

even middle class in some circumstances. The services they receive at the VA hospital constitute their sole access to health care. As we move from inpatient care to primary care in the general delivery of health care, it is important that we continue to offer similar services to our veterans. These preventive services reduce the need for costly inpatient services. In the long run, this will go further toward saving taxpayer dollars than the assorted tax cuts being proposed by the majority.

I call upon my colleagues to vote to restore the funding to the VA ambulatory care projects when the rescission package is brought to the floor next week. These projects make sense, and send a clear message that we are committed to our veterans and to their well-being. It is the least we can do to thank them for their service.

TERM LIMITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I want to call the attention of our colleagues to the fact that 1 week from today the U.S. House of Representatives will have a historic first. We will have an opportunity for the first time in the history of this country to vote on a term limits constitutional amendment, an amendment that would limit the length of time that Members of the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate may serve in these two august bodies.

This amendment proposal will have many variations to be voted on out here, and there are certain preferences that some of us have as to one version or another. I know for one, I have been working for years in an effort to get a 12-year limit on both the House and the Senate. Six 2-year terms in the House and two 6-year terms in the Senate. Actually, I prefer that we lengthen the terms in the House and have three 4-year terms.

Whatever the debate may be over the number of years, the important bottom line is that we move along with the process and get a final passage vote that gets us to 290 and makes a bold statement out here.

The reason why we need term limits seems apparent to most people. A record 77 percent of the American people favor term limits. Sometimes the poll has been as high as 80 and other times as low as 70. But that is strong support for term limits which has been there for years and years and years.

What the American people have seen, that many in Congress have not admitted to in recent years, is the fact that we really have become very career-oriented in this body, in the House particularly but, to a large extent in the Senate as well.

Members here are serving full time, a way that the Founding Fathers would not have envisioned. A year-round Con-

gress is something, again, that the Founding Fathers had not envisioned.

Back years ago, we had a situation where Members came here for a very brief period of time at the beginning of the year, as in Senate legislatures, and serve for a couple of months, go home, and not come back again for another year. At the same time, Members served rarely more than two terms as Congressmen in the House and they went home and were citizen legislators in the true sense of the word.

Today's Government is too big for this. We are going to have, for the foreseeable future, a full-time U.S. House and Senate doing the will of the public, a job that is intended to be done. But at the same time what has happened that goes along with this that I think is a real problem is that Members are becoming increasingly concerned that it is a full-time job and a career as well. Not all feel that way, but a substantial number do. We need to take the career orientation out of Congress and put a finite limit on the length of time that you can serve here.

The reason why this seems to me to be important is because those who are constantly seeking reelection, viewing it as a career, are inevitably consciously or unconsciously going to try to please every interest group to get reelected. Believe you me, there is an interest group for every proposal that comes before Congress and certainly for every spending proposal. That is a good reason why we have not had a balanced budget.

In addition to needing to mitigate the career orientation of too many Members of Congress, we need to put a permanent rule in place, something in the Constitution that would limit the power of any individual Member to control a committee or to be involved as a chairman or been in a powerful position for too long a period of time. Only a term limit amendment can do that.

Then, term limits would provide also a certainty we are going to have new, fresh ideas here regularly, coming forward out of the public.

I would suggest to my colleagues who oppose term limits and say we need to have the experience and wisdom here of Members who are very good and talented, I would say, yes, there are a few, but there are thousands and thousands of other Americans who can replace those whom we turn out, who could come here, serve their country just as well and would serve just as well as those of us who might think a few of those Members are very talented who are here.

I happen to favor 12 years, as I have said. I think that makes more sense. Twelve years in the Senate and 12 years in the House rather than 6 years in the House or 8 years in the Senate or some other number that is appropriate.

My judgment is that if we go with a number different from the Senate and the House, that we are going to weaken this body as opposed to the Senate.

When we have conference committee meetings and we have other opportunities to debate the issues of the day with the Senate, they will have the more experienced Members in the room, they will have a tougher staff situation, and the House will be weakened. That is not good public policy.

I also happen to think that 6 years is too short. I think you need to be here a couple of terms before you are chairman of a full committee, you need to be in 6 years before you come into the leadership, because this is a full-time job right now whether we like it or not. It is a big Government. I think you open yourself, as term limits supporters, to the critics who oppose term limits altogether who will say the staff will run this place if you support the 6-year version. Twelve years in both bodies makes a lot of sense to me.

But the bottom line is we need, those of us who support term limits, to stick together. Our latest whip check shows we have about 230 Members openly pledged to support term limits in one form or another, coming out here for a vote next week. It is truly remarkable. Two Congresses ago we only had 33 Members of Congress willing to openly support term limits. In the last Congress we got up to 107. In this Congress now it appears that we are going to have at least 230 Members saying, "Yes, we want term limits in one form or another," and I hope all 230 and 60 more which we need to get to the two-thirds to pass the amendment, will be here for whatever version emerges on final passage, whether 6 or 8 or 12, whatever. I urge all Members to seriously consider term limits, remember it is a historic vote out here next Tuesday.

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION 1995 RESCISSIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, cutting funding for veterans to pay for tax cuts to the wealthy is wrong. Clearly, my Republican colleagues from the House Appropriations Committee disagree. Last week, under the continued assault of the Contract With America, veterans learned that Republicans cut \$206 million from the Department of Veterans Affairs budget to help pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

These cuts represent more than just money—they represent the breaking of a solemn promise Congress made with sick and disabled veterans across the Nation last year. These cuts target some of the most vulnerable groups in our society—aging World World II and Korean conflict veterans and other who have sacrificed so much for our Nation.

This funding is sorely needed. The Department of Veterans Affairs has been counting on this assistance to pay