

Our bill would guarantee basic patient protections to all consumers of private insurance. It would ensure that patients receive the treatment they have been promised and have paid for. This bill would prevent HMOs and other health plans from arbitrarily interfering with doctors' decisions regarding the treatment their patients require.

Our bill would restore patients' ability to trust that their health care practitioners advice is driven solely by health concerns, not cost concerns. HMOs and other health care plans would be prohibited from restricting which treatment options doctors may discuss with their patients. In addition, our bill would outlaw the use of financial incentives to reward doctors for cutting costs by recommending against potentially necessary treatments.

One of the most critical patient protections that would be provided under our bill is guaranteed access to emergency care. The Patients' Bill of Rights Act would ensure that patients could go to any emergency room during a medical emergency without calling their health plan for permission first. Emergency room doctors could stabilize the patient and focus on providing them the care they need without worrying about payment until after the emergency has subsided.

S. 6 would also ensure that health plans provide their customers with access to specialists when needed because of the complexity and seriousness of the patient's sickness. This provision is extremely important to ensure that persons suffering from serious, ongoing conditions, like cancer, have access to care by oncologists or other specialists.

Many managed care plans provide exemplary coverage for their members, including innovative preventive care benefits, because they recognize that it is more efficient to keep people healthy than to treat them after they become ill. Unfortunately, not all plans are administered with this philosophy. Many Americans, enrolled in poorly run plans, are not obtaining the care they need and are entitled to receive. The improved health of millions of Americans depends on the enactment of this bill. It will establish Federal requirements ensuring that private health care plans provide their members with a minimum level of coverage. I urge my colleagues to join me in strongly supporting, S. 6, the Patients' Bill of Rights.●

**TRIBUTE TO MR. TOM NUTTING,  
1998 MERRIMACK CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE BUSINESS OF THE  
YEAR RECIPIENT**

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Nutting, the recipient of the "Business of the Year Award" from the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce.

Tom began an electrical contracting business, Custom Electric, in 1983 with two employees. Today, his company

employs fifteen people and continues to grow. He is described by his colleagues as a very enthusiastic, highly motivated businessman.

Tom has served as Director of the Board of the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce since 1993. He is a member of the Merrimack Village District Board of Directors and a member of the Association of Facilities Engineering.

Tom is also very active in the community. His business sponsors a Babe Ruth baseball team and he assists at a vocational/technical college. He helps to put together a yearly Golf Tournament and trade shows for the Chamber of Commerce. Every year, he sets up the holiday decorations in Fraser Square in Merrimack for all to enjoy.

As a former small business owner myself, I understand the hard work and dedication required for success in business. Once again, I wish to congratulate Tom Nutting on Custom Electric being selected as "Business of the Year" by the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce. It is a pleasure to represent him in the United States Senate.●

**1998 CONNECTICUT STATE SOCCER  
CHAMPIONS**

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Cromwell High School Boys' Varsity Soccer team for winning the 1998 Connecticut State Soccer Championship. This achievement reflects the proud soccer tradition that has been established at Cromwell High School and the outstanding caliber of its student athletes.

With a first-rate team and a phenomenal level of play, the Cromwell Panthers concluded their season with an impressive record of 20-1. The Panthers became known throughout Connecticut for their strong defensive play and balanced team of players. In soccer, as in so many sports, a blend of smart players and smart decisions results in victories. The Cromwell Panthers proved they have this combination. The strength of this team was demonstrated by their ability to hold their opponents to a total of only 6 goals for the entire season.

The state championship game was played with emotion against an equally talented opponent, the Old Saybrook Rams. Although the Panthers were favored to win, neither the team's coaches nor its athletes took victory for granted. After receiving two yellow cards in the first half and being outshot by their opponents for most of the game, the Panthers entered the second half with a refocused energy. The Panthers' first goal came late when Justin Linehan received a pass from Steve Dworak and sent the ball soaring just out of reach of the Rams' goalie. Steve repeated his superb passing performance when he sent a left cross pass to Mike Flanagan who headed the ball past a diving goalie with only two minutes left in the game. This final goal was a turning point in the game, bringing it to a 2-0 score in

the Panther's favor and helping to guarantee their win.

This championship game also took on a more personal meaning for its players and, most especially, its head coach. Sadly, Coach Mike Pitruzzello's father, Manny, passed away a week before the start of the season. In his honor, Coach Pitruzzello dedicated the Panthers' second championship win to his late father. Even during a time of personal hardship, Coach Pitruzzello continued to guide and nurture his team to a near-perfect regular season and a championship win. Nothing better reflects his love for the sport and his players than the dedication Coach Pitruzzello has shown throughout this season. I am sure his father would have not only been proud of his son, but also honored by the sportsmanship exhibited by these talented young men on the field.

Winning a state championship is an exciting and gratifying moment for any young student athlete. In their win over the Old Saybrook Rams, the Cromwell Panthers demonstrated a talent they had perfected throughout their regular season with hard work and the guidance of an experienced and caring coaching staff. Furthermore, as with any team sport, it is not just one player who makes the amazing pass or singlehandedly scores the critical goal, but rather a cooperative effort from each player who offers his own special talent which ultimately adds to the success of the entire team. The Cromwell High School Boys' Varsity Soccer team exemplifies the true spirit of teamwork and tenacity, and it is because of those qualities that they are now the state champions.

At this time I would like to recognize all the members and coaches of the Boys' Varsity Soccer team and, again, congratulate them all on their momentous and well-deserved victory:

Head Coach Mike Pitruzzello, Assistant Coach Bruce Swanson, Freshman Coach John Harder, Paul Dworak, Steve Dworak, Tony Faienza, Mike Fazio, Mike Flanagan, Bryce Gibson, Eric Harrison, Nick Libera, Steve Libera, Justin Linehan, Shawn Maher, Jason Negrini, Mike Simeone, Ryan Steele, Ron Szymanski, Colin Whalen, and Sean Whalen.●

**WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT  
ACT OF 1999**

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, the great Leo Tolstoy once confided in his diary that he would be the unhappiest of men if he could not find a purpose for his life. As we all know, Tolstoy did, indeed, find purpose. As a novelist, philosopher, and social reformer, he brought entertainment, meaning, and direction into the lives of millions—his influence continuing even into our day and age.

The need to bring meaning and success into our lives—the need to have a purpose, to be anxiously engaged in a good cause—is, as Tolstoy pointed out,