

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCING A HEALTH QUALITY RESOLUTION

HON. RICHARD K. ARMEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution on health-care quality. It expresses the sense of the House that Congress not pass any legislation that: Makes health insurance unaffordable; swells the ranks of the uninsured; diverts scarce health resources to lawyers and bureaucrats; or imposes political considerations on medical practice, such as so-called body-part mandates.

The resolution is needed to remind us our first duty is to "do no harm," and thus not to pass any so-called "quality" bill that would in fact do serious harm to the quality of patient care. I am thinking of bills like the White House-Democrat Leadership "Patient Bill of Rights Act," a bill that would have the perverse effect of eliminating every kind of managed-care plan except restrictive HMOs, enable nurses and doctors to go on strike, and drive up premiums and drive down coverage by letting trial lawyers sue health plans for malpractice. Worst of all, this liberal dream bill would let HHS bureaucrats define "medical necessity," which is as good as giving them power over life and death. It is an audacious step toward Clintoncare.

I am the first to acknowledge the serious flaws in today's health-care system. While America leads the world in excellent medical drugs, devices, and doctors, and while insurance plans are improving every day thanks to market forces, the fact is we have real problems in our health system.

Government policy, both state and federal, makes insurance unaffordable for millions.

The tax break for health insurance discriminates against the unemployed and small-business workers.

Many employers offer their workers no real choice of plans or doctors.

And of course we have all heard about the bad health plans, the ones that deny service in violation of contract, or that let remote bureaucrats with cook books impose medical decisions over the advice of trained, on-site health professionals. I do not know how many of these accusations are true, but even one is too many if it is true and preventable. So this problem demands our serious attention.

But in trying to improve, we have an obligation not to destroy. We should serve the good of patients and consumers, and not the financial interests of certain industries or trade associations. Above all, we should not assist President Clinton in his openly acknowledged scheme to socialize our health system step by step.

In passing this resolution, the House would be going on record in favor of legislation that promotes rather than degrades quality. It is identical to a resolution by Senator NICKLES of Oklahoma that recently passed the Senate by

a vote of 98 to zero. Even Senator KENNEDY voted for it, reluctantly. I want us to approve the Nickles resolution in the House, so that we may not be outdone in our zeal for good by our distinguished colleagues across the Ronda.

REMEMBRANCE OF ANNA M. SULLIVAN

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mark the passing of Mrs. Anna M. Sullivan of Cranston, Rhode Island, a dear friend and dedicated public servant. Anna has been a leader in her church and her community, an inspiration to her family and friends, and has left behind a legacy of public service.

Music was a large part of her life. At the age of 13, Anna began to play the organ and direct the choir for her church. Through 53 years and five children that devotion never changed. Mrs. Sullivan was also the elementary music supervisor for the Warwick public school system for many years.

If Anna is to be remembered for one issue, it is her strong, lifelong fight in opposition to abortion and support of the family. Anna's work as a right to life advocate began in 1970, when she and others organized a group to oppose the attempts by some lawmakers to make abortion legal.

They originally called themselves the Constitutional Right to Life Committee, but later changed the name to Rhode Island State Right to Life. In 1979, Anna founded Right to Life Services, which provides baby clothes and equipment to as many as two thousand needy families each year.

Anna lobbied legislators on a number of topics she felt passionately about. Anna led the fight against assisted suicide in Rhode Island. Another issue of particular concern to Anna was increasing nutritional support for pregnant women. She helped underprivileged people and young women who were pregnant. While she met many people she disagreed with, she always treated them with respect.

In 1982, she received the Monsignor Charles W. McConnell Memorial Award from the Diocese of Providence's Catholic Youth Organization. In 1985, she became the first woman to receive the Hope Award from the Rhode Island State Council for the Knights of Columbus. In 1989, in a ceremony at the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul, she was awarded the Papal Cross, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice".

Anna, who leaves behind ten children and nine grandchildren, never forgot her family despite her many public service activities. Anna will be missed by her friends, family, and community. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathies to her family at this time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was in my district to participate in Indiana's primary elections. As a result I was unable to vote on roll call votes #122-126. If I had been present, I would have voted "no" on roll call #122, and "yes" on roll call #123-126.

PRAISE FOR MS. ELEANOR EPSTEIN, SPRING HONOREE OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL OF BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly generous and caring woman in my community in Bergen County, New Jersey—Ms. Eleanor Epstein of Englewood Cliffs. Eleanor Epstein has carved a place for herself as an energetic and forceful advocate for children and the elderly. She appreciates her heritage and understands that being part of a community is about giving others a hand up so that each of us has the tools to succeed.

This month, Ms. Epstein is being honored by the United Jewish Appeal for her many years of outstanding service to the community. Her list of accomplishments leave no doubt of her position as the consummate community leader. She helped found the United Jewish Community Center on the Palisades while also serving on the Women's Division of the former United Jewish Fund of Englewood, New Jersey, the United Jewish Appeal's Dor L'Dor Society, and as a Ruby Lion of Judah.

Through these organizations, she reached out to the entire community, providing family activities, support, and aid to the entire citizenry of North Jersey. It is through the passions and drive of people like Eleanor Epstein that empower hometowns across America to evolve beyond simple houses and businesses into vibrant, caring communities. She brings with her an enormous strong civic pride and a deeply ingrained sense of service and concern for fellow human beings that spreads to all those with whom she comes in contact.

Ms. Epstein learned the value of community and service from her parents during her childhood in Brooklyn, New York. From those strong spiritual and family roots, she not only gave to the community, she dedicated herself to a strong marriage of 50 years to her husband Edward, another devoted and beloved figure in our community. Together they raised four loving, caring and equally philanthropic sons who have given them eleven grandchildren that they cherish beyond words.

Mr. Speaker, all of this being said, I wish to take a moment and wish Ms. Epstein all the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

best and continued success with her endeavors in Bergen County. A simple "thank you" can not convey what our entire community owes to Ms. Epstein; however, I hope that all of my colleagues have individuals in their respective districts like Eleanor Epstein because it is people like her that make the United States of America a more caring, safer and more wonderful place to live.

TRIBUTE TO GOODLOE SUTTON

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to one of Alabama's finest and most ethical journalists, Mr. Goodloe Sutton of Linden, Alabama.

Mr. Sutton's series on police corruption in Marengo County, Alabama was recently entered into the competition for the prestigious Pulitzer Prize . . . the Academy Award of Journalism.

I am personally *very proud* for Mr. Sutton, but I am equally proud for the citizens of Marengo County because they have such a brave and fearless man of letters to look after their interests.

Mr. Sutton's series of articles uncovered rampant law enforcement corruption, the misuse of public funds, and the uncovering of one of the largest drug rings ever revealed in the counties history.

Because of Mr. Sutton's public integrity, he suffered many, many injustices at the hands of the Sheriff's Department, as well as many death threats.

His story is a shining example of the best and the brightest which occurs in America when a single citizen has the bravery to stand alone, in the face of mounting pressure and odds, and stands up for justice and equality.

Mr. Sutton's quest for both the truth, as well as for the principle of equal justice under the law is both laudable and meritorious.

Mr. Sutton should be commended by the Congress and the American people for his truly American heroism and dedication to the truth. Well done, Goodloe Sutton.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of America's 2.6 million registered nurses to save lives and maintain the health of millions of individuals in the United States.

May 6-12 is National Nurses Week. Using the theme "Nursing: Healthcare With a Human Touch," the American Nurses Association and its 53 constituent associations will spend this week highlighting the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care.

From acute bedside nursing to long term care, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession is rising to meet the challenges of the different and emerging health care needs

of the American population in a whole new range of settings. Registered nurses' education and holistic approach is especially suited to meet the renewed emphasis on primary and preventive health care in the managed care environment. And with an aging American population, the demand for registered nursing services in the home care field will be greater than ever.

National Nurses Week begins on May 6, marked as RN Recognition Day, and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of nursing as a modern profession. Nurses, as a rule, do not work in plush or serene environments. Indeed, they often work long hours at relatively low pay, and with far fewer thanks for their dedicated work.

During this week, I would like to ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the registered nurses who care for all of us and, further, celebrate the registered nursing professions' continuing commitment to improve the safety and quality of patient care and availability of health care services for all in our health care system.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I note that as a registered nurse myself, I am proud to be associated with a group of individuals who exemplify the highest qualities of selflessness, compassion and concern for others.

AMERICAN VICTIMS OF
TERRORISM

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, while I missed roll-call vote 125, I would have voted in support of House Concurrent Resolution 220.

This sense of the Congress demanding that Yasir Arafat and the Palestinian Authority transfer to the United States, for prosecution, those residents of its territory who are suspected in the killings of American citizens is sensible and just. The harboring of suspected terrorists who attack Americans at home and abroad is deplorable, and measures to punish these terrorist must be taken.

Again, for the record, I join my colleagues in support of this sense of the Congress regarding American victims of terrorism.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS P. MONDANI

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note with great sorrow the passing of Thomas P. Mondani, a man who will long be remembered for his dedication and commitment to Connecticut public schools.

For two decades Mr. Mondani served as the director of the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) and became a champion, and friend, for Connecticut public school teachers. He worked tirelessly to achieve improvements in both the professional rights and benefits of educators.

In 1979, he fought for the passage of a binding arbitration law for teachers, which

ended the threat of teacher strikes in Connecticut. In 1986, Mr. Mondani helped pass the Education Enhancement Act, which lifted teachers' salaries to a level comparable to those in other professions. With the enactment of these two important pieces of legislation and various other contributions, the CEA Board of Directors voted unanimously in 1994 to grant Mr. Mondani the CEA Friend of Education Award. As a lasting tribute, the CEA even renamed the award in his honor.

Mr. Mondani began his career in public education as a teacher in Moodus in 1959. He joined the CEA staff in 1963 as a research consultant and later was promoted to director of research. From 1965 to 1971, he served in the state legislature as a Representative and a Senator. On July 1, 1971, he became the CEA's fifth full-time executive director since its 1848 founding. He continued as director until March 1, 1994 holding the position longer than any previous director. In 1991, he was appointed Vice Chairman of the State Board of Governors for Higher Education by Governor Lowell P. Weicker Jr. He was reappointed in 1997 to a third term by Governor John Rowland. Since October 1997 he had been serving a six month appointment as the interim executive director of the Georgia Association of Educators.

Mr. Mondani was a remarkable man. Connecticut is most certainly a better place as a result of his work for children, teachers, schools and higher education. He knew how to deal with tough questions concerning education and did so with a sense humor and goodwill.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas P. Mondani was a rare kind of man, a man who devoted his whole life to a cause that has changed so many lives for the better. I have lost a good friend, and the State of Connecticut, its teachers, students and families, have lost one too. He will surely be missed by all of us who had the pleasure to know him. I am sure the House will join me in expressing our most sincere sympathy to Mr. Mondani's family.

RECOGNITION OF RHODE ISLAND'S
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Rhode Island branch of the Small Business Administration. Last year the Rhode Island District Office set a record for the number of loans they issued. 511 different loans were issued totaling \$101.7 million approved for Fiscal Year 1997.

The Small Business Administration provides financial, technical and management assistance to help Americans start, run and grow their businesses. With a portfolio of business loans, loan guarantees and disaster loans, the SBA is the nation's largest single financial backer of small businesses. The SBA offers management and technical assistance to small business owners as a compliment to the financial services it provides. The Small Business Administration is committed to providing financial support to entrepreneurs in order to continue the economic recovery and viability of