

**PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD GUARANTEE LONGER HOSPITAL STAYS ON CERTAIN VAGINAL DELIVERIES**

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, having a baby is surely one of the most wonderful and important events for a family. Unfortunately, to maximize their profits, many insurance companies treat this event as just another opportunity to cut costs.

Many insurance companies cover only 1 night's stay in the hospital after a normal vaginal delivery. For some women, this is enough time to recover from the delivery and get adjusted to breast feeding and caring for the baby. But for many other women, this is not enough time.

Doctors are increasingly alarmed that babies are being discharged from hospitals within 24 hours. In that short time they cannot receive critical health assessments to prevent routine child illnesses from becoming serious health problems.

Unfortunately, the decision to give more extensive care to a newborn baby and the mother—such as monitoring for early signs of jaundice—is in the hands of insurance companies, which either limit stays or pressure doctors to recommend short stays.

Today I am introducing legislation with my colleague, PETER DEFAZIO, to require insurance plans contracting with the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program to cover a minimum stay in the hospital of 48 hours after a normal vaginal delivery, and 96 hours after a caesarean section. In the case of plans that offer at-home visits, this minimum is waived as long as the plan provides extensive at-home, post-partum visits.

Mr. Speaker, let us start our babies off on the right foot. The health of the baby, not of insurance company portfolios, should be our No. 1 concern. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

**ENOUGH GAMESMANSHIP**

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, as I read the paper this morning, I could not believe what I read about what the liberals are up to today. As we are reaching an agreement between the House and the Senate regarding a balanced budget by the year 2002 by responsibly slowing the rate of government spending increases, the other side of the aisle is planning another spate of July fireworks.

According to the Washington Times, the minority leadership is encouraging their Members to go to a local nursing home and engage in scare tactics about

what they call unfair Medicare cuts. Have they no shame? They want their Members to go to our senior citizens in a nursing home, many of whom are on fixed incomes and dependent on Social Security and their Medicare benefits, and try to scare them into thinking their benefits will be cut. Is this what the once mighty Democrat Party has been reduced to? Are they completely bankrupt of ideas?

We want to work together to increase Medicare spending every year, for every eligible person for 7 years. Is that a cut? No. We want to increase Medicare spending by 33 percent over 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for partisanship, gamesmanship, and scare tactics to be set aside. We must work together and solve the Medicare problems.

**REMOVING THE ROADBLOCKS TO A COLLEGE EDUCATION**

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I have just this moment come from a meeting with many young Americans who are deeply troubled about why the Republican budget proposes the largest cut in Federal assistance to students who want to attend college of any time in our Nation's history, and they are asking why, and one of the individuals who is asking why down in my district is a woman named Tina Henderson, who I had the opportunity and privilege to meet a few weeks ago in Austin.

Tina Henderson is the first person in her family to go to college. She did so after working as a member of the U.S. Air Force. She is a single mom. She has a great daughter, a 5-year-old, Erica, that she is mighty proud of, but she told me that without Federal student assistance she would not be able to go to college.

Mr. Speaker, every family like hers across America is being told in this budget, "Come up with an extra \$5,000 if you want to support a young person through college in America in the future." With the tremendous cuts that are being made in this budget, roadblocks are being erected to Tina Henderson, to her daughter, Erica, and we need to get those roadblocks out of the way.

**THE LARGEST DEBT EVER IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND**

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, \$3 per month over the 10-year period; that is the amount extra that students who take out student loans are being asked to pay in response to the gentleman from Texas; \$3 per month over 120 months.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 30 years the Federal Government has ignored the simple virtues that made America a

great Nation. For generations, the American people built their lives around simple virtues: Thrift, hard work, and personal responsibility.

Starting in the 1960's, though, the Federal Government began to reject these tried and true American virtues in favor of a value system that placed government at the center of any policy consideration.

The results have been phenomenally disastrous.

The Federal Government has racked up the largest debt ever in the history of mankind; a debt that will be passed to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, this week, Congress will vote to balance the budget in 7 years. Not only will this budget return sanity to chaotic Federal spending, it will return our Government to the basic American virtues of thrift, hard work, and personal responsibility.

**CLOSING OF FORT McCLELLAN SEEN AS A DANGEROUS MISTAKE**

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

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, I am asking Alabamians and all Americans concerned about chemical weapons and terrorism to write or call President Bill Clinton and urge him to save the world's only live-agent chemical defense training base.

The recommendation to close Fort McClellan is a serious and dangerous mistake. Closure of the only live-agent chemical defense training facility will disrupt and degrade the ability of America's military forces to fight and survive chemical warfare.

Furthermore, with the threat of terrorism on the rise, this is no time to deprive American civilians of the only base that can respond to chemical attack.

Again, I am asking Alabamians and all Americans concerned about chemical weapons and terrorism to write or call President Bill Clinton and urge him to save the world's only live-agent chemical defense training base.

**PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT IN NEW JERSEY**

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

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Governor Christie Whitman and the legislature of the State of New Jersey.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the New Jersey Legislature by overwhelming bipartisan majorities voted to pass the third and final phase of Christie Whitman's 30 percent income tax cut.

Two years ago, when Governor Whitman and the Republican candidates for the legislature promised that they would cut taxes in New Jersey by 30 percent, a lot of people did not believe that they were going to do it, but they