

care consumer protections is both wide and deep.

It is more than half a year since the President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry proposed, virtually unanimously, the adoption of a Bill of Rights. For many months it has been clear that strong support exists for the enactment of a genuine Patients' Bill of Rights. A number of bills including the Patients' Bill of Rights Act (S. 1890), the patients' Access to Responsible Care Act (S. 644) and others have such support and demonstrate that many members are in favor of bipartisan patient protection legislation.

It is therefore both troubling and puzzling that there has been a delay in consideration of this legislation. We believe that it is wrong to obstruct congressional consideration of genuine patient protection legislation. Your colleagues want such legislation. America's families need it. And it is a violation of fundamental fairness, and a disservice to families seeking health care, for you to block a vote on this important legislation.

We hope that you will lend your support to efforts to enact genuine managed care patient protection legislation—not a watered-down version and not one that is combined with "poison pills." We urge you to schedule quickly a full and fair debate on such legislation. Protecting America's families should be your number one priority. We urge you to act now.

Sincerely,

ACT UP Golden Gate, AIDS Action, AIDS Legal Referral Panel, AIDS Policy Center for Children, Youth and Families, AIDS Treatment News, Alzheimer's Association, American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Neurology, American Academy of Physician Medicine and Rehabilitation, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, American Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, American Association for Respiratory Care, American Association of Children's Residential Centers, American Association of Pastoral Counselors, American Association of Private Practice Psychiatrists, American Association of University Women, American Association on Mental Retardation, American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work, American Cancer Society, American Chiropractic Association, American Counseling Association, American Dental Association, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), American Group Psychotherapy Association, American Lung Association, American Medical Association, American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association, American Nurses Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Protestant Health Alliance, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychiatric Nurses Association, American Psychoanalytic Association, American Psychological Association, American Society for Adolescent Psychiatry, American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons; American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; American Therapeutic Recreation Association; American Thoracic Society, Anxiety Disorders Association of America; Arc of the United States, Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center, Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare, Association for the Advancement of

Psychology, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Brain Injury Association Inc (BIA), Center for Patient Advocacy, Center on Disabilities and Health, Child Welfare League of America, Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders (CHADD), Clinical Social Work Federation, Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care, Consumer Federation of America, Corporation for the Advancement of Psychiatry, Families USA, Family Voices, Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quaker), Gay Men's Health Crisis, Health Initiatives for Youth, Human Rights Campaign, International Association of Psychological Rehabilitation Services, League of Women Voters of the United States, Legal Action Center, Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, National Association for Rural Mental Health, National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics (NAAOP), National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, National Association of Developmental Disabilities Council, National Association of People with AIDS, National Association of Protection & Advocacy Systems, National Association of Psychiatric Treatment Centers for Children, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of Social Workers, National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc., National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform, National Council for Community Behavioral Health, National Council on Aging; National Easter Seal Society, National Education Association, National Marfan Foundation, National Mental Health Association, National Minority Aids Council, National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), National Organization on Disability, National Osteoporosis Foundation, National Parent Network on Disabilities, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Patient Advocate Foundation.

National Therapeutic Recreation Society, National Women's Law Center, Neighbor to Neighbor, OWL, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Project Inform, RESOLVE, The National Infertility Association, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Summit Health Coalition, United Cerebral Palsy Association, United Church of Christ, Office of Church in Society, Women's AIDS Network.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 3978

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I ask for regular order of H.R. 3978, for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3978) to restore provisions agreed to by the conferees to H.R. 2400, entitled the "Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century," but not included in the conference report to H.R. 2400, and for other purposes.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I ask unanimous consent for the second reading of H.R. 3978.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I object. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL TOBACCO POLICY AND YOUTH SMOKING REDUCTION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 1415, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1415) to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Gregg/Leahy amendment No. 2433 (to amendment No. 2420), to modify the provisions relating to civil liability for tobacco manufacturers.

Gregg/Leahy amendment No. 2434 (to amendment No. 2433), in the nature of a substitute.

Gramm motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report back forthwith, with amendment No. 2436, to modify the provisions relating to civil liability for tobacco manufacturers, and to eliminate the marriage penalty reflected in the standard deduction and to ensure the earned income credit takes into account the elimination of such penalty.

Daschle (for Durbin) amendment No. 2437 (to amendment No. 2436), relating to reductions in underage tobacco usage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, we have now been on this legislation for 3 weeks. We have taken some very important votes, and the bill has been significantly modified. I think it is time for us to complete our business and do so with dispatch. Obviously, if we don't, the proponents of the status quo will achieve by delay what they can't with a majority of votes; and that is, obviously, to kill tobacco legislation that is aimed at saving the lives of over 1 million children.

The bill, as it has been modified, contains measures of enormous benefit to the Nation, including vital antiuse smoking initiatives that will stop or reduce the compelling aspect of this entire legislation—that is, the 3,000 children a day from taking up a habit that will kill a third of them. There is critical funding for ground-breaking health research, assistance to our Nation's veterans who suffer from smoking-related illnesses, a major antidrug effort to attack the serious threat that is posed by illegal drugs, the magnitude and importance of which was described very effectively by the Senator