

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2425, THE
MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT
OF 1995

HON. LOUIS STOKES
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2425, the Medicare Preservation Act of 1995. While cloaked in an innocent, nonthreatening title, when you peel off the title and clear the smoke and mirrors, what you find is that H.R. 2425 authorizes a legalized assault, and an all-out attack on the health of the Nation's seniors.

The measure destroys our Nation's health care system for the elderly—Medicare—by cutting \$270 billion—from health care services for the elderly—in order to pay for a tax cut for the wealthy. It is absolutely essential for the American people to be aware that this figure is—three times more—than the \$89 billion which the medicare actuaries and the medicare trustees have determined is needed to ensure Medicare's solvency.

The Republican measure forces the American people to needlessly pay more for less. Seniors' health care premiums will double. Gone are the limitations on the amount that doctors and hospitals can charge patients. In fact, the Republicans' balance billing provision allows providers to charge patients as much as they want, well beyond what Medicare pays.

With respect to choice, seniors' choice of provider is seriously restricted. Seniors are forced through a maze of financial maneuvers under the Republican Medicare-Plus provisions. These provisions are specifically designed to make it increasingly difficult for seniors to remain with their current private doctor, forcing seniors into HMO-type health care systems.

Mr. Speaker, where will our Nation's frail, poor, and sick elderly turn for care, when H.R. 2425 seriously erodes and threatens the very survival of the Nation's safety net hospitals. Uncompensated care will escalate.

As if these destructive provisions were not enough, H.R. 2425 provides fertile ground for fraud and abuse. Current provisions that are designed to prevent kickbacks and promote accurate billing are repealed. CBO estimates that this provision alone will cost the American people over \$1 billion. These are but a few of H.R. 2425's life threatening provisions.

Mr. Speaker, I know the standard of living and quality of life for the 1.6 million beneficiaries in my State, Ohio, will be drastically reduced. They certainly cannot absorb the over \$8 billion that Ohio will lose under the Republican proposal. This 20—ballooning to 30—percent cut will devastate Ohio's health care systems.

Let me take just a moment to share with you just a snapshot of the worries and fears that haunt the seniors in my district as they see medicare being ripped apart just for the sake of providing a tax cut for the wealthy.

Ms. Erlene Chess is a 78-year-old widow who has been receiving home oxygen for nearly 10 years. She is concerned that the increased cost of care could put an end to her existence.

Mr. Eli Strinic has had the same doctor for over 15 years and does not want to be forced into a HMO-type health care system. Mr. Strinic is proud of the fact that his doctor knows his medical history, and understands his health care needs.

Mr. Speaker, I think that Ms. Anita Woodward, a health professional in my district sums up the situation most appropriately. She writes, "I fear not only the loss of quality. I worry that the sick will be forgotten, and patients that I see every day will really have to make the choice between the prescription blank and the grocery list."

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge you and my colleagues to listen to the plea of America's seniors in particular, and the American people in general. Do not destroy medicare. Join me in voting "No" on H.R. 2425.

WELCOME BACK LOUISVILLE
SLUGGER

HON. MIKE WARD
OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Louisville Slugger, the world's finest baseball bat, back to its hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.

This Saturday, October 21, 1995, the Louisville Slugger will return to the Louisville skyline at the future site of the Hillerich and Bradsby headquarters at Eighth and Main Streets in downtown Louisville. The factory will open in Louisville this January. This event will also correspond with the first day of the World Series. In front of the future headquarters, the world's largest baseball bat will be installed, reaching a height of 120 feet. This giant bat will represent not only the quality product manufactured by Hillerich and Bradsby, but will also come to embody our Nation's love for the game. A public street party and other events will take place to welcome Hillerich and Bradsby and the large bat back to Louisville.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the company of Hillerich and Bradsby on their dedication to producing a high quality product, on their dedication to the game of baseball, and on their dedication to the city of Louisville. Mr. Speaker, in Louisville, we may speak softly, but we carry a big bat.

TRIBUTE TO MAJ. GEN. JERRY C.
HARRISON

HON. IKE SKELTON
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a great American, a great Army officer, a great Missourian, and a great soldier. This month Jerry Harrison will complete over 32 years of dedicated service to our country. As a soldier, leader, and finally as a trusted advisor to the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army he has provided dedicated and distinguished service.

Today as we honor his retirement, Jerry Harrison serves as the Army's Chief of Legislative Liaison. This is the capstone of a remarkable career which started in 1959 when he entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant of field artillery in 1963. Over the course of the past three decades, he served in a variety of exceptionally challenging troop and staff assignments in the United States, Germany, Korea, and Vietnam.

As a leader, he has commanded at the battery, battalion, and brigade levels, culminating in his command of the U.S. Army Laboratory Command. As a staff officer and commander, he saw duty in many tough and challenging positions, validating the confidence the Army placed in his demonstrated abilities. He commanded the 1st Battalion 29th Field Artillery at Fort Carson, Colorado, followed by a staff assignment as Chief, High Technology Test Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. His skills were recognized when he was chosen for higher command and served as the Division Artillery Commander, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Stanley, Korea. This was followed by a tour with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development, and Acquisition as the Deputy Director.

His selection to Brigadier General led him to Fort Sill, Oklahoma where he served as the Assistant Commandant of the Field Artillery School, followed by an assignment as the Chief of Staff, Army Materiel Command. Upon his selection for promotion to Major General, he was given command of the U.S. Army Laboratory Command. Since January 1992, he has served with distinction as the Chief, Army Legislative Liaison.

During his tour as the Chief, Army Legislative Liaison, he shepherded the Army's relationship with Congress wielding a deft and skillful touch during a period of tremendous change. Throughout this period, Jerry Harrison ably assisted the Army's senior leadership in its dealings with Members of the Congress and helped them to understand the needs of America's Army as it transformed itself from a forward deployed force to a power projection force. Drawing on this years of experience he skillfully charted the way for an enhanced understanding of the Army's role in the legislative process and for telling the Army story. His

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