

retirement plan in order to pay the overhead for her office to keep the clinic doors open.

Well, I learned that lesson a long time ago with managed care back in the 1990s. If you're losing a little bit on every patient, it gets harder to make it up in volume. The harder you work, the more behind you get.

That was exactly the situation that she had found herself in. It's because we require such a significant amount of cross-subsidization. The private sector has to cross-subsidize the public sector—Medicare or Medicaid—or doctors cannot afford to keep their doors open. Precisely the information you have up on your slide.

Government-administered health care misleads Americans into thinking that they have coverage. But the reality is they're denied care at the out end because there simply is not the doctors offices there to provide it.

Well, you have been very generous with your time. I'm going to yield back so we can hear from some of our other great colleagues who are on the floor with us tonight. I thank you for bringing this hour together.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I thank my colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Dr. BURGESS.

I want to yield to another of my physician colleagues from Georgia, Dr. TOM PRICE, an orthopedic surgeon who represents the district adjacent to mine, the Sixth District of Georgia.

Dr. PRICE is going to tell us a little bit about these 47 million uninsured, many of whom are employed and simply cannot afford what is offered by their employer, their portion of the premium, and many of them of course work for very small employers that can't afford to offer coverage at all.

At this point, I am proud to yield to my colleague, the chairman of the Republican Study Committee, Dr. TOM PRICE.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank my friend from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY, for yielding and for his leadership in this area and for organizing this hour this evening.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard a lot of conversation tonight about health care and about access and affordability and quality and primary care physicians. I think it's important to talk about the thing that all of those affect, and that is patients. Patients are what this is all about.

I'm pleased to join my physician colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle tonight to talk about patients and the effect of health care and national health care policy on patients.

If I think about the eight physicians who are here on the floor tonight, we probably have seen a half million patients in our professional life and get a sense about what it means to take care of people and make certain that they get well, depending on the malady that befalls them.

We all have our different principles about health care. Mine are five—the

usual three: Access and affordability and quality. Then I add innovation and responsiveness. I think it's imperative we have a system that has the greatest amount of access, the greatest amount of affordability, the highest quality, and the most responsive and most innovative system.

I would suggest, as I know my friend would agree from Georgia, and my other physician colleagues here, that governmental intervention and increasing involvement doesn't improve any of those things. It doesn't improve access, it doesn't improve affordability, it certainly doesn't improve quality, doesn't improve innovation or responsiveness.

So what's the solution? What's the solution for the patients across this Nation who are maybe watching this evening, Mr. Speaker, and saying: What are you going to do?

Well, the solution, I believe, as I know my colleagues do, is to make certain that patients have ownership of the system. The only way to get the system to move in the direction that patients want it to move is to have a patient-centered system so that patients own and control their own health insurance policy.

Everybody's got to have health insurance. You can get to that system in a way that most of us support, which is through the Tax Code. Making certain that it makes financial sense for all patients to have health insurance. But, once they do, how do you make the system move in the direction it ought to move, and that is the direction that patients want it to move. It's to allow for patients to own and control their health insurance policy, regardless of who's paying the cost.

That's important because that changes the relationship between the insurance company and the patient. Right now, when the patient calls the insurance company and says, You're not doing what I need to have done, or my doctor recommends, the insurance company, by and large, says, Call somebody who cares. Because you aren't controlling the system.

When patients own and control the system, then the system moves in the direction that patients want it to move.

We are working diligently to come up with a product that will allow the American people to look to Washington and say, Hey, those guys are doing what we think ought to be done in our health care system.

I'm so pleased to be able to join you tonight and talk about positive solutions for our health care system that puts patients in control.

I yield back.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Dr. PRICE, thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that we are running very close to that witching hour. Maybe I saved the best until last. He probably thinks that I'm shorting him on time because his LSU Tigers whipped up pretty badly on my Georgia

Tech Yellow Jackets in the Bowl game. That's not the case at all.

I'm proud to yield to the internist and gastroenterologist from Baton Rouge, Dr. Patrick.

Mr. CASSIDY. You're so bitter about that loss, you call me Patrick instead of CASSIDY.

I actually teach residents. I'm still on faculty with LSU Med School. It's not accidental that we end up having too few specialists.

For example, just to put the issue into focus, only about 2 percent of medical school grads in 2007 planned to go into a primary care career. That's 2 percent.

Now, it's not accidental why this is. As it turns out, the Federal Government gives more money to train specialists. It gives less to train a generalist and more to train a specialist.

When you're out, reimbursement is less for visits, but more for procedures. So the primary care physician that we don't have enough of gets paid less for the amount of effort he or she puts into their job.

So I say this to say that it's Federal policies that have gotten us here, and there are wise Federal policies that can get us out. But I want to just give a little bit of humility to the people who want to remake our system, assuming that a top-down approach will benefit.

I echo what Dr. PRICE said—it's better to have that patient in charge of the system. When it's top down, we end up with systems which end up skewing us towards more specialists and fewer generalists. I think if we take history as a guide, we will say that we will be much better if the patient have the power as opposed to CMS or another Federal bureaucracy having the power.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Patrick. And I thank all of my colleagues. You can see the level of interest of the GOP Doctors Caucus. But we want to work with the physicians, the medical providers, the nurses on the other side of the aisle, and work in a bipartisan way.

In this area of a second opinion, we will continue to bring other issues forward as we continue in the 111th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, with that I yield back.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009 AT PAGE H3701

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on March 18, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1127. To extend certain immigration programs.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on March 19, 2009 she presented to the President of the

United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1541. To provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ELLISON (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. WESTMORELAND (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today and March 30.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 30.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, March 24, 25 and 26.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, March 30.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, March 25.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, for 5 minutes, March 25.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1512. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 24, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

986. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the study of adverse health events of exposure to depleted uranium munitions on both soldiers and children of uranium-exposed soldiers who were born after the soldiers were exposed to depleted uranium, pursuant to Section 716 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

987. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation & Regulations on behalf of Board, Board of Directors of the HOPE for Homeowners Program, transmitting the Board's final rule — Rules Regarding Access to Information Under the Freedom of Information Act [Docket No.: B-2009-F04] (RIN: 2580-AA02) received March 11, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

988. A letter from the Vice Chair and First Vice President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

989. A letter from the Vice Chair and First Vice President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Japan pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

990. A letter from the Vice Chair and First Vice President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

991. A letter from the Director, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Japan pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

992. A letter from the Vice Chair and First Vice President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Turkey pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

993. A letter from the Director, Office of Legal Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Risk Based Assessments (RIN: 3064-AD35) received March 11, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

994. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's thirty-first annual report summarizing actions the Commission took during 2008 with respect to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. 1692-1692o; to the Committee on Financial Services.

995. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting notification of a grant award for the San Mateo County Community College Dis-

trict in response to the Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA), SGA/DFA PY 08-02, as part of the Department's competitive Community-Based Job Training Initiative; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

996. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

997. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Institutional Review Boards; Registration Requirements [Docket No.: FDA-2004-N-0117] (formerly Docket No.: 2004N-0242) (RIN: 0910-AB88) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

998. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's annual Alternative Fuel Vehicle Report for Fiscal Year 2008, pursuant to Section 8 of the Energy Conservation Reauthorization Act of 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

999. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Scranton, Pennsylvania) [MB Docket No.: 08-125 RM-11457] received March 11, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1000. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to India (Transmittal No. DDTC 018-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, 36(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1001. A letter from the Vice Admiral, USN Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting reports submitted in accordance with Sections 36(a) and 26(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, the 24 March 1979 Report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Seventh Report by the Committee on Government Operations for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2009, 1 October 2008 — 31 December 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1002. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Mexico for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 09-18), pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1003. A letter from the Vice Admiral, USN Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Agency's report in accordance with Section 36(a) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1004. A letter from the Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union, transmitting a letter enlisting support for the new democracy project that addresses the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in national parliaments; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1005. A letter from the Director, Department of Making Pregnancy Safer, World Health Organization, transmitting notification of a three-day meeting to share experiences between policy-makers and planners, and to increase advocacy to boost investments and significantly improve progress on