

changes the tax laws to increase the benefits of MSAs.

D. Repeals the 7.5 percent threshold for the deduction of medical expenses, thus making all medical expenses tax deductible.

By providing a wide range of options, this bill allows individual Americans to choose the method of financing health care that best suits their individual needs. Increasing frustration with the current health care system is leading more and more Americans to embrace this approach to health care reform. For example, a recent poll by the respected Zogby firm showed that over 80 percent of Americans support providing all Americans with access to a Medical Savings Account. I hope all my colleagues will join this effort to put individuals back in control of health care by cosponsoring the Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

A TRIBUTE TO SONIA BEDROSSIAN PELTEKIAN, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2003

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March. It is my great honor to recognize extraordinary women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today, to recognize an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Sonia Bedrossian Peltekian. Over the years, Sonia has been an outspoken advocate for the Armenian-American community.

Born in Jerusalem, Ms. Peltekian attended St. Joseph High School, graduating as valedictorian, and Terra Santa Girls' College where she majored in business administration and minored in music teaching and conducting. Sonia worked in Jerusalem as a music teacher at Terra Santa Boys College, a secretary at the United Nations Relief and Work Agency, and organist/choir director for Terra Santa Church.

In the 1970s, Sonia immigrated to the United States, became a United States citizen, and married Barkev Peltekian. She and her husband have two children, Lara and Paul. Her work experience includes a fourteen-year term as an administrative assistant for Blue Cross of California, piano teaching, and assisting in the family business, Barkev's Photography.

Ms. Peltekian volunteers for the United Armenia Fund, the American Red Cross and the Armenian Cultural Association. For nearly thirty years, she has been extremely active in the Armenian Relief Society, Western Region "Mayr" Chapter in Los Angeles, serving as President and Vice President. In 1998, Sonia won the County of Los Angeles' Outstanding Volunteer Award for her service to refugees living in Los Angeles County. In addition, she volunteers at various schools and community functions to speak about issues related to Armenian culture, women and religious holidays. Her command of four languages: English, Armenian, Arabic and French help to make her a much sought-after public speaker and volunteer.

Throughout the years, Sonia has focused on using her knowledge to enhance opportunities for the Armenian-American community, which has greatly benefited from her devoted service.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Sonia Bedrossian Peltekian. The entire community joins me in thanking Ms. Peltekian for her efforts.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. RALPH QUELLHORST, OHIO CONFERENCE MINISTER FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE STATE OF OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman, and good friend, from Ohio. Dr. Ralph Quellhorst became an Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ in 1962. Shortly thereafter he became an Adjunct Professor at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio. Dr. Quellhorst served on its faculty from 1963–1965. Also during that time, Dr. Quellhorst led the congregation of the Emmanuel United Church of Christ in Bluffton, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, in 1967, Dr. Quellhorst became the Associate for Leadership Development for the Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ. He served in that capacity until 1975, during which time he also served the Eden Theological Seminary as an Adjunct Professor. In 1975, Dr. Quellhorst left Ohio for New York City to serve as an Associate in the Office for Church Life and Leadership, UCC. During his service in New York City, Dr. Quellhorst served as an Adjunct Professor in the New York Theological Seminary.

From 1982 through 1992, Dr. Quellhorst served under the Indiana Kentucky Conference, United Church of Christ, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Finally, in 1993, Dr. Quellhorst returned to the great state of Ohio to serve as Conference Minister and Executive for the Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ, from which he is retiring this month.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Quellhorst boasts quite a long list of educational and professional achievements. His first degree was obtained in my congressional district at Heidelberg College, located in Tiffin, Ohio. There he received his B.A. in Speech. In 1962, he received his B. Div. from the Eden Theological Seminary, where he later obtained his M. Div. in 1974. Dr. Quellhorst completed his education in 1976, when he received his D. Min. from the Eden Theological Seminary. Dr. Quellhorst serves on the Heidelberg College Board of Trustees, where he has chaired the Academic Affairs, Faculty and Curriculum, Institutional Advancement, and Executive committees. He recently served on the Heidelberg Presidential Search Committee. In addition to his contributions in the academic realm, Dr. Quellhorst has been recognized for his humanitarian efforts. In 2000, he was awarded the John Calvin Award for Humanitarian Work, which was presented at the 4th World Congress of the

Hungarian Reformed Churches held in Budapest, Hungary.

Dr. Ralph Quellhorst has had a significant impact on the lives of so many people. He has helped so many in the congregations he has served to live a life of goodwill and sacrifice. These chances to give back to the public have brought him a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement. Ohio is certainly blessed to have had Dr. Quellhorst's voice touch the lives of so many in our state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Dr. Ralph Quellhorst. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Dr. Quellhorst, who care about their well being and stability. We wish him, his wife, Sue, and their family all the best as we pay tribute to one of our state's finest citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is doubtful that H.R. 663, the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act, will in fact improve the quality of medical care. What is not doubtful is that HR 663 will increase the federal government's control over medicine, which I believe is the most dangerous trend facing medicine today. Under H.R. 663, federally-empowered boards and commissions will be empowered to establish new medical databases on patient errors, develop standards for health care information technology systems, and issue new federal standards regarding the packaging of drugs and biological products. Supporters of this bill will claim that compliance with the standards promulgated is voluntary; however, medical administrators will feel pressure to adhere to the federal guidelines for no other reason than to avoid jeopardizing their federal funding. Furthermore, it is questionable how long Congress will allow the standards to remain voluntary. After all, if the federal government is using taxpayer dollars to determine the best means of protecting patients, than we "owe" it to the taxpayer to make sure all practitioners are following federal standards!

Supporters of having the federal government determine the standards for patient safety believe that the federal government is capable of determining the best ways to enhance patient safety. However, Mr. Speaker, it is unlikely that the federal government can effectively identify and popularize a definitive list of best practices for a field as diverse and rapidly changing as medicine. In fact, by the time such standards make their way through what is certain to be a lengthy bureaucratic approval process, the standards are likely to be out of date! Furthermore, the standards will inevitably reflect the bias of those chosen to be on the patient safety boards. However, many practitioners will no doubt feel discouraged from adopting medical error reduction techniques not on the "approved government list." Thus, the main effect of federalizing the process of developing standards of patient quality will be to retard the development of those standards.

I am also concerned about the possible violations of privacy that inevitably accompany the government collection of medical data. Of course, the supporters of this bill claim that the reporting will not disclose any personal information. However, even medical systems which claim not to collect personal identifiable information can threaten privacy. This is because those with access to the information can oftentimes identify the subject of the "anonymous" report. I am aware of at least

one incident where a man had his identity revealed when his medical records were used without his consent. As a result, many people in his community discovered details of his medical history that he wished to keep private! Just this morning, CNN's web site reported on the poor job federal agencies and government contractors are doing in protecting the confidentiality of social security numbers; yet we are supposed to trust the government with access to even more personal information!

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, H.R. 663 could actually retard the development of innovations in patient safety while promoting yet more federal control of health care. In addition, it poses a potential threat to medical privacy. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 13, 2003, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote 62, on agreeing to House Joint Resolution 139. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 62.

ORGAN DONATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 399, the Organ Donation Improvement Act of 2003. This important measure takes steps to increase donation activity to meet the demand for life-saving human organs. Human anatomical donation is truly the greatest gift one can offer to another. This humanitarian act looks beyond one's self and to those in need—to children, young adults, parents, and family members—whose lives we value and whose future we safeguard.

H.R. 399 makes note of the importance of family discussions and encourages families to express their desires and openly pledge to help others through the act of donation. Americans have the ability to choose to give gifts that restore sight, save lives, and improve the health of others through organ, eye and tissue donation. While the need for organs is a well-documented fact, the need for donated tissues and eyes should also be stressed. Many Americans do not realize that those who cannot become donors of organs for various medical reasons can still save sight and improve the health of others through eye and tissue donation. It is therefore of critical importance that when families do discuss their wishes to give anatomical gifts, they are knowledgeable about all of their opportunities: to save lives; restore sight; and improve the health of others through the donation of their organs, eyes, and tissues. These precious gifts give life, improve health and advance medical science for those who often have no alternative hope for treatment and cure.

In 2001, there were 24,076 organ transplants giving life; 33,000 cornea transplants

restoring sight; and 900,000 tissue transplants improving physical function and health. These impressive statistics demonstrate the generosity of the American people. Yet, more donors are needed to meet the need for life-saving transplants, sight restoration procedures, repair of wounds and severe burns. Education and awareness is the first step toward bridging the gap to meet the need for more anatomical donors. In closing, I encourage all Americans to take the time to discuss with family members the most precious gift a person can give—one's organs, eyes and tissues—to better mankind.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNIE CHIN SIU, D.D.S., 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2003

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishment made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March. It is my great honor to recognize extraordinary women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today to pay special recognition to Annie Chin Siu, D.D.S., an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District. Over the years, Dr. Siu has given selflessly of her time and energy to many different organizations in the greater San Gabriel Valley.

A San Francisco native, Dr. Siu attended the University of California at Berkeley. She graduated from the University of California at San Francisco School of Dentistry, specializing in Orthodontics and was the only woman in her dental school class. After her marriage to Dr. Tim Siu, the Sius moved to Alhambra, where Dr. Siu opened her orthodontic practice. Now retired from private practice, Dr. Siu continues to teach at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. The Sius have been married for nearly fifty years and have four children: Tina, Susan, Jennifer, and Valerie.

Dr. Siu has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the California Legislature's 49th Assembly District Woman of the Year, the 2003 Medal of Honor from the University of California San Francisco Dental Alumni Association, the Alhambra Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award, Bank of America's Achievement Award, the Los Angeles Chinese Chamber of Commerce's Service Award, Los Angeles Chinatown Public Safety Award, and the Edward Angle Orthodontic Excellence Award.

Dr. Siu is a past President and longtime member of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce. The consummate volunteer, Dr. Siu has been active in the Alhambra Public Library Association, the Los Angeles Chinatown Library, the Soroptimist Club of Alhambra-San Gabriel-San Marino, University Women Association, United Way, the Chinese American Museum, Chinese Historical Society of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Chinatown Public Safety Association, and the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA. In addition, Dr. Siu is a member of numerous professional organizations, including

the USC School of Dentistry Board of Councilors, American Dental Association, and the California Dental Association.

The time and energy Dr. Siu gives to our community is truly remarkable, and the greater Los Angeles area has benefited greatly from her dedicated service.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Annie Chin Siu, D.D.S. The entire community joins me in thanking Dr. Siu for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DAVID GUZMAN, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NA- TIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VET- ERANS' PROGRAM ADMINISTRA- TORS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. David Guzman, who recently concluded his tenure as President of the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) after holding this position from October of 1998 to October of 2002.

Mr. Guzman also recently retired as the University Registrar at Washington State University and now moves to the position of NAVPA Legislative Director. I am grateful that we will retain his leadership abilities in this small way.

Long before Mr. Guzman served this nation's veterans, he had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force. He served at assignments throughout the world for 30 years before retiring in 1987, with his last assignment at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii where he was Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commanding General of the Pacific Air Forces. He served two tours in the Republic of Vietnam.

Mr. Guzman has testified before the Veterans' Affairs Committee frequently on Montgomery GI Bill enhancements. He brought first-hand knowledge on veterans' education policy to his testimony from working with veterans at Washington State University.

Thank you, Mr. Guzman, for your dedication to America's servicemembers and veterans. You are leaving a lasting legacy of dedicated service to America and those who protect our freedoms.

IN MEMORY OF AHMAD R. OLOMI

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to his country and community was extraordinary. Orange County, California, was indeed fortunate to have such a dynamic and dedicated community leader who willingly and unselfishly gave his time and talents to make his community a better place in which to live