minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, American families are being denied proper health care. They are being denied the right to see specialists, the right to go to the emergency room, and they have to battle just to get reimbursements for legitimate medical procedures.

The problem is that managed care for health insurance companies has become more about managing the profits for these health insurance companies than about managing the quality of health care for America's families.

We can no longer afford to have health insurance company clerks making health care decisions for our loved ones. That is the job of our doctors and our nurses.

There is a bipartisan bill put forth by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD), a Republican, that would make health care insurance companies accountable. I am a cosponsor of that bill, as are 223 of my colleagues.

Madam Speaker, it is time we bring the Norwood bill to the floor so that we can give the American people what they deserve: a health care system accountable to them. Health care insurance companies must be made accountable when they wrongly deny coverage and reimbursements to patients.

NOTHING TO SHOW?

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, how many times have we heard the White House or their attack dogs on their behalf repeat the lie that the Starr investigation has cost $40 million and has nothing to show for it; $40 million and produced no results; $40 million and turned up nothing? How many times, I ask? How many times have we heard this?

Turned up nothing?

Madam Speaker, all the Clinton associates, Cabinet officials, and business partners who are now sitting in jail might have a different view. In case James Carville and other apologists for political corruption and government fraud need a little help with their memory, we prepared a list for them. Let us take a quick look at that ''most ethical administration in history.''

Four independent counsels appointed by Attorney General Janet Reno; Cabinet Secretary Mike Espy, indicted; Cabinet Secretary Henry Cisneros, indicted; Cabinet Secretary Ron Brown, indicted; former Arkansas Governor Jim Guy Tucker, convicted of fraud and conspiracy; President Clinton's business partners, Jim and Susan McDougal, convicted of felonies and now sitting in jail; and the list goes on.

Nothing to show? That is simply wrong. There is a list and it is longer than I have given.

HEALTH CARE CONSUMER BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, good morning. We can tell it is an election year because my Republican colleagues rush down to the well yelling ''Tax cut, tax cut.''

I think the President is correct. He says we need to be fiscally responsible. We need to save Social Security first. We need to look forward to future generations. There may be, however, something that we can agree on and that is a Health Care Consumer Bill of Rights.

I believe consumers need protection. The President has issued an Executive order saying that Federal employees, Medicare recipients, Medicaid recipients will all have that assurance. But we need it for all Americans.

A recent California study showed that 42 percent of the patients in HMOs have encountered problems with their health care delivery service. My State of Maryland took the first step and implemented a guarantee to emergency room care. We need to do that. We also need to guarantee the security and privacy of medical records. We also need to ensure that Americans can gain access to health care specialists when they need them.

Madam Speaker, we need to take the ''medicrats'' out of the health care business. We need to make sure that all Americans have a Health Care Consumers Bill of Rights.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, I have good news this morning. Low-income children in D.C. are a giant step closer to a good education.

The Senate has passed the bill, which I had the privilege of introducing in the House, to provide opportunity scholarships in the District of Columbia. With this legislation, 2,000 poor children will be able to attend the public, private, or religious school of their choice. Only one thing stands between these children and a brighter educational future: President Clinton's signature.

The teachers unions may be determined to kill this bill. They may pressure him to veto it. But the parents of D.C. are saying: Sign the bill. In fact, one out of every six eligible children in D.C. wants an opportunity scholarship. That is right, 7,500 low-income children have applied for a voucher from a local private charity called the Washington Scholarship Fund. That is 17.2 percent of the eligible population.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, only 1,000 of these children will actually get a scholarship. That leaves 6,500 children empty handed, stuck in crumbling schools that are failing them.

Madam Speaker, we cannot abandon these children to another year of failure. If the President will not listen to me, I hope he will listen to his fellow Democrats. I hope he will listen to Floyd Flake, to JOE LIEBERMAN, to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), to JOE BIDEN. These courageous Democrats have risen above politics and reached across the aisle to help these children.

Madam Speaker, thousands of needy families in D.C. want hope. President Clinton can give them that hope. He can give them a choice. He can sign the bill.

UNITED STATES-PUERTO RICO POLITICAL STATUS ACT

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Madam Speaker, a recent caller to my office wanted to know who is the President of Puerto Rico. Of course, the answer was Bill Clinton, and there was a stunned silence as the caller digested this information. They still were not sure, so they asked the question a different way. Does Puerto Rico not have a President? Yes, we do, my staffer clarified. Puerto Rico is part of the United States.

Despite a 100-year relationship, many people do not realize that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens. Despite many privileges and responsibilities that we as American citizens share with our counterparts in every State, Puerto Ricans do not share some fundamental political and citizenship rights. We can say that Puerto Ricans were granted a second-class citizenship.

The U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico serve and die in wars defending democracy and other people's right to vote in other nations, but they cannot vote to elect their Commander in Chief. Puerto Ricans do not have a voting representative in either the House of Representatives or the Senate, thus we have no input in the American political process. We are equal in death and war, but unequal in life and peace.

Congress has the opportunity to redress this situation by voting for Puerto Rico's self-determination bill, H.R. 856, the United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act. Let us put an end to the disenfranchisement of the U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico and support H.R. 856.

SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST, BUT NO NEW SPENDING

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, put Social Security first. This is the battle