This legislation also allows both employers and employees to contribute to an employee's MSA. It lifts the arbitrary caps on how one can obtain MSA's and expands the limits on the MSA deductible. Also it provides that possession of an MSA satisfies all mandated benefits laws as long as individuals have the freedom to purchase those benefits with their MSA.

However, as much as I support H.R. 4250's expansion of MSA's, I equally object to those portions of the bill placing new federal standards on employer offered health care plans. Proponents of these standards claim that they will not raise cost by more than a small percentage point. However, even an increase of a small percentage point could force many marginal small businesses to stop offering health care for their employees, thus causing millions of Americans to lose their health insurance. This will then lead to a new round of government intervention. Unlike Medical Savings Accounts which remove the HMO bureaucracy currently standing between physicians and patients, the so-called patient protections portions of this bill add a new layer of government-imposed bureaucracy. For example, H.R. 4250 guarantees each patient the right to external and internal review of insurance company's decisions. However, this does not empower patients to make their own decisions. If both external and internal review turn down a patient's request for treatment, the average patient will have no choice but to accept the insurance companies decision. Furthermore, anyone who has ever tried to navigate through a government-controlled ''appeals process'' has reason to be skeptical of the claims that the review process will be completed in less than three days. Imposing new levels of bureaucracy on HMO's is a poor substitute for returning to the American people the ability to decide for themselves, in consultation with their care giver, what treatments are best for them. Medical Savings Accounts are the best patient protection.

Perhaps the biggest danger these regulations pose is ratification of the principle that guaranteeing a patients' access to physicians is the proper role for the government, thus opening the door for further federal control of the patient-physician relationship. I ask my physician-colleagues who support this regulation, once we have accepted the notion that federal government can ensure patients have access to our services, what defense can we offer when the government places new regulations and conditions on that access?

I am also concerned that this bill further tramples upon state automony by further preempting their ability to regulate HMO's and health care plans. Under the 10th amendment, states should be able to set standards for organizations such as HMO's without interference from the federal government. I am disappointed that we did not get an opportunity to debate Mr. BRADY's amendment that would have preserved the authority of states in this area.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, while the Patient Protection Act takes some good steps toward placing patients back in control of the health care system, it also furthers the federal role in overseeing the health system. It is my belief that the unintended, but inevitable, consequence of this bill, will require Congress to return to the issue of health care reform in a few years. I hope Congress gets it right next time.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday morning July 29, 1998 I was in my district attending to official business and as a result missed two roll call votes.

Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 343 (the ''Rule'' on H.R. 629) ''Aye''

Rollcall No. 344 (final passage of H.R. 629) ''Aye''.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT-JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER ACT OF 1998

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Jacob Joseph Chestnut-John Michael Gibson United States Capitol Visitor Center Act of 1998 (Chestnut-Gibson Act). I feel a special obligation to do so because I represent the District of Columbia in which the Capitol is located. I also introduce the bill because the residents of the District have a special relationship with the Capitol Police. In 1992, when there was a large spike in crime in the District, Congress passed the United States Capitol Police Jurisdiction Act, a bill I introduced authorizing the Capitol Police to patrol parts of the Capitol Hill residential community closest to the Capitol where various facilities of the Capitol are located. Capitol Police officers were not only willing; they were enthusiastic to use their excellent training and professionalism for the benefit of residents and the many tourists and visitors whose safety might be compromised by having to travel through high-crime areas in order to get to the Capitol.

My bill authorizes the Architect of the Capitol ''to plan, construct, equip, administer, and maintain a Capitol Visitor Center under the East Plaza of the Capitol'' grounds. The primary purpose of the bill is to increase public safety and security. A second purpose is to provide a place to welcome visitors who are seeking tours, taking into account their health and comfort. To guard against excessive costs and to obtain quick action, the bill requires the Architect to consider existing and alternative plans for a visitor center and to submit ''a report containing the plans and designs'' within 120 days.

I have supported a Capitol Visitor Center since it was first extensively discussed in 1991. During this decade of high deficits, the reluctance of Congress to appropriate funds for such a center has perhaps been understandable, until last Friday. No one knows whether Officer Chestnut or Detective Gibson or, for that matter, any other officer or individual would have been spared had a visitor center been in place. What we do know is that our nineteenth century Capitol was not built with anything like today's security hazards in mind. According to the Capitol Police and the United States Capitol Police Board, a visitor center would provide significant distance between the Capitol and visitors, and for a host of reasons they have documented, would make the Capitol more secure.

Our foremost obligation is to protect all who visit or work here and to spare no legitimate consideration in protecting the United States Capitol. The Capitol is a temple of democracy and is the most important symbol of the open society in which we live. It is more so than the White House, in part because the President's workplace is also a residence and cannot be entirely open. However, the Capitol symbolizes our free and open society not only because it is accessible but also because of what transpires here. It is here that the people come to petition their government, to lobby and to persuade us, and ultimately to discharge us if we stray too far from their democratic demands. Thus, we neither have nor would we want the option to make the Capitol more difficult to access. After last Friday's tragedy, we have an obligation to demonstrate that security is not inconsistent with democracy.

There is a second reason why this bill is necessary. Visitors are safe when they come to the Capitol, but the conditions they encounter do not ensure their health, convenience, and cordiality, nor afford them the welcome to which they are entitled. Members address constituents seated on stone steps outdoors. In the blistering heat and merciless cold of Washington, visitors wait in line outdoors to tour the Capitol. During this summer, the hottest on record in the United States, it has not been uncommon for tourists to faint during lengthy waits on line and then be rushed inside to be treated by our physicians. Even if the Capitol had not incurred a terrible tragedy, we would be in need of a more civil way to welcome the people we represent.

I will seek cosponsors for this bill at once. I have not waited to do so because I believe a bill requiring plans for a visitor center is necessary to provide the assurance of safety and comfort the public has a right to demand. We must do more than try to recover from the shock of the invasion of the Capitol by a gunman. We must do more than mourn the irreplaceable loss of two fine men. We must do what we can and we must do it now.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 29, 1998, I was unavoidably detained while conducting official business and missed rollcall vote No. 344. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

## SHAME ON THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it was 15 years ago that American soldiers liberated

the small island of Grenada from the authoritarian government that, under the direction of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, had overtaken that nation.

During the time the Castro regime manipulated the government of the island in an attempt to expand communism in the Americas, the people of Grenada lost all semblance of civil liberties and human rights that was then returned to them.

Unfortunately, it seems that the present Grenadian government has forgotten the repression brought upon their country by the Castro regime and it has invited the dictator to visit the island this week.

The visit comes as the nations members of the Caribbean Economic Community (CARICOM) continue to flirt with the Cuban tyrant, who desperately wants to enter the organization to obtain economic benefits that will strengthen his oppressive regime.

How sad that after 19 American soldiers died to liberate Grenada, that island's government now receives, with open arms, the dictator who orchestrated the repression of that island's citizens.

Shame on the government of Grenada!

## TRIBUTE TO PEGGY CALDWELL BEESON

### HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Peggy Caldwell Beeson, who passed away this month. I, along with many other Northern Californians, cherished the friendship of Peggy who, with her husband Phillip, contributed greatly to our community.

Peggy had a special talent for sharing her visions with others and making them want to be a part of her ideas. This talent for consensus building and motivating others allowed her to accomplish things that most people would never attempt.

Over the years, Peggy was involved with a number of community action committees, including the Parent Teacher Association, the Lake Elephants Club, and the Konocti Lioness Club. She also served as Executive Director for Californians for a Drug Free Youth, President of the Conejo Republican Action Committee, and Director of the Riviera Yacht and Golf Club.

Peggy and Phillip raised four daughters: Karen, Lindsay, Cynthia, and Heidi. She also is survived by 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Peggy Beeson's dedication to community and family should be held as a model for others. I have personally seen the results of Peggy's efforts and was impressed time and again with her hard work and determination. Her vision, innovation and accomplishments will benefit the people of Lake County for a long time.

## CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR

### HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the people of Geauga County on the 175th anniversary of the Great Geauga County Fair. This special gathering has always been a time for people and families throughout Ohio to come together. It's also a wonderful way to celebrate community and the values we hold dear.

The Great Geauga County Fair brings to mind homemade pies, baking contests, 4–H club activities, the annual petting zoo, music, and pony rides for children. The Fair is also about celebrating the locally produced maple syrup, used in nearly every home throughout the region. Finally, the Fair provides a special moment for the community to honor area veterans and their service to Ohio and the nation.

The history of the Great Geauga County Fair is as rich as the Fair itself. In 1823, a group of pioneers, some of whom were among the first settlers in Ohio's Western Reserve, formed one of our state's first trade societies—called the Geauga County Agricultural and Manufacturing Society. The society was formed to promote the region's growing farming and manufacturing industries. To display and share the bounty from their farms, society members organized an annual county-wide fair. While the early Fairs alternated between the towns of Burton and Chardon, the Fair has been held in Burton at the County Fairgrounds since the mid-1800s.

This year's Fair also celebrates another birthday. Known as the oldest and only all-volunteer band in the Buckeye State, the Great Geauga County Fair Band turns 60 this year. To most people who go to the Fair today, the Band is a major presence. In a fitting tribute to this milestone, the band this year will play with three of the original ''charter'' band members.

Labor Day is always a bittersweet time. For kids, the holiday means back to school; for parents, it means a welcome day off to enjoy the good weather. Labor Day also means Fairtime—the ''grand finale'' to summertime in Geauga County. Without doubt, the Fair is one of our region's most important annual community events—for families and all residents of northeast Ohio. In fact, the ''Great'' in the Fair's name was officially added early this century to signify the Fair's senior standing as the ''Great Granddaddy'' of Ohio's county fairs.

The Great Geauga County Fair's motto says it all, ''Something for Everyone Since 1823.'' On the 175th anniversary of the Great Geauga County Fair, I'm proud to represent the people of Geauga County, and proud to be a part of this community.

## THE ORPHAN FOUNDATION: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH

### HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, in the Tuesday, July 21, 1998 copy of the Washington Post, there is a front page story about how difficult it is to survive in society when you're an orphan and you turn 18. I would like to insert this article in the record, Mr. Speaker, without objection. According to this article, in many states, when orphans turn 18 years of age, they are dropped from the state's child protection system. This means they have to pay their own rent, buy their own groceries and manage their own budget. Without parents to teach these orphans the importance of fiscal responsibility, and to provide for their needs when they do run out of money, it should not be a surprise that 4 out of 10 of the nation's homeless are orphans.

There is one statement in the Post article that sticks out in my mind. That statement reads, ''* * * there is little public attention focused on how to keep foster children from migrating from their bureaucratic family to the streets.'' I agree that the public could be better informed about the problems many orphans face, but I wish the article had listed a group I work with called the Orphan Foundation of America as part of the solution. OFA has worked hard over the last two decades to provide financial assistance and counseling to orphans, help which has made a tangible difference in the lives of many.

Founded in 1981, the Orphan Foundation has awarded over $500,000 in scholarships to orphans in 44 states through its OLIVER Project, with the help of generous private and corporate donors such as: American Airlines; Gateway Computers; Kraft Foods, Inc.; General Electric; Prudential Securities; AT&T; J.C. Penney Company; Bristol Myers-Squibb Company; Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue; Lockheed Martin; Fannie Mae; Lucent Technologies, Northrop Grumman; Time Warner, Inc.; The Limited, Inc.; Williams & Jensen; ESOP; and Kerr-McGee Corporation. OFA also teaches orphans how to successfully manage their money and other basic life skills they will need to know to survive in an unforgiving world, and does this through volunteers in their communities.

Most of all, OFA and its tireless director, Eileen McCaffrey, provides orphans with something they receive all too little—an ear to talk to when they need encouragement, and a little love and understanding. Most of the staff is all volunteer, a true sign of their dedication. I have had the pleasure of meeting and talking with several orphans whose lives have been impacted by OFA, and these youth are quick to point to the organization as one big reason why they have a job and a good education, as opposed to being locked up in jail, or being forced to sleep in their car.

The Orphan Foundation receives no state or federal funding, and yet it has managed to improve the lives of orphans across America. To learn more about OFA, you can visit their web page at www.orphan.org. The Orphan Foundation of America is a great cause well worth assisting, and a testimony of the power of Americans who care.