

Texas (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property Subcommittee of the House Committee on the Judiciary and a real leader on technology issues in the Congress.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman GOODLATTE) for his nice comments, and I am happy to join him in cosponsoring this legislation, but I especially want to express my appreciation to him for being the author and introducing this legislation.

Computer spyware is a growing problem that threatens the future of commerce over the Internet. A recent report found that more than 3 million scans for spyware have been performed just this year alone. These scans revealed approximately 83 million instances of spyware. That is certainly disturbing.

Spyware can be a confusing problem for consumers. Many do not know they have it, or if they do, they do not know how to get rid of it. A Yahoo! Internet search of the term "spyware" yields over 8 million results. It is no wonder that the problem is only getting worse.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4661 addresses spyware through the regulation of bad behavior rather than the regulation of technology. It provides strong penalties for those who engage in the illicit activities of spyware and phishing.

Rather than add to an already confusing regulatory structure, the bill takes a very narrow approach. H.R. 4661 sets strong penalties for anyone who intentionally uses software to break into a computer in order to alter security settings or obtain personal information. It further authorizes money for the Department of Justice to prosecute spyware and phishing crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to put an end to spyware and support this bill, and again I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman GOODLATTE) for introducing this piece of legislation.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4661, the "Internet Spyware Prevention Act of 2004." This narrow criminal legislation will deter and allow the prosecution of the worst forms of behavior involving spyware by providing additional tools and resources to criminal prosecutors. I would like to thank the Gentleman from Virginia, Mr. GOODLATTE, for introducing the legislation before us today.

Technologies designed to enhance the speed and efficiency of data transfer have fueled the explosive growth of the Internet. Unfortunately, the sad reality is that the same software and technology innovations that have enhanced and personalized usage of the Internet can also provide opportunities for abuse and illegal behavior.

Like many other ills on the Internet these latest malicious behaviors cannot be stopped by federal legislation alone. In fact, there is no one silver bullet—legal, regulatory, or technological—to end the misuse of spyware or the related practice of "phishing." But greater consumer awareness and use of available technological countermeasures clearly hold the great-

est promise for curbing these abusive practices. Congressional efforts will only help if they focus on behavior—not rapidly changing technology.

H.R. 4661 is a good start because it focuses on behavior that is criminal, not on technologies. Unlike some other proposals, this bill does not set up new requirements that dictate how things appear on a computer screen or that bombard a user with unwanted notices. Nor does this bill pose the same dangers of strict liability for legitimate companies who make a mistake. In short, it represents a measured solution to the problem it seeks to correct.

I believe that this narrow legislation updating necessary criminal law provisions and emphasizing increased enforcement, rather than broad regulation, is the correct legislative response at this time. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4661 and reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4661, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1134. An act to reauthorize and improve the program authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

S. 2796. An act to clarify that service marks, collective marks, and certification marks are entitled to the same protections, rights, and privileges of trademarks.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1417. An act to amend title 17, United States Code, to replace copyright arbitration royalty panels with Copyright Royalty Judges, and for other purposes.

HONORING NATIONAL NURSE PRACTITIONERS WEEK

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 500) honoring the goals and ideals of National Nurse Practitioners Week.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 500

Whereas there are more than 106,000 licensed nurse practitioners in the United States providing high-quality, cost-effective health care;

Whereas nurse practitioners are registered nurses, with advanced education and advanced clinical training, most with master's or post-master's degrees;

Whereas nurse practitioners diagnose acute and chronic conditions, prescribe medications, treat illnesses, and counsel patients on health care issues, in coordination with physicians and other health care providers;

Whereas the excellence, safety, and cost-effectiveness of the care provided by nurse practitioners has been established;

Whereas nurse practitioners provide health care to people of all ages and in diverse health care settings, such as private office practice, hospitals, long-term care facilities, schools, State and local health departments, and managed care facilities;

Whereas more than 20 percent of nurse practitioners practice in rural settings with populations of less than 25,000, and of the 62 percent who work in cities with populations of more than 50,000, more than 39 percent work in inner-city areas; and

Whereas the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners has designated the week of November 7–13, 2004, as National Nurse Practitioners Week in recognition of the many contributions that this dedicated group of health care professionals makes to the health and well-being of the people in the communities they serve in this great country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) honors the goals and ideals of National Nurse Practitioners Week; and

(2) offers sincere support to nurse practitioners around the country as they continue to provide high-quality health care to many Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the House Concurrent Resolution 500.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 500, honoring the goals and ideals of National Nurse Practitioners Week, introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners has designated the week of November 7 through 13, 2004, as National Nurse Practitioners Week in recognition of the many contributions that this dedicated group of health care professionals makes to the people

and well-being of the people in the communities they serve in this great country.

Currently, there are more than 100,000 licensed nurse practitioners in the United States providing high-quality, cost-effective health care. These nurses have advanced education and advanced clinical training, most with Master's or post-Master's degrees. Every day they, in coordination with physicians and other health care providers, diagnose acute and chronic conditions, prescribe medications, treat illnesses, and counsel patients on health care issues.

I urge my colleagues to offer their support to nurse practitioners around the country and to help us support H. Con. Res. 500.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, nurse practitioners play a critical role in meeting our Nation's medical needs. Working hand-in-hand with other professionals, nurse practitioners improve the flexibility and responsiveness and efficiency of our health care system. Because of their focus on primary care, disease prevention, and counseling, nurse practitioners serve as health care first responders for many American families. From weight management, blood pressure, dangerous infections, injuries, nurse practitioners have the frontline view of health care in our country.

Nurse practitioners also improve the health care system's ability to reach underserved populations. As we all know, primary health care is desperately needed in many urban and central city communities.

As this resolution notes, nurse practitioners have been there to help meet this need. Twenty percent of nurse practitioners serve in rural areas. Forty percent who serve in metropolitan areas work in central city settings.

In this age of double-digit health care cost inflation, nurse practitioners help to improve the cost effectiveness of American health care. By improving patient choice of provider and by promoting competition, nurse practitioners help to moderate spiraling health care costs.

Nurse practitioner training programs were first developed some 40 years ago. A shortage of doctors forced State governments to innovate, and a few nurse practitioners were certified, mostly, in those days, initially in pediatrics. From that modest beginning, the nurse practitioner profession has grown to fill an important and vital role in America's health care system. There are now more than 100,000 nurse practitioners serving the American public.

I join my colleagues in urging the House to agree to this concurrent resolution celebrating those 100,000 nurse practitioners and marking the goals and ideals of National Nurse Practitioners Week.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), the writer of this bill, a gentleman who is a medical doctor, who certainly has practical real-world experience in the world of nurse practitioners.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for allowing this bill to come to the floor. I am aware that there are many of pieces of legislation that could have filled these hours this week.

Mr. Speaker, nurse practitioners fill a vital role in America's health care system. As the gentleman from Ohio pointed out, there are over 106,000 nurse practitioners providing high-quality care around the Nation, and they are especially important in rural and underserved areas.

These health care professionals are critical in my district, especially in areas of Fort Worth, Texas. John Peter Smith, the public hospital system in Tarrant County, maintains 23 clinics for low-income and indigent patients around the county.

Nurse practitioners are able to enhance the services provided in many of these health care clinics. By utilizing nurse practitioners, John Peter Smith is able to see significantly more patients in an outpatient setting and to do so on a finite, fixed taxpayer-funded budget. John Peter Smith and the patients served by the health system could not do without the dedicated corps of nurse practitioners.

And on a personal note, Mr. Speaker, I have worked with nurse practitioners both in a training program at Parkland Hospital and I have had several come through my private practice in Lewisville, Texas, who trained there and stayed on with me to work in private practice, Lori Driggs and Jenny Andrews, and certainly I learned a great deal more from them than I was ever able to teach them.

Mr. Speaker, on November 7 through 13, 2004, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners will recognize National Nurse Practitioners Week to honor the dedication and commitment of these health care professionals. I rise to commend nurse practitioners for the contribution they make to the health and well-being of our country.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I simply rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 500, honoring the goals and ideals of National Nurse Practitioners Week. I also want to commend the gentleman from Florida (Chairman BILIRAKIS), chairman of the subcommittee, and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), ranking member, for the tremendous work that they do on health and health-related issues.

A great deal of my personal health care is provided by a nurse practitioner, and I simply commend her and all of the other nurse practitioners throughout the country who make up

an integral part of our health care delivery system. And I would urge agreement to this concurrent resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 500.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDING SECTION 340E OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT RELATING TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5204) to amend section 340E of the Public Health Service Act (relating to children's hospitals) to modify provisions regarding the determination of the amount of payments for indirect expenses associated with operating approved graduate medical residency training programs.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5204

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

SECTION 1. DISREGARD OF NEWBORN BASSINETS IN CALCULATING CASE MIX FOR RECEIPT BY CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS OF FUNDING FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 340E(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256e(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "related to" and inserting "associated with"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) by inserting "ratio of the" after "hospitals and the"; and

(B) by inserting at the end before the semicolon "to beds (but excluding beds or bassinets assigned to healthy newborn infants)".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to payments for periods beginning with fiscal year 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.