a future tragedy. By allowing children and adults to abuse animals without sanction, Mr. Speaker, we are ignoring an important tool in the fight against domestic violence and an important tool in helping to prevent other tragic acts of violence such as those we have seen in Arkansas and Oregon.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation I have introduced today with the cosponsorship of thirteen of our colleagues expresses the sense of Congress that appropriate Federal agencies thoroughly support and incorporate research on the connection between acts of cruelty against animals and humans. Furthermore, it recognizes the validity and significance of this link.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in encouraging research and awareness about this disturbing connection between violence against animals and violence against people. I ask that the full text of this resolution be placed in the RECORD.

H. CON. RES. 286

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the link between violence against animals and violence against humans and urging greater emphasis upon identifying and treating individuals who are guilty of violence against animals, which is a crime in its own right in all 50 states, in order to prevent violence against humans and urging research to increase understanding of the connection between cruelty to animals and violence against humans.

Whereas as urgent need exists to prevent violence, especially among juvenile offenders and in domestic situations;

Whereas a strong correlation between animal abuse and violence against humans has been documented by criminal profiling experts associated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who have identified cruelty to animals as one of the three traits often found in the ''homicidal traid'' which indicates the characteristics of a violent personality;

Whereas a disproportionately high number of violent killers in the prison system admit to having abused animals, and virtually every serial killer and many violent killers have a history of abusing animals;

Whereas many of the recent cases of school violence have involved students with a history of abusing animals;

Whereas individuals who deliberately abuse animals are more likely to abuse their spouse and their children or otherwise be involved in violent crimes;

Whereas some experts believe that abusing animals may increase or fuel the desire to commit violence against humans in certain disturbed individuals;

Whereas animal cruelty is violence and should be recognized as such when assessing an individual's propensity to commit future acts of violent crime;

Whereas intentional animal abuse is an early warning signal that individuals, including young people, could perpetrate violent crimes against other individuals; and

Whereas laws against cruelty to animals have been enacted in all 50 states and provide penalties for the purposeful torture and killing of animals, and the enforcement of these animal abuse laws provide law enforcement officials with an opportunity to bring potentially violent offenders into the criminal justice system before they commit more serious crimes against humans;

Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes that individuals who abuse animals are more likely to commit more serious violent crimes against humans;

(2) urges social workers, teachers, mental health professionals, and others to be aware of the connection between animal cruelty and human violence and to evaluate carefully and to monitor closely individuals who have a history of abusing animals because this may indicate a propensity to commit violence against other humans;

(3) urges appropriate Federal agencies to encourage and support research to increase the understanding of the connection between cruelty to animals and violence against humans in order to utilize instances of animal abuse to identify and intervene with potentially violent individuals, and urges federal agencies which are undertaking research on violent crime and its causes to incorporate examination of the link between violence against animals and violence against humans;

(4) urges local law enforcement officials to treat cases of animals cruelty seriously both because such cruelty is a crime in its own right in all 50 states and because it is a reliable indicator of the potential for domestic and other forms of violence against humans; and commends the fine work of local animal control officials and humane investigators who enforce laws against animal abuse and urges these professionals to work more closely with local law enforcement personnel to identify and prevent potential violence against humans.

THE MEDICARE CONSUMER BILL OF RIGHTS CONFORMING ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, President Clinton issued an Executive Memorandum directing all Federal health plans, which serve over 85 million Americans, to come into substantial compliance with the Consumer Bill of Rights recommended by the President's Quality Commission.

The Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry recommended: Consumer information disclosure; choice of providers and plans; access to emergency services; consumer participation in treatment decisions; nondiscrimination protections; confidentiality of health information; access to complaints and appeals processes; and, a recognition of consumer responsibilities.

The Medicare program is already meeting most of these standards, but there are two specific components of the Consumer Bill of Rights that cannot be enforced in Medicare without a statutory fix. Both provisions affect the choice of plans and providers. The first would grant women direct access to obstetricians and gynecologists, the second would grant transitional care protections to patients who are undergoing a course of treatment and faced with an involuntary change in health plans or their doctor leaving the plan.

Today, I rise with my Democratic colleagues from the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee to introduce ''The Medicare Consumer Bill of Rights Conforming Act'' which creates statutory authority for Medicare to fully enforce the President's Quality Commission's Consumer Bill of Rights.

The Medicare Consumer Bill of Rights Conforming Act would require health plans to allow a Medicare beneficiary to select an OB–GYN as her primary care provider if she so chooses. It would also prohibit health plans from requiring women to obtain prior authorization before obtaining routine gynecological care.

An issue of real concern to people in managed care plans, and those thinking of joining them, is that doctors come and go from health plans, resulting in a loss of continuity of care for patients during those transitional times. The Medicare Consumer Bill of Rights Conforming Act would create short-term protections for Medicare patients in such situations. Patients undergoing a course of treatment when a health care provider is terminated from the plan would be able to continue that care with the same provider for up to 90 days. Cases involving institutionalization, pregnancy or terminal illness could have longer periods of transitional coverage. In all instances, the provider would need to accept the payment rate of the patient's health plan in order to qualify for continued participation.

The Medicare Consumer Bill of Rights Conforming Act is a small but important piece of legislation that would ensure Medicare beneficiaries of a basic set of consumer protections. These protections are not controversial. They were endorsed by the President's Quality Commission, which included representatives of big business, insurers, small business, labor, consumers, seniors, and the managed care industry. This is a very small step for Congress to take to provide Medicare with the authority to enact these protections for our nation's seniors and disabled population. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this sensible, non-controversial legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REDUCE MARRIAGE PENALTY OF EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, along with Representatives MCDERMOTT and KENNELLY, I am introducing legislation which addresses the marriage penalty of the earned income tax credit (EITC). Recently, there has been a lot of talk about reducing the marriage penalty. Several bills have been introduced to reduce the penalty. In addition, the House Budget Resolution includes a provision to reduce the marriage penalty.

The focus of reducing the marriage penalty has been geared toward middle income and upper income families. Senator PHIL GRAMM was the first Member of Congress to bring attention to the marriage penalty of the EITC. Senator GRAMM is attempting to amend the tobacco legislation. His amendment addresses the marriage penalty for families with lower incomes and the marriage penalty of the EITC.

Today, we are introducing legislation which addresses part of the marriage penalty in the current Tax Code by increasing the phase-out of the EITC for joint filers with qualifying children. This legislation increases the phase-out by $3,500. In 1999, the current law phase-out is $12,520 and this bill increases it to $16,020. The substantive effect of this bill is the same

as the EITC provision in Senator GRAMM's amendment.

This legislation complements legislation introduced by Reps. MCDERMOTT and KLECZKA. Their bill increases the standard deduction for those filing joint returns. The bill I am introducing today and the McDermott/Kleczka bill provide a realistic solution to the marriage penalty that addresses the issues at all income levels.

I urge you to join me in reducing the marriage penalty associated with the EITC. This legislation will help working families who are trying to stay off welfare.

H.R. 3990, THE ''ANTI-CRAMMING PROTECTION ACT OF 1998''

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3990, the ''Anti-Cramming Protection Act of 1998'' to protect the American public from those that perpetrate the unfair and anti-competitive outrage known as ''cramming.'' Crammers are companies that impose phantom charges on customers' telephone bills without their knowledge or consent.

In this information age, consumers are increasingly turning to their telephones not only to communicate with their friends, family, and business associates, but as a device for engaging in electronic commerce. With this legislation, we can ensure that consumers have protections from those who would swindle them simply because they use their telephone.

This legislation entitles consumers to have crammed charges dropped from their telephone bills if they dispute the charges within 90 days of receiving their telephone bill. The bill authorizes State Attorneys General to sue crammers under Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Act to protect consumers in their States from crammers. The bill requires the FTC to write rules to outlaw unfair and deceptive acts and practices in connection with billing for products or services on telephone bills. These rules would ensure that such charges are authorized by the consumer and are easily identifiable on the consumer's telephone bill. Also, subscribers would be permitted to block telephone billing of miscellaneous products and services at their own election. Finally, telephone companies would be authorized to discontinue billing on behalf of known crammers.

Cramming is a spreading problem. Cramming is one of the most frequent sources of consumer complaints at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Moreover, since cramming is a relatively new breed of consumer fraud, existing law is inadequate to provide consumers needed protection. Since the FCC began recording cramming complaints in December, it has processed nearly two thousand complaints. Local telephone companies also have received thousands of complaints, and that number is rising rapidly. Worse, since crammed charges are usually undetected by the consumers who are victimized, many cases go unreported. Without tough legislation, the number of victims is certain to rise, and legitimate competition will be stifled.

How do crammers get away with this trickery? Their creativity is boundless. For example, when a consumer dials a number to learn about a product, get sports scores, or hear their horoscope, their home telephone number is often captured through a number identification system. Crammers then use the telephone number to submit bogus charges to the consumer's local telephone company. Worse, crammers are not limited to finding victims through incoming calls. The white pages directory lists their potential prey in alphabetical order. Again, the crammer simply selects telephone numbers at random and submits bogus charges for billing.

Some crammers use names on telephone bills that intend to mislead or confuse the consumer. They will call themselves ''F.C.C.'', for example, in an attempt to be mistaken for a government agency. Or they will use a name like ''Enhanced Services'' that may be mistaken for other legitimate charges the consumer has ordered. In addition, there is often a middleman involved that submits billing to the local telephone service provider on behalf of multiple vendors, further complicating matters for consumers who want to dispute a charge. These charges are typically in the $3 to $5 range in an attempt to fall below the consumer's radar screen. Of course, these charges add up.

Many more choices are available to consumers today to make purchases of goods and services they want and need. Unfortunately these benefits also create many more opportunities for consumer confusion and fraud. Mr. Speaker, we need tough legislation to stop bad actors who are cramming bogus charges onto our constituents' phone bills. The ''Anti-Cramming Protection Act of 1998'' provides the tools needed to solve this problem.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JUAN VENÉ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Juan Vené, one of the most knowledgeable and experienced sports reporters and writers about baseball in the history of this sport.

Mr. Vené was honored for his achievements and dedication to writing about baseball by the organization Latino Sports. The banquet dinner in his honor was held at the Grand Hyatt, in New York City, on October 30.

Mr. José Rafaél Machado Yanes, better known by his pen name of Juan Vené, was born in Caracas, Venezuela in 1929.

His career as a reporter started in 1947, and since then he has dedicated every single day of his life to his profession as a director, editor, investigative reporter, columnist, sports writer, radio and TV commentator. The Spanish newspaper El Diario/La Prensa in New York City has honored him for each of the past 11 years as the most distinguished reporter who writes about the Yankees and the Mets.

Mr. Vené holds the record as the only sports reporter in the United States and Latin America who has covered every World Series for the past 37 years.

He was born with the passion for writing and reporting about the sport of baseball. Mr. Vené went to Cuba in 1948 to study journalism at the School of Marques Sterling, University of Havana, because during those years Venezuela did not have an institution of higher education that taught this field. He graduated from the university in Cuba in 1952. His interest in learning more about journalism motivated him to attend specialized seminars in the field. He also obtained a designation as a historian of baseball and has taught 73 courses on this field.

Mr. Vené writes a daily syndicated column on baseball for numerous newspaper in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Venezuela. He was a sports commentator for the Voice of America. He is also credited with being the first to launch a Spanish-language radio network to provide detailed coverage of the history of baseball, the training of baseball players, and all the games of the Major Leagues. The program aired in 11 countries.

He has produced many TV shows on baseball including, ''Play Ball'', ''El Mundo en su Marcha'', ''Los Cuadros del Pueblo'', ''La Historia del Beisbol'', ''Magazine'', ''Juan Vené en Acción''. He also belongs to the team of producers and writers of Major League Baseball Productions. Mr. Vené is a member of the Baseball Writer's Association of America and the Society for American Baseball Research. He is married and has four children and one grandchild.

At age 68, Mr. Vené talks about covering baseball with the same excitement and passion that he has demonstrated throughout his life. According to an interview conducted by Bob Shannon, which was published in ''New World'' in London, when he was asked what he would do next in his life, Mr. Vené responded that he will probably write an encyclopedia on the history of baseball in Latin America and Spain. When he was asked what sports he likes other than baseball, he responded: ''As Babe Ruth once said, 'Is there any other sport?' ''.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. José Rafaél Machado Yanes, writing as Juan Vené, for his great contributions to reporting and recording the history of our beloved national sport—baseball.

GLENN ''JEEP'' DAVIS

HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, June 7, 1998, one of Barberton, Ohio's favorite sons will be honored. A statue of Glenn ''Jeep'' Davis will be unveiled as part of a community-wide celebration of an extraordinary athlete, teacher, and example for us all.

If there is an award in amateur athletics, Glenn ''Jeep'' Davis has probably won it. If there's a hall of fame, he's probably in it.

Jeep won three Olympic Gold Medals. He took the Olympic Gold in 1956 in the 440y Intermediate Hurdles. His Gold Medal win was no surprise. Earlier in the year during the Olympic trials, Jeep became the first man to break the 50-second barrier in that event. In 1960, he doubled his Gold Medal accomplishment. That year, he defended his Olympic title with a second Gold Medal in the 440y Intermediate Hurdles and went on to win another Gold Medal in the 4x400 Relay.