

NAYS—179

Abercrombie	Hall (TX)	Oberstar
Ackerman	Hastings (FL)	Obey
Allen	Hill (IN)	Olver
Baca	Hilliard	Ortiz
Baird	Hinchey	Owens
Baldacci	Hinojosa	Pastor
Baldwin	Hoeffel	Payne
Barcia	Holden	Peterson (MN)
Barrett (WI)	Hooley	Phelps
Becerra	Hoyer	Pomeroy
Bentsen	Inslee	Price (NC)
Berkley	Jackson (IL)	Rahall
Berman	Jackson-Lee	Rangel
Berry	(TX)	Reyes
Bishop	Jefferson	Rivers
Blagojevich	John	Rodriguez
Blumenauer	Johnson, E. B.	Roemer
Bonior	Jones (OH)	Roybal-Allard
Borski	Kanjorski	Rush
Boswell	Kaptur	Sabo
Boyd	Kennedy	Sanchez
Brady (PA)	Kildee	Sanders
Brown (FL)	Kilpatrick	Sandlin
Brown (OH)	Kind (WI)	Sawyer
Capps	Klezcka	Schakowsky
Capuano	Klink	Scott
Cardin	Kucinich	Serrano
Carson	LaFalce	Sherman
Clayton	Lampson	Shows
Clyburn	Lantos	Sisisky
Condit	Larson	Skelton
Conyers	Lee	Slaughter
Costello	Levin	Smith (WA)
Coyne	Lewis (GA)	Snyder
Cramer	Lipinski	Spratt
Crowley	Lofgren	Stabenow
Cummings	Lowe	Stenholm
Davis (FL)	Lucas (KY)	Strickland
Davis (IL)	Luther	Stupak
DeFazio	Maloney (CT)	Tanner
DeGette	Maloney (NY)	Tauscher
Delahunt	Mascara	Taylor (MS)
DeLauro	McCarthy (MO)	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	McCarthy (NY)	Thompson (MS)
Dixon	McDermott	Thurman
Doggett	McGovern	Tierney
Dooley	McKinney	Towns
Doyle	McNulty	Turner
Edwards	Meehan	Udall (CO)
Engel	Meek (FL)	Udall (NM)
Eshoo	Meeks (NY)	Velazquez
Etheridge	Millender	Visclosky
Evans	McDonald	Waters
Farr	Minge	Watt (NC)
Filner	Mink	Weiner
Ford	Moakley	Weygand
Frank (MA)	Moore	Wise
Frost	Moran (VA)	Woolsey
Gejdenson	Nadler	Wynn
Gephardt	Napolitano	
Gonzalez	Neal	

NOT VOTING—24

Boucher	Gordon	Oxley
Clay	Hall (OH)	Pelosi
Clement	Hefley	Pickett
Cook	Markey	Shuster
Danner	Martinez	Stark
Dicks	Matsui	Stearns
Fattah	Miller, George	Vento
Goodling	Murtha	Waxman

□ 2303

Messrs. DEUTSCH, WEXLER, ROTHMAN, and MCINTYRE changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote

is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken tomorrow.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE CONCERNING USE OF ADDITIONAL PROJECTED SURPLUS FUNDS TO SUPPLEMENT MEDICARE FUNDING

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 535) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning use of additional projected surplus funds to supplement Medicare funding, previously reduced under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 535

Whereas Congress is responsible for oversight and spending under the Medicare program;

Whereas the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 was passed in response to major economic concerns about inflation in costs in the Medicare program;

Whereas the savings resulting from enactment of that Act exceeded the estimates at the time of enactment and has resulted in payment rates for classes of providers below the rates previously anticipated;

Whereas the Congress adjusted some elements of the Medicare program in the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999;

Whereas a significant number of Medicare+Choice organizations is withdrawing, or considering withdrawing, from the Medicare+Choice program because of inadequate reimbursement rates;

Whereas the Medicare prescription drug bill pending in the Congress will delay the date by which Medicare+Choice organizations must decide whether to remain in the Medicare+Choice program from July 1, 2000, to October 1, 2000; and

Whereas, because of improved economic performance, it is anticipated that the Congressional Budget Office in its mid-year re-estimates will project dramatically increased non-Social Security surpluses above those assumed in the adoption of the most recent Congressional Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that, upon receipt of such mid-year CBO re-estimates, the House of Representatives shall promptly assess the budgetary implications of such reestimates and provide for appropriate adjustments to the Medicare program during this legislative session.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 535 is an important resolution because just as we have discussed, and the House has passed, Medicare modernization and prescription drugs for seniors, there are still other areas of Medicare that continue to need adjustment.

If we have additional surplus money, we want to make sure that we alert both the seniors who are the recipients

and the providers of that Medicare care that we believe a high priority is to make sure that a significant portion of that surplus is reserved for reinvestment back into Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) and ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control the time and yield further blocks of time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we have had a discussion between Democrats and Republicans that I think the American people would prefer to see us avoid in the future. Yesterday, we had some bipartisan efforts of people reaching out across the aisle to work for betterment of this country.

Resolution 535 is one of those resolutions that we can do this. This is a chance for us to reach across the aisle in a bipartisan effort to show that Medicare really is a priority of this body; and hopefully, in the future we will find the funds to be able to do all of things that both sides and America would like us to do.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON). Let me point out to every Member, this Member has fought hard to raise this issue, to articulate the issue that we have to continue to do better for our seniors when it comes to Medicare. She has been a constant champion of the fact that Republicans and Democrats need to put their differences aside and truly work for our seniors in America.

□ 2310

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, when it became clear that we were going to do a prescription drug bill, there is a part of this bill in title 3 that we did not get a chance to talk about much today, and that has to do with some changes that are needed for Medicare to provide some urgent relief to hospitals in this country, particularly in a program called Medicare+Choice. About half of the citizens in my district in New Mexico choose Medicare+Choice. It is kind of managed care for Medicare. They have the Lovelace Senior Plan or the Presbyterian Senior Plan.

The problem is that the reimbursement rates for Medicare+Choice and for most of the other Medicare programs in the State of New Mexico are terribly low. In New Mexico, if one is a part of the Lovelace plan, Lovelace gets about \$370 per member per month to cover one's health care in the rural parts of New Mexico. It is about \$430 a month if one is in Albuquerque. That compares with a reimbursement rate in