

Louis and a member of Chorus America, the association of professional vocal ensembles. This special 25th anniversary concert is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dennis Sparger and Masterworks Chorale for 25 years of wonderful music.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
LOUIS STOKES

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 23, 1998*

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, while I rejoice in the opportunity to sing the praises of my friend and mentor, the Honorable LOU STOKES, the Dean of the Ohio Delegation, I am saddened by the realization that he will be retiring from this body at the end of this Congress. His departure from Congress will constitute a great personal loss to me and a great loss to the nation.

LOU STOKES' Congressional contributions were legendary to me long before I came to the Congress. His successes toward developing health programs for underserved and disadvantaged populations were well known to me and to health care workers throughout the country. During my 15 years in the Virginia legislature, I was active in developing programs to prevent infant mortality. LOU STOKES was our champion in the Congress on this issue then, and since I came to the Congress has continued to be our champion on the issue.

I serve with Representative STOKES on the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust. Year after year, he has provided absolutely stellar leadership as Chairman of the Braintrust by focusing the attention of the Congress and the nation on efforts to improve the health care status of disadvantaged populations. Not only will he leave a legacy of legislative accomplishments such as the Minority and Disadvantaged Health Care Improvement Act, but his annual Spring and Fall Health Braintrust programs will leave a record, that will be difficult for us to maintain, of pulling together the sharpest minds and most accomplished people to focus on pressing health concerns.

Mr. Speaker, in all of his endeavors, LOU STOKES has shown himself to be the consummate professional, a distinguished legislator, and an outstanding human being. I will miss you, LOU. I thank you for all you done for me, for this Congress and for this nation. God bless you Representative LOUIS STOKES, and Godspeed on your future endeavors.

HONORING THE NORTH CAROLINA  
COOPERATIVE BRIGHT IDEAS  
PROGRAM

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as a former Superintendent of Public Instruction for the

State of North Carolina, I closely follow matters related to the quality of public education in my district and state. Nothing gives me more pleasure than acknowledging a joint public-private initiative at the local level that is having a positive impact on the quality of classroom instruction.

In North Carolina, our community-minded electric cooperatives have a grant program for teachers called Bright Ideas. It was established in 1994 while I was Superintendent to improve classroom instruction by encouraging innovative teaching techniques. Bright Ideas has been a great success. Bright Ideas awards up to \$2,000 to teachers K-12 with no restrictions on subject matter. This year they received almost 2,000 applications and made more than 400 grants.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives, which provide power to 22 percent of my state's population and operate in 93 out of the 100 counties, made an early decision to consider any school's application regardless of its power supplier.

In 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives authorized \$225,000 a year for a state-wide Bright Ideas Program, which would have put the program over the \$1,000,000 mark by the 1998-99 school year. However, through generous additional funding in their respective areas, the cooperatives were able to reach \$1 million a full year ahead of schedule. I congratulate them for their achievement.

Chuck Terrill, Executive Vice President and CEO of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, says that the program will break \$1.5 million by the end of the 1998-99 school year, making the title of "Bright Ideas Classroom" a badge of honor in our schools.

In my district I have many cooperatives and thousands of cooperative members whom I count as friends. I salute these fine corporate citizens for their extraordinary contributions; more than \$1 million benefiting more than 400,000 students and still counting.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 28, 1998*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today we continue to mourn the loss of two of the finest men this Capitol has known. John 15:13 states that, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Had John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut not put themselves in harm's way, the lives of many would have been lost in last week's tragic event. These two men of courage laid down their lives so that their friends, coworkers and tourists visiting from around the world would be safe. We are truly blessed to have men and women of such noble character and bravery serving on the Capitol Police force.

As thousands of visitors came together yesterday to walk through the Capitol Rotunda to pay their respects to these men of courage, I realized that we are only able to safely visit this building which is a symbol of freedom because of the service of the many members of law enforcement we have here in Washington. We must never take for granted those who serve to protect and preserve the freedoms

that we enjoy here in the United States Capitol, and across this nation.

My prayers go out to the families of these two heroes who died that we might live. The memory of their actions will not be soon forgotten.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT  
CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT GORE  
AND THE OHIO CONGRESSIONAL  
DELEGATION

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit this open letter on behalf of many associations and federations from the state of Ohio:

We respectfully and urgently request you to reject efforts to accept the United Nations treaty signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and further revised in Kyoto, Japan that deals with greenhouse gas emissions.

Acceptance of this treaty would bind the U.S. to restrict fossil fuels (coal, natural gas and petroleum) use which together provide 80% of America's energy, while exempting 2.5 billion people in foreign countries from these reductions. These reductions will greatly force up the price of coal, natural gas, gasoline and electricity. Ohioans' cost for each of these necessities could rise by roughly 50% by 2010.

The result will be anti-family; as families are forced to pay much more for the basic necessity of electricity, anti-farm; as the cost of farming and supplies soar, anti-jobs; as 56,000 Ohio-based jobs are lost, many going to the exempted foreign countries. All of this will devastate Americans and Ohioans in particular. Economic estimates suggest by the year 2010, Ohioans will pay \$350 more for every man, woman and child in our state. This means we will together annually pay \$3.8 billion dollars more to heat our homes, run a business, or care for our loved ones. This will be especially harsh and unfair to Ohio seniors, the poor and others.

Global warming warrants thoughtful study but it does not make sense to strangle 80% of America's energy foundation while over half the world's population is exempted for this treaty's reach. Ohioans deserve better than this.

Please don't force Ohio families, seniors, those on the edge of poverty, our farmers and businesses to be saddled with this United Nations treaty.

Joel Hastings, Director of Local Affairs, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Columbus—192,000 members; Kelly McGivern, Director of Environment and Health Care Policy, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Columbus—5,000 members; John C. Mahaney, Jr., President, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, Columbus—3,000+ members; Alon Apel, Director of Government Affairs, Ohio Pharmacists Association, Dublin—4,000 members; Tom King, Executive Vice President, Ohio Trucking Association, Columbus—1,000 members; Sherry Weisgarber, Managing Director, Ohio Aggregates Association, Columbus—197 members; Ruth Ann Wilson, Executive Secretary, Ohio Assoc. of Meat Processors, Delaware—500 members; Gary A. Murdock, President, Ohio Valley Automotive Aftermarket Association, Hilliard—1,000 members; Roger P. Jones, President, Ohio Ready Mixed, Concrete Association, Columbus—210

members companies; Michael H. Cochran, Executive Director, Ohio Twp Assoc., Columbus—8,600 members; Holly Saelens, Director—Public Policy Services, The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Columbus; Sheila Adams, President/CEO, Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati—700 members; Bernard Shoemaker, President (Master), Ohio State Grange, Columbus—17,000 members; Bryan Bucklew, Director—Governmental Affairs, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Dayton—3,350 members; C. Clark Street, Executive Vice President, Ohio Contractors Association, Columbus—585 members; James H. Lee, Executive Director, Ohio Forestry Association, Columbus; Susie Calhoun, Executive Director, Ohio Soybean Council, Columbus—1,500 members; Jack Heavenridge, Executive Vice President, Ohio Poultry Association, Columbus—200 members

David M. Kelly, General Manager, Ohio Potato Growers Association; Tim Williams, Executive Vice President, Ohio Manufactured Housing Association, Dublin—500 members; David L. Kahler, Executive Vice President/CEO, Ohio Equipment Distributors Association, Dublin, 121 members/2,420 employees; Michael L. Wagner, Executive Director, Ohio Corn Growers Association, Marion—1,800 members; Jim Sylvania, Executive Director, Ohio Association Security & Investigative Services, Columbus—33,000 members; John R. Langhirt, President, Mid-Ohio Electric Co., Columbus; Carmine J. Torio, Executive Vice President, Home Builders Association of Great Akron, 750 member companies, 10,000 employees; Robert D. Horne, President, United Steel Workers of America, Local 5L—Akron, 175 members; Daniel L. Neff, Executive Director, Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association, Cambridge, serves a 10 county area; Judy R. Bastian, President, Ohio Glass Association, Cleveland—250 members; Roger Tedrick, Secretary/Treasurer, Ohio Dairy Farmers Federation, Gahanna—1,000 members; Robert T. Lambert, Executive Vice President, Ohio Auto and Truck Recyclers Association, Columbus; Donald L. Buckley, President/Secretary, Midwest Dairy Foods Association, Inc., Columbus—52 companies; Amira F. Gohara, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Medical College of Ohio at Toledo, Toledo—3,400 members; Peggy J. Smith, Executive Director, Ohio Chemical Council, Columbus—100 members; Patricia R. Cooksey, President, True Blue Patriots, Cincinnati—10,000 members; Thomas L. Hart, Executive Director, The Building Industry Association of Central Ohio, Columbus—1,226 members; Richard Greenwalt, Camp Secretary, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War—McClellan Camp, No. 91—Alliance;

Joseph Divito, Financial Secretary & Treasurer, Iron Workers Local Union No. 172, Columbus—723 members; Sue Yang, Program Coordinator, International Community Empowerment Project A.S.I.A., Inc., Akron—50 families served; Rochelle Peoples, Director of Volunteers, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Akron, Akron—100 volunteer members; Carole Richards, President, Creative Education Institute, Chagrin Falls—50 people served; Mike P. Reilly, President-Elect, Cincinnati Master Plumbers Assoc., Cincinnati—80 contractors; W. Paul Kilway, Jr., M.D., Summit County Medical Society, Akron, 460 members; David L. Kahler,

Executive Vice President/CEO, Ohio-Michigan Equipment Dealer Association, Dublin, 865 members/14,272 employees; Edward Tumulty, Regional Director, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, Central Region Columbus; Russell K. Tippett, Dean, School of Natural Resources, Hocking College, Nelsonville; Randy Smith, Financial Secretary, Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastic and Allied Workers Local 7A, Tiffin—573 members; Margaret F. Planton, Mayor, City of Chillicothe, 270 employees; Bill Hueckel, President, Central Ohio Flower Growers, Delaware—100 members; Hal Mullins, President, Central Ohio Chapter, Air Conditioning Contractors of America, Columbus—106 member companies; James Tann, President, Brick Institute of America, Mid East Region, North Canton; Ronald L. Kolbash, President, Ohio Mining & Reclamation Association, Columbus, 121 member companies; Richard C. Hannon, Jr., Chairman of Legislative Committee, Board Member, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, Carrollton—150 members; John Nave, Director, Associated Risk Managers of Ohio, Powell; Jim Frost, Secretary/Treasurer, Akron/Medina County Labor Council AFL-CIO, Akron—18,000 members.

## PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 24, 1998*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to explain why I cannot vote for the Patient Protection Act (H.R. 4250). However, I would first like to express my support for two of the bill's provisions, relating to Medical Savings Accounts and relating to the proposed national health ID.

Earlier this week I introduced legislation, the Patient Privacy Act (H.R. 4281), to repeal those sections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 that authorized the creation of a national medical ID. I believe that the increasing trend toward allowing the federal government to track Americans through national ID cards and numbers represents one of the most serious threats to liberty we are facing. The scheme to create a national medical ID to enter each person's medical history into a national data base not only threatens civil liberties but it undermines the physician-patient relationship, the cornerstone of good medical practice. Oftentimes, effective treatment depends on a patient's ability to place absolute trust in his or her doctor, a trust that would be severely eroded if the patient knew that any and all information given their doctor could be placed in a data base accessible by anyone who knows the patient's "unique personal identifier."

While I was not here in 1996 when the medical ID was authorized, it is my understanding that this provision was part of a large bill rushed through Congress without much debate. I am glad that Congress has decided to at least take a second look at this proposal and its ramifications. I am quite confident that, after Congress hears from the millions of Americans who object to a national ID, my colleagues will do the right thing and pass legislation forbidding the federal government from instituting a "uniform standard health identifier."

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased that Congress is addressing the subject of health care in America, for the American health care system does need reform. Too many Americans lack access to quality health care while millions more find their access to medical care blocked by a "gatekeeper," an employee of an insurance company or a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) who has the authority to overrule the treatment decisions of physicians!

An OB/GYN with more than 30 years experience, I find it outrageous that any insurance company bureaucrat could presume to stand between a doctor and a patient. However, in order to properly fix the problem, we must understand its roots. The problems with American health care coverage are rooted in the American tax system, which provides incentives for employers to offer first-dollar insurance benefits to their employees, while providing no incentives for individuals to attempt to control their own health care costs. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," it is inevitable that those paying the bill would eventually seize control over personal health care choices as a means of controlling costs.

Because this problem was created by distortions in the health care market that took control of the health care dollar away from the consumer, the best solution to this problem is to put control of the health care dollar back into the hands of the consumer. We also need to rethink the whole idea of first-dollar insurance coverage for every medical expense, no matter how inexpensive. Americans would be more satisfied with the health care system if they could pay for their routine expenses with their own funds, relying on insurance for catastrophic events, such as cancer.

An excellent way of moving toward a health care system where the consumer is in charge is through Medical Savings Accounts (MSA's). I enthusiastically endorse those provisions of this bill that expand access to MSA's. It may be no exaggeration to say that MSA's are vital to preserving the private practice of medicine.

MSA's provide consumers the freedom to find high-quality health care at a reasonable cost. MSA's allow consumers to benefit when they economize in choosing health care so they will be more likely to make informed health care decisions such as seeking preventive care and, when possible, negotiate with their providers for the lowest possible costs. Most importantly, MSA's are the best means available to preserve the patient's right to choose their doctor and the treatment that best meets their needs, free from interference by an insurance company or an HMO.

Mr. Speaker, all those concerned with empowering patients should endorse H.R. 4250's provisions lifting all caps on how many Americans may purchase an MSA and repealing federal regulations that discourage Americans from using MSA's. For example, a provision in the tax code limits the monthly contribution to the MSA to one-twentieth of the MSA's yearly amount. Thus, MSA holders have a small portion of their yearly contribution accessible to them in the early months of the year. The Patient Protection Act allows individuals to make the full contribution to their MSA at any time of the year, so someone who establishes an MSA in January does not have to worry if they get sick in February.