

rules on UPL. This change would devastate California. We could potentially lose up to \$300 million in Medicaid funding this year. CMS says the change in UPL is necessary because States were abusing the Upper Payment Limit by using these monies for nonhealth-related purposes. But this is not the case in California. Those monies were used in the health care delivery system, and it is simply unreasonable to punish California, to punish our uninsured patients, for the mistakes that other States have made.

I want to remind my colleagues that now is the time to work together in a bipartisan fashion, and I hope we can agree that these important Upper Payment Limits need to continue at an agreed-upon rate. It is simply unfair to play politics with people's lives and health care services. We in Congress have an important role to play in Federal health care efforts.

Right now, funding for another Federal program, known as the Disproportionate Share Hospital program, or DSH, is also scheduled to be cut. Cuts in the DSH program will cost California \$183 million, and L.A. County can potentially get a hit of \$37 million. That would ruin our safety net.

Fortunately, the support for stopping the DSH cliff is bipartisan. Many in this Congress are working together to ensure that hospitals that serve indigent patients get the help they need in our communities immediately. I know our Republican and Democratic leadership have pledged to stop what they call the "DSH cliff." I urge my colleagues to work together to resolve this matter. Patients in our county are counting on us here in the Congress to take care of this problem.

I also want to bring to Members' attention another issue that is of great concern to us in L.A. County, and we call this "the waiver." It is known here in Washington as the Medicaid 1115 waiver. This waiver allows L.A. County to operate our health care system in a unique way that is designed to serve patients better and saves the Federal Government money.

I would ask that we also renew our efforts to provide full support for DSH funding.

Mr. Speaker, as Los Angeles County faces new realities in our health care system, including a rising uninsured rate, the County has begun to renegotiate its waiver with the federal government.

I hope that my colleagues at CMS will look favorably at the County's efforts to renegotiate the waiver. The County is taking serious steps to reconfigure its health care system, but we can't do it alone. We need the partnership of the federal government. Without it I fear we will force thousands of Los Angelinos who depend on our emergency care services to forgo urgently needed health care.

We can't afford to sit idly by while patients in Los Angeles County face a health care crisis, we simply must do more.

#### CONGRATULATING MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ON ITS RECOGNITION AS ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST HOSPITALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Miami Children's Hospital for recently having been recognized among America's best hospitals by U.S. News and World Report. "We are here for our children" is the motto of Miami Children's Hospital, and this principle is demonstrated every day by always seeking innovative ways to better serve the children of south Florida.

A recent groundbreaking celebrated the hospital's new expansion efforts to renovate its medical campus. These include a radiology expansion, an ambulatory care building, a helistop, and a hurricane-proof encapsulation.

Based on the vision of one man, Ambassador David Walters, Miami Children's Hospital is indeed building on a dream. Under the leadership of its President and CEO, Thomas Rozek, it is demonstrating a never-ending commitment to children and its pioneering achievements in pediatric care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Miami Children's Hospital for this prestigious achievement and recognition.

#### CORPORATE GREED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration has very close ties to the prescription drug industry. In and of itself, that might not be a problem. Part of any administration's job is to support American industry, so long as it coincides with the best interests of the American people.

That is, unfortunately, where the Bush administration runs into problems. The best interests of the American people should outweigh the interests of industry, but too often with this administration, the drug industry prevails at the expense of American consumers.

Last year, for instance, prescription drug costs increased 17 percent, while the inflation rate was only 1.6 percent. Rising drug costs have fueled double-digit increases in health insurance premiums. Rises in drug costs are putting State budgets in the red. Rising drug costs are bankrupting seniors on fixed incomes.

The Bush administration's response to this situation? They recently released a "study" arguing that American consumers must continue to pay the highest prices in the world for pre-

scription drugs. If we do not, the study said, medical research and development will dry up. This study is available online at [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov).

It could just as easily, however, appear at [www.phrma.org](http://www.phrma.org), the drug industry association's Web site. If Members had any questions about how closely aligned the administration is with the drug industry, this study makes it clear they are in lockstep.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if it is any coincidence that this study comes out of the Department of Health and Human Services' Planning Office, which is managed by a former employee of, you guessed it, the drug industry.

This study says the best bet for American consumers is the status quo. If we do anything about price, this study, the administration, or the drug industry, and it all, unfortunately, seems like the same thing too often, if we do anything about price, the administration says, we will be responsible in this country for killing research and development in the drug industry.

It is a pretty difficult sell to claim this when we consider that the drug industry has topped, or in terms of profitability, it has been the most profitable industry in America for 20 years running, return on price, return on sales, return on equity. While the overall profits of Fortune 500 companies declined 53 percent last year, the top 10 drugmakers increased profits by 33 percent last year.

Drug companies spend twice as much on marketing and administration as they do on research and development. U.S. tax dollars fund almost half of the research that the drug industry does, but American consumers are supposed to be so grateful that they are supposed to gratefully pay twice for that R&D. We are supposed to thank the drug industry for charging us prices two and three and four times what prices are in every other country in the world.

To explain this, look what happened last month. Last month, the drug industry wrote a prescription drug coverage bill for the Republican leadership that was introduced in the Committee on Energy and Commerce to give a prescription drug plan for Americans. The drug industry wrote the bill.

The Republicans started a hearing. The Republicans, as we were marking up this drug industry bill sponsored by Republicans, our committee recessed at 5 o'clock so Members of the committee, Republican Members of the committee, could go off to a fundraiser underwritten by the drug companies, chaired by the CEO of GlaxoSmithKline, a British drug company, who gave \$250,000. The next morning, the Republicans and all of us met again to work on this drug bill. Every pro-consumer amendment was defeated by the drug industry and by the Republicans.

After this bill then passed the committee and passed the House of Representatives, the drug industry spent,