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.

□ 1030

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

patients the right to sue their HMO when their health suffers because they are denied the care that they need. Federal judges around the country are increasingly frustrated by the current law which prohibits patients from holding their HMOs accountable.

Take the case, for example, in Denver, where Judge John C. Porfillo of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit noted that current law gives the courts no choice in such cases. Judge Porfillo told the New York Times he was deeply moved by the tragic circumstances of a woman who died of leukemia after her HMO denied her care.

The right to sue, Mr. Speaker, is the enforcement mechanism for all the patient protections that we are advocating as Democrats. President Clinton summed it up best when he said a right without a remedy is not a right. The Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights would hold HMOs accountable and give patients the right to sue when they are denied the care that they need. The Republican leadership should abandon its charade and stop pushing its sham proposal and get behind the Patients' Bill of Rights.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS) laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, July 2, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR NEWT: Enclosed please find copies of resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on June 25, 1998, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. Sec. 606.

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4194, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 501 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 501

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. Points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: page 88, line 16, through page 91, line 3. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph. The amendment printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 12 pursuant to clause 6 of rule XXIII may be offered only by Representative Leach of Iowa or his designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against that amendment are waived. During consideration of the bill for further amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 501 is an open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4194, the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999. The rule also includes a customary waiver of section 306 of the Budget Act relating to the prohibition on including matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget in a measure not reported by it.

H. Res. 501 provides for one hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule provides that the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying the resolution shall be considered as adopted.

This amendment, offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) will require studies on issues related to flame resistant standards and fire-related deaths.

The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 and clause 6 of rule XXI, except as specified in the rule.

The rule also makes in order the amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD numbered 12 which may be offered only by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by a proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment.

The rule also accords priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and allows the chairman to postpone recorded votes and reduce to 5 minutes the voting time on any postponed question, provided voting time on any first in a series of questions is not less than 15 minutes.

These provisions will facilitate consideration of amendments and guarantee the timely completion of the appropriation bills.

House Resolution 501 also provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 501 is an open rule providing Members with every opportunity to amend this appropriations bill. As I stated earlier, the Committee on Rules has made in order an amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) consisting of the text of H.R. 2, the United States Housing Act, which passed the House by an overwhelming 293 to 132 vote last year. This bill will reform failing public housing authorities, impose professional management standards on projects receiving Federal money, and impose a rational housing policy reforms.

While this legislation passed the House last year, we have allowed it to be offered on this bill because it is necessary to advance this important housing reform legislation before the end of the legislative session.

H.R. 4194 appropriates a total of $70.89 billion for fiscal 1999. I want to