

I think that is the greatest return on investment that we could expect from those savings that we are likely going to see from Medicare in the future.

The same considerations apply to the Medicaid program as well. Again, it could be a useful exercise to go through and identify the top 10 conditions and see where the easy savings are in taking care of patients with those conditions. How can their care be better managed? How can things be prospectively managed? What types of intervention might keep a patient out of an expensive hospitalization or away from an expensive dialysis unit? These are the times of savings we need to gather.

I see that I am going to run up against some time constraints. I just want to mention health information technology is something that we do have to pay some attention to.

In the SGR reform bill that I introduced, there is some language about moving us down the road on information technology, embracing information technology. I haven't always been a big proponent of that. When I was practicing medicine, if someone had come to me with proposals like that, I would say, you know, that is going to increase the number of hours I spend every day, not increase my payments to any great degree, and I just don't see how it is going to be economically useful to me as a physician.

That was before I traveled to the City of New Orleans for the second time in January of 2006 and was taken into the records room at Charity Hospital shortly after they had gotten all of the water out of the records room at Charity Hospital.

□ 2245

It looked like the records room of any big city hospital. There were rows and rows, perhaps hundreds of thousands of records in this large room, tens of thousand of square feet devoted to the storage of medical records. They were ruined. They had been ruined by the water and by the black mold growing on the manilla folders. There was not enough protective gear to protect someone to go in and pull the charts out of the racks and begin to go through them to get the patient's medical history.

Clearly, the time has come where we need to have the concept of computerized access to medical records. It is something this country needs to embrace.

The old adage when I was in college, you could say, the dog ate my homework. No student today would do a report, a term paper and keep one single paper copy. They have it on a flash drive, on a hard drive, on a floppy disk. They have printed it out several times. They live in the electronic age. It would make no sense to the medical student of today to have a single paper copy of a term paper or lab report that they would have to turn in for a grade. It would never cross their mind.

Some of the other things, the interoperability of our systems is key.

Right after the Walter Reed story broke, I was there visiting. Yes, the physical conditions were one thing; but one soldier told me the biggest concern he has is as he prepares his records, he is on medical hold and as he is looking to go back to join his unit or be discharged, he has to put in order his medical records to make the case for staying in the service or get the disability to which he is entitled if he is discharged from the service.

The biggest fear they have is they will spend hour after hour putting records together and highlighting critical areas, have them sit on someone's desk until they are lost, and then have to start over again. Their biggest concern was the inability of the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration to interact with each other on the transfer of medical records. Clearly, that is a concept whose time has come.

Price transparency. I have talked about HSAs. If we are going to have health savings accounts work for Americans, we are going to have to be able to allow them to access information about price, cost and quality of medical care and procedures. I introduced legislation dealing with price transparency earlier.

My home State of Texas has gone a long way in this regard, providing information up on the Internet about the costs at various hospitals throughout the State and how they compare to other hospitals in the State. There is a lot of information. It is technically complex. It may even be boring to listen to, but nonetheless it is part of an incredibly important story. The story of how the most advanced, most innovative health care system in the world itself is in need of a little attention.

The last chapter should read happily ever after. How do we get there? The last chapter may read private industry leads to a healthy ending. We are in a debate that will forever change the way health care is delivered in our country. The next 18 months will spell that out for us. We have to understand what is working in our system. How do we make it work better, and how do we extend that to areas where we don't find excellence in our system, whether those areas be public or private. We can't delay making changes to bring our health care system into the 21st century.

I believe the only way this can work is to allow the private sector to lay the foundation for further improvements. The pillars of the system we have have to be rooted in the bedrock of a thriving public sector, and a thriving private sector, not in the shaky ground of a public and private system always at war with each other, and many times are inefficient.

We need to devote our work in Congress to building a stronger private sector in health care. History has proven this to be a tried and true measure. We can bring down the number of uninsured, increase patient access, stabilize

physician workforce and modernize technology if we simply have the political and institutional courage to take the steps necessary.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007 AT PAGE H5467

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) having assumed the chair, Mr. ALTMIRE, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1427) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to rule XXVII, as a result of the adoption by the House and the Senate of the conference report on Senate Concurrent Resolution 21, the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 43), increasing the statutory limit on the public debt, has been engrossed and is deemed to have passed the House on May 17, 2007.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. GUTIERREZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and June 12.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. SESSIONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of taking his son to scout camp.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, June 18.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and June 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today and June 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, June 12.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, June 18.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on June 6, 2007, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1675. To suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors.

H.R. 1676. To reauthorize the program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for loan guarantees for Indian housing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 12, 2007, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2112. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Classical Swine Fever Status of the Mexican State of Nayarit [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0104] received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2113. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Emerald Ash Borer Host Material From Canada [Docket No.

APHIS-2006-0125] (RIN: 0579-AC39) received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2114. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-33, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to India for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2115. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-25, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Japan for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2116. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-15, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Finland for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2117. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-23, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Philippines for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2118. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program (AMP program), pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2119. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Joint Primary Aircraft Trainer System (JPATS) program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2120. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2121. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV) program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2122. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2123. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement Vice Admiral Donald C. Arthur, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2124. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement Vice Admiral Rodney P. Rempt, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2125. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, De-

partment of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the amount of the acquisitions made from entities that manufacture the articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States in fiscal year 2006, pursuant to Public Law 109-115, section 837; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2126. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Loans to Executive Officers, Directors, and Principal Shareholders of Member Banks [Regulation O; Docket No. R-1271] received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2127. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2128. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2129. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — HOME Investment Partnerships Program; American Dream Downpayment Initiative and Amendments to Homeownership Affordability [Docket No. FR-4832-F-02] (RIN: 2501-AC93) received April 17, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2130. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Approval of Condominiums in Puerto Rico on Evidence of Presentation of Legal Documents [Docket No. FR-5009-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AI36) received April 17, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2131. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Expanded Examination Cycle for Certain Small Insured Depository Institutions and U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks [Docket ID OTS-2007-0006] received April 17, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2132. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report for Calendar Year 2006 on the country of origin and the sellers of uranium and uranium enrichment services purchased by owners and operators of U.S. civilian nuclear power reactors, pursuant to Public Law 102-486, section 1015; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2133. A letter from the Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules to Implement and Administer a Coupon Program for Digital-to-Analog Converter Boxes [Docket Number: 0612242667-7051-01] (RIN: 0660-AA16) received April 25, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2134. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquisition Regulation: Technical Revisions or Amendments to Update Clauses (RIN: 1991-AB62) received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.