country. No, West Virginia does not have yet the same penetration of managed care in our population that other States do, but we are getting there. We are growing rapidly. So I want to make sure that we avoid those horror stories.

Managed care plans can bring some benefits, but we must act now to make sure that all patients have a Patient Protection Act.

THE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT CONFERENCE REPORT MERITS THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today the Education Savings Account conference report is on the President's desk. I urge him to sign this important legislation that would give parents increased opportunities to provide our children with the tools they need to learn.

For years, out-of-touch bureaucrats have made decisions about our children's education. This abuse has seized control from local officials and stifled parental choice and involvement on decisions that affect our children.

During the 105th Congress the Republican majority has made a commitment to our Nation's children, and is taking steps to return power to those who know best about our children, not the Washington bureaucrats, but the parents, teachers, and communities who, together, hold the key to strengthening our schools.

This year alone we have passed education tax credits and the education savings account bill to increase parental choice and involvement in the education process. These are steps in the right decision.

On behalf of the parents of the Third District of North Carolina, which I serve, I urge the President to sign education savings accounts for our children's future.

FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues about a forum that I am hosting this weekend in my district on the future of managed care reform.

Managed care is the focus of intense public interest. It is also here in Congress, as we have noticed this morning. We have seen the polls, we have heard the horror stories, but do we have all the facts? More than half of the United States population and over 85 percent of employed residents in Orange County receive health care from managed care organizations. The statistics show that any changes to managed health care should dramatically impact the lives of millions of Americans and thousands of Orange County residents.

Pressure for reform is mounting, and we in Congress need to listen to all sides and discuss all the options. By listening to the people of America, we can make the kinds of changes that are needed to make managed health care systems work.

I encourage my colleagues to host similar forums in their districts. It is time to given the people a voice. Let them help Congress decide the future of managed care.

A FEW QUESTIONS FOR THE LIBERALS, BUT NO ANSWERS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I have a few questions for the liberals on the other side. As usual, we will receive no answers, but it is our duty to the American people to ask them, just the same.

Please tell us, my liberal defenders of the President's conduct, why was Senator Bob Packwood run out of town for his conduct? Why did liberal Democrat after liberal Democrat, including the current Vice President, denounce Senator John Tower as, and I quote, ''unfit for office'' because of allegations of womanizing?

Will we receive answers to these questions? I doubt it. Why the double standard? Why one standard for Republicans and other for Democrats?

Why was Justice Clarence Thomas absolutely vilified by feminist groups and liberals of every stripe for questionable allegations, while the current leader of the free world is given every possible excuse, justification, and defense for his conduct for a myriad of abuses, for numerous women providing evidence in a vast cover-up orchestration?

Yes, questions for liberals, but no answers.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Members should avoid personal references to the President of the United States.

THE PATIENT'S PROTECTION ACT WILL HOLD HMO'S ACCOUNTABLE FOR PATIENTS' HEALTH CARE DECISIONS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last week I met with a constituent of mine, Barbara Salinger, from New Haven, Connecticut. Barbara's husband passed away from colon cancer shortly after their HMO forced him out of the hospital, only days after his surgery. Barbara fought to get him readmitted when he came down with a fever and started vomiting the next day, but he died shortly thereafter.

Under the Democratic Patient's Protection Act, HMOs will be held accountable when they deny patients like Mr. Salinger the care that they need. Meanwhile, Republicans have created a sham proposal that has no enforcement mechanism. The GOP bill protects the health insurance companies, not the health of average Americans.

There is only one bill that holds the managed care plans responsible for denying care with real, reliable, and enforceable remedies. The Republican leadership should abandon their sham proposal and respond to what the American people are very concerned about. They want to be able to have good health care coverage, to not be denied, to make sure that their medical decisions are being made by themselves and by their doctors, not by insurance company bureaucrats.

PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, even as angry U.S. taxpayers cry out for overhaul of a tax system that many believe is unfair, oppressive, and unworkable, the Federal Government is spending millions of dollars annually exporting the idiotic system to other countries.

That is right, the United States Agency for International Development, USAID, is spending $15.3 million over a period of 3 years to ''help the Russian government in the reformation and reorganization of its tax code.''

As if Russia's government is not in enough disarray already, we have decided to make it even worse. The $15 million grant, which is being administered through Georgia State University, is in addition to the already active $30 million in grants the university has received from USAID for Russia.

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I think the money would be better spent on scrapping our own Tax Code. Words of wisdom to the officials in Moscow, and especially to the Russian citizens: Whatever these guys suggest, do the opposite.

The U.S. Agency for International Development gets my porker of the week award.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Republican leaders in both Chambers are now pushing managed care reform plans that will not provide enforcement of patient protections because they deny