

Institute of Medicine has published three seminal reports on patient safety, and it has identified the enormous problem in this country with patient safety. In fact, the Institute estimates that, every year, as many as 98,000 patients die because of preventable errors. This is the Institute of Medicine, which is not a partisan entity. They also estimate that, each year, over 1.5 million medication errors occur and that every hospital patient is subjected to some type of medication error every day they're in the hospital.

Patient satisfaction. This gets back to what we were talking about with end-of-life treatment. Increasingly, how patients receive care and respond to care is directly related to how they perceive their access and quality of care. It also measures hospital readmission rates because we know that one of the biggest drivers of cost is that of patients who are discharged from the hospital and who are later readmitted for conditions that may have been prevented if there had been better information communicated to them or if there had been better coordination of care upon their discharge.

Another factor we look at is mortality related to health care. Are patients dying in greater numbers as a complication of a specific problem? We know, for example, that hospital infections are an enormous problem. They lead to many hospital readmissions, to prolonged patient stays, to increased costs of care, and in the worst outcomes, to death. We also know that many hospital infections are entirely preventable from standard, simple precautions like hand-washing procedures that are not only adopted but that are enforced.

Then other things that we use to measure quality are other items determined by the Department of Health and Human Services, and if the advisory group has other recommendations, we certainly want the Secretary to take those into account.

How do you measure cost? Well, the cost component is measured through the total annual, per-beneficiary Medicare expenditures under part A for that area, and it also allows the Secretary to use other methods if it's appropriate.

So how much cost savings are we talking about? Hundreds of billions of dollars. We know that, by changing the incentives away from a fee-for-service toward a fee-for-high-quality and low-cost model, we create incentives for health care providers to improve their outcomes and to decrease their costs. We can use those cost savings to build a health care system that truly is universal and that helps us all.

Nobody said this challenge would be easy. Yet those of us who are committed to comprehensive, universal health care that is paid for, that is reliable, affordable, efficient, and high quality are committed to spending the time necessary to improve this bill and to make it work the way it needs to

work. It has to work if we are to function as a country.

So I ask you to join the Populist Caucus, to call your Representative or your Senator and to make sure that they know how important health care is to you, just the way my constituents called me, wrote me and sent me e-mails.

This is a challenge. The time has come for bold action. Americans deserve better. Americans demand better, and it is our responsibility in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, to finally deliver on the promise of health care for all that is high in quality and that is low in cost.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for July 20 on account of bad weather and travel delays.

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 Mr. LYNCH) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, July 28.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 11. Concurrent resolution condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and reaffirming the support of Congress for the mandate of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 22, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from

the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2745. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Common Crop Insurance Regulations, Basic Provisions (RIN: 0563-AC23) received July 1, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2746. A letter from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting notification that the Office has designated thirteen new counties in eight states as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), pursuant to Public Law 109-469; to the Committee on Appropriations.

2747. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's annual report to the Congress on the Presidential \$1 Coin Program, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 5112 Public Law 109-145, section 104(3)(B) (119 Stat. 2670); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2748. A letter from the Director, Office of Legal Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Special Assessments (RIN: 3064-AD35) received June 25, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2749. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Interest Rate Restrictions on Insured Depository Institutions That Are Not Well Capitalized — received June 25, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2750. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received July 1, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

2751. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2752. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting 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, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2753. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2754. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank Seattle, transmitting the 2008 management report of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2755. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, transmitting the 2008 Statements on System of Internal Controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.