care coverage is of the utmost priority and that a National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month should be established to promote these goals.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 271

Whereas census estimates indicate that some 42 million Americans are without health insurance coverage, many of whom are among the most vulnerable of American citizens who can be financially devastated by serious illness, disease, or accident;

Whereas studies have shown that people with health insurance are healthier than those who are uninsured and receive care through emergency rooms or safety net health care services, because the insured are entitled to, and receive, more preventive care, follow-up care, and care for chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure;

Whereas over 17.3 million of the uninsured are employed, but are not offered health insurance through their employers;

Whereas such employers are small business owners who are often unaware of the benefits of offering insurance, including the fact that it is tax deductible, that it helps to reduce employee turnover, and that it helps to reduce employee sick days;

Whereas over 16 million people, more than one-third of the uninsured, are in families where at least one member of the family has been offered employer based health care coverage but has turned it down;

Whereas many citizens are eligible for public assistance programs such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, and the Medicaid program, but are not currently enrolled due primarily to lack of outreach, education, and accessible enrollment processes;

Whereas studies have shown that many citizens and small businesses are unaware of

the various options they have for obtaining affordable health care coverage;

Whereas surveys have shown that many individuals who cite expense as the reason for not purchasing insurance find it to be affordable once they are informed of the true cost of various options; and

Whereas education about health care coverage helps uninsured citizens and employers to understand the critical value of health insurance as a preventive measure, as well as the ways to keep their health insurance premiums manageable once they have health care coverage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) a National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month should be established to promote a multifaceted educational effort about the importance of health care coverage, and to increase awareness of the many available health care coverage options, and should include efforts to inform those eligible for public insurance programs of how to access those programs; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, citizens, and businesses of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, fairs, ceremonies, and activities to promote this educational effort.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the legislation now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

There are more than 40 million people in America who do not have health insurance who are part of the workforce, despite widespread private insurance plans, as well as public availability of different kinds of programs in health insurance. These are the same people who are very likely to forego services like periodic checkups and preventive services and immunizations for their kids. They delay going to get health care. And, later, these same people show up in our health care systems with very acute conditions requiring costly medical attention and conditions that may have been entirely preventable with early detection.

Uninsured people are hospitalized at least 50 percent more often than the insured are for what are called avoidable hospital conditions, like pneumonia. They wait until the pneumonia gets so

bad and they are so sick that they have to go to the emergency room when, if they went earlier, they could have been put on a course of antibiotics and there could have been treatment without hospitalization. They are also much more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage cancer than those with insurance are. People who are uninsured delay going to the doctor until it is too late.

Uninsured adults are four times more likely and children five times more likely to use the emergency room compared with the insured. People who have insurance have a primary care doctor. When they get sick, they make an appointment, or they go to the walk-in care clinic where their doctor has told them to go. Those who are uninsured wait and show up in our Nation's emergency rooms.

The costs for the uninsured are absorbed by the community as a whole, either through public programs, through our disproportionate share hospital program, or through increases in health insurance costs for those who do have insurance. So we do bear the cost as a community. Care is not denied to people, but it is not offered in the most efficient way and it is certainly not offered in the best way for those who lack health insurance.

Now, I am not really big on just hortatory resolutions. That is not my thing. At the same time, I saw some evidence recently that really shocked me and that caused me to bring forward this resolution today. I do not like things that are just symbolic, but I do believe America needs an education campaign to inform small businesses, even some medium- and large-sized businesses, employees, and parents about how to get health insurance.

There was a recent study by the Employees Benefit Research Institute that said that 57 percent of small businesses did not know that health insurance is tax-deductible. In other words, if a small business owner, and these businesses employ most of the people in this country, if they do not know that they can provide health insurance to their employees and the cost of that is an expense, a legitimate business expense, they are going to be less likely to look for a plan to be able to offer to their employees. So it told me that education is necessary, and that maybe the Congress could do something about it and make insurance more affordable and more available to employees in this country.

Over one-third of the uninsured are in families where coverage is offered by an employer and they declined the insurance. Sometimes it is because the premiums or the co-pays are too high,