

I ask my colleagues to consider how comfortable you would be confiding an embarrassing physical or emotional problem to your physicians if you knew that any and all information given your doctor may be placed in a government database or seen by medical researchers, handed over to government agents without so much as a simple warrant or accessed by anyone who happens to know your "unique health identifier?"

By now it should be clear to every member of Congress that the American people do not want their health information recorded on a database, and they do not wish to be assigned a unique health identifier. According to a survey by the respected Gallup Company, 91 percent of Americans oppose assigning Americans a "unique health care identifier" while 92 percent of the people oppose allowing government agencies the unrestrained power to view private medical records and 88 percent of Americans oppose placing private health care information in a national database. Congress has acknowledged this public concern by including language forbidding the expenditure of funds to implement or develop a medical identifier in the Federal budget for the past 5 fiscal years. Rather than continuing to extend the prohibition on funding for another year, Congress should finally obey the wishes of the American people by repealing the authorization of the individual medical ID this year as well as repeal these dangerous medical privacy rules.

Mr. Speaker, the misnamed medical privacy regulations and the scheme to assign all Americans a "unique health care identifier" violates the fourth and fifth amendments by allowing law enforcement officials and government favored special interests to seize medical records without an individual's consent or a warrant. Federal supervision of who can access medical records combined with a federally assigned medical ID also facilitate the creation of a Federal database containing the health care data of every American citizen. These developments could undermine the doctor-patient relationship and thus worsen the health care of millions of Americans. I, therefore, call on my colleagues to join me in repealing these threats to privacy and quality health care by cosponsoring the Patient Privacy Act.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE ON  
FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR  
YOUTH MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2003*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, over the years, I have worked with Chairman DREIER to promote financial literacy skills within our schools and am proud to be an original cosponsor of this House Resolution. House Resolution 127 expresses the sense of the House that a month should be designated as "Financial Literacy for Youth Month."

Our youth desperately need to have higher levels of financial literacy. According to a recent JumpStart Coalition survey, today's high school seniors fail when it comes to a basic knowledge of personal finance including credit cards, saving for retirement and insurance. When seniors were tested on basic financial literacy, they answered only 50 percent of the questions correctly.

Unfortunately, the lack of basic money management skills by young people often leads to serious financial problems for families and individuals, which, in turn, damage the Nation's economy. The results are skyrocketing consumer debt, low savings rates, home foreclosures, lost job opportunities, bankruptcy and poverty.

To help stem this tide, Chairman DREIER and I are working with our Senate colleagues, Senators AKAKA and COCHRAN, to host a "Financial Literacy for Youth Day," on Monday, April 28, 2003. This event will culminate a month of activities organized around the nation by federal agencies, states, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities to empower our youth with the financial and economic knowledge necessary to make sound personal choices. The event will include an educational fair, coordinated by JumpStart, where federal agencies and organizations will have information booths displaying their efforts to further economic and financial literacy.

As with other life skills, good money management skills and habits are best formed during childhood. In partnership with interested entities at the state and local levels, we can do more to give our youth the knowledge that will empower them to make sound financial

decisions, now and in the future. I urge my colleagues to support and recognize the importance of increasing financial literacy among our youth.

88TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENOCIDE  
OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, April 24, 2003, marks the 88th anniversary of one of the world's most tragic events—the genocide of the Armenian people by the Young Turk government of the Ottoman Empire.

On that day in 1915, over 200 Armenian religious, political and intellectual leaders were executed. This was the beginning of the Ottoman Empire's attempt to eradicate Armenians from their Anatolian homelands in what is now East Turkey through massacre and massive forced marches through the deserts of modern-day Syria. This resulted in the deaths of more than two-thirds of the Armenian population—totaling one and a half million people.

To this day, there are those who dismiss the systematic persecution of the Armenian population. Some claim that a smaller number of Armenians were killed as a result of partisan fighting during World War I. Others lessen the importance of this event by refusing to recognize it as genocide. Still others seek to forget this tragedy altogether. But these tragic events must be acknowledged and remembered to ensure that this does not happen.

Stephen Holden of the New York Times once wrote of the Armenian Genocide that "anguished remembrance is far preferable to willful amnesia." There are still many living survivors in my district who participate each year in commemoration ceremonies, in the hope that the world will not forget their anguish.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a large and vital Armenian community in my district. It is for these people, as well as Armenians around the world, that I rise today to commemorate the Armenian Genocide with the great hope there will not be willful amnesia regarding this tragedy, but that people will remember and not tolerate anything of this kind again.