

□ 1030

What we have seen, though, is the external appeals process backed up with the right to go to the courthouse means that they settle those appeals.

In Texas, we are finding that over 50 percent of the appeals are being found in the patient's favor. In other words, the decision-maker, the insurance company, whoever made that decision was wrong over 50 percent of the time. And that is what is wrong with the current system.

I do not want lawyers to get rich. They want health care. The people want health care. That is what they are doing. And in Texas, with 2 years' experience, that is what is happening, strong external appeals backed up with a judicial review that they do not want to go to neither the insurance companies nor the patients.

We have that in the Norwood/Dingell bill, and that is why it is so important. Medical necessity, external appeals, access to specialists, emergency care, but also backed up with an accountability system.

If Wal-Mart can be sued for a slip-and-fall in State courts, why should their employees not be able to go to State courts?

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO QUIT PLAYING PARTISAN POLITICS WITH AMERICA'S SCHOOL- CHILDREN

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, we have heard a lot of talk about health care here this morning. And health care is very important. Education is pretty important, too.

I think it is time for the President and his liberal Democratic friends here in the House to quit playing partisan politics with American schoolchildren and with their schools. They spend so much time distorting the Republican record on education spending that they fail to acknowledge that spending is not the only issue.

We all believe that education funding is important. The difference lies in how we want that money to be spent. Liberal Democrats want it to be spent on more big government programs. It does not matter to them if the programs work or not as long as they can make themselves believe that they are helping kids.

I would rather see education dollars go directly to the classroom where it can be spent by people who know other children's names. They could spend it on books or chalk or computer equipment or whatever else they need to teach their students. This is a whole lot better than spending it on reams of bureaucratic paperwork.

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS MAN- AGED CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to challenge all of my colleagues, Democrats, Republicans, Independent, to pass legislation that would provide all Americans with the health care protections they need and deserve.

It concerns me that patients from my district are being denied the health coverage they need to lead productive lives. It seems that I cannot pick up the Beaumont Enterprise or Texas City Sun without reading about someone who was denied care because some insurance company decided that a procedure was not necessary. It has even happened to my own daughter, Stephanie.

It is one thing to keep costs down, but it cannot be done at the patient's expense. That is why I support the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act of 1999.

I am confident that this bill will give residents of Hotel Beaumont, a senior citizens community in the heart of my hometown, the right to choose a specialist and see the same doctor throughout treatment.

It is time for us to put our money where our mouth is. Let us prove to the American people that this Congress can work together to address issues that they really care about. Let us pass H.R. 2723.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, this morning I rise to simply say that the people in the 8th District of North Carolina care about access, they care about quality, they care about affordability. That is what we on our side of the aisle care about this morning. We want to provide that.

The language that some of my liberal friends use may be good politics, but it is bad medicine for the people in the 8th District. Support the bill that gives access, that gives affordability, and give quality to the people of America. Support Boehner. Support Shadegg/Coburn.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, as a family doctor in Arkansas for 20 years, I am well aware that doctors and nurses do not know everything about health policy. But one thing I do know is that, in a doctor's office in America today, arguments and shouting

matches with insurance companies occur on a regular basis.

Let me tell my colleagues about one example. I saw a patient with depression; and as part of the treatment, I thought they needed counseling. How do I obtain counseling? I took the patient into a room, gave them an 800 number to their insurance company, and they had to call an anonymous voice on the phone who made the decision about whether they would get counseling and for how many sessions.

This is wrong. If anonymous voices working for insurance companies at the end of a phone make medical decisions, they should be held just as accountable under State law as doctors and nurses.

Pass Norwood-Dingell.

REPUBLICANS ENDING 30-YEAR RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THUNE. Madam Speaker, Republicans here in the House are doing the right thing for seniors, the right thing for our children, and the right thing for every American who hopes to retire. We have walled off Social Security and placed it in a secure lockbox. We are ending the 30-year raid on Social Security.

Now we need our colleagues in the Senate to do the same thing: Take up the lockbox legislation, follow our lead, and do what is right for our parents, our children, and for the next generation of Americans.

The American people deserve to know who is serious about protecting and saving Social Security. We need the lockbox legislation passed in the Senate and signed into law by the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The Chair must remind all Members not to suggest actions to be taken by the Senate.

MANAGED CARE REFORM: A MAT- TER OF VALUE, ETHICS AND PRIORITIES

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, the issue before the House today is a complex one, but the answer is fairly simple. We are being given a forced choice today. We can either choose to put medical care back into the hands of physicians and patients, or we can allow those medical decisions to remain in the hands of insurance bureaucrats.

All across America today, citizens are being harmed and I believe are losing their lives because we have allowed

the insurance companies and the HMOs to make medical decisions. This is a matter of value. It is a matter of ethics. It is a matter of priorities.

Who are we going to put first? Patients? And are we going to honor the sacred relationship between the physician and the patient, or are we going to continue to allow the HMOs and the insurance companies to put profits above patient welfare? It is a simple choice.

The American people are watching, and every one of us ought to be held accountable for what we do in this chamber today.

EUROPE JOB CREATION ALMOST ZERO

(Mr. COOKSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOKSEY. Madam Speaker, the unemployment rate in most European countries is nearly three times the unemployment rate of the United States. While the U.S. economy is a job creating machine, in Europe job creation is almost zero. Older workers who lose their jobs cannot find new ones, and younger people looking for that first job often do so for years and often have to wait years before they could move out of the house.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., there is actually a job shortage in many areas of the country. I would be positively fascinated to know how my liberal colleagues might explain this situation.

I wonder if it would ever occur to them that low-tax countries such as the U.S., Hong Kong, Singapore have low unemployment rates, while high-tax countries such as France, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Spain and so many others are wallowing in economies with no economic growth.

The truth is European governments which are successful in implementing the policies of the Democratic party are successful in achieving dreadfully performing economies. It does make one wonder.

REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE REFORM IS A RUSE

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD), great Americans, for providing a great service to all of us on a managed care bill which I think will work. But there are Members of this House that are working against this consensus by introducing substitutes that in no way equal the comprehensive approach.

We have heard a great deal of hysteria in the past few weeks about how Norwood/Dingell will expose our small business owners and employers of all shapes and sizes to massive new litigation threats.

If my colleagues read the bill, and I would suggest that they read the bill, on page 99 it says very specifically in Section 302 that the bill "does not authorize any cause of action against an employer, or other plan sponsor maintaining the group health plan, or against an employee of such an employer."

It is a ruse. They have provided a ruse. Why do they not tell the American people the truth instead of standing out there with the money changers as they were yesterday as we walked here to do business?

AMERICANS HAVE A CHANCE TO HAVE A ACCOUNTABILITY AGAIN IN HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

(Mr. KUYKENDALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Madam Speaker, today the American people are going to get a chance to have accountability put back in their health care organizations. There are a number of options before us, and at least three of those options are going to give the American public the ability to sue their health plan. They have not had that right in the past. That is an accountability they will have again over the medical profession for medical decisions.

What comes with that is a need to figure out how to protect this employer group that so many of us are dependent upon for our livelihood and health care insurance coverage. I think there are several options today that do a good job at that as well.

Those employers are not meant to be in the medical business, they are meant to be employers, manufacturers, and service providers. In this legislation today, I think we have a couple of options and the public will be well-served when they see the outcome. They will have accountability from their medical providers and their employers will remain sound and still be the conduit through which most people will get their medical coverage.

I would encourage the public to watch today. This debate will be both lengthy and strident. But at the end of the day, they will be better served.

SAFEMAY SHOULD RECOGNIZE ITS CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the large group of senior, frail, and low-income citizens in my congressional district in the city of Pacifica. They have been shopping at Safeway for decades, but Safeway—in a display of corporate arrogance and irresponsibility—suddenly closed that store.

These folks have no automobiles. They are too frail and too old to walk

two miles to another store. Safeway should have found a way to keep open this facility. But in an irresponsible act of corporate recklessness, it closed the store, and the seniors are left high and dry, trying to fend for themselves.

I call on Safeway—a multi-billion-dollar corporation—to change its course and recognize its corporate responsibility. It has the duty to serve the people who have kept it profitable for decades. It can't just walk out on them.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 341, nays 73, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 486]

YEAS—341

Ackerman	Campbell	Emerson
Andrews	Canady	Engel
Archer	Cannon	Eshoo
Armey	Capps	Everett
Bachus	Cardin	Ewing
Baird	Carson	Farr
Baker	Castle	Fattah
Baldwin	Chabot	Fletcher
Ballenger	Chambliss	Foley
Barcia	Clayton	Forbes
Barrett (NE)	Coble	Fossella
Barrett (WI)	Coburn	Fowler
Bartlett	Collins	Frank (MA)
Barton	Combest	Franks (NJ)
Bass	Condit	Frelinghuysen
Bateman	Conyers	Gallegly
Becerra	Cook	Ganske
Bentsen	Cooksey	Gejdenson
Bereuter	Cox	Gekas
Berkley	Coyne	Gephardt
Berman	Cramer	Gilchrest
Berry	Cubin	Gillmor
Biggert	Cummings	Gilman
Bilirakis	Cunningham	Gonzalez
Bishop	Danner	Goode
Blagojevich	Davis (FL)	Goodlatte
Bliley	Davis (VA)	Goodling
Blumenauer	Deal	Gordon
Blunt	DeGette	Goss
Boehlert	Delahunt	Graham
Boehner	DeLauro	Granger
Bonilla	DeLay	Green (TX)
Bonior	DeMint	Green (WI)
Bono	Deutsch	Greenwood
Boswell	Diaz-Balart	Hall (OH)
Boucher	Dicks	Hall (TX)
Boyd	Dingell	Hansen
Brady (TX)	Dixon	Hastings (WA)
Brown (FL)	Doggett	Hayes
Brown (OH)	Dooley	Hayworth
Bryant	Doolittle	Herger
Burr	Doyle	Hill (IN)
Burton	Dreier	Hill (MT)
Buyer	Duncan	Hinchee
Callahan	Dunn	Hinojosa
Calvert	Edwards	Hobson
Camp	Ehlers	Hoeffel