

Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act of 1996 ensures portability, it fights waste, fraud, and abuse, it cuts redtape and creates a medical savings account program to help the self-employed and employees of smaller businesses.

Mr. Speaker, this is a win-win situation for the American people. We emphasize people over bureaucracy, choice over centralization.

But, unfortunately, a small group of liberals in the other body have held up this commonsense legislation for 57 days. These liberals are holding out for the centralized Clinton Care that was rejected by Congress and the American people 2 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, we should break this logjam. Obstructionist liberals should end their campaign to take over the Nation's health care system.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all members it is not in order to cast reflections on the Senate or its Members, individually or collectively.

CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT OR APPEASEMENT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we are told that the United States of America is engaged in a policy of constructive engagement with the gerontocracy that runs China. We have just completed our second annual negotiations to allow the Chinese to continue to pirate over \$2 billion a year in intellectual property rights from American companies. There is no change; they are still producing those disks today.

Yes, there was a little show of closing down a few, but that will not last. We are going to run a \$41 billion deficit with China, the most unfair trading nation on Earth, the most protectionist society on Earth. That means, according to our own Commerce Department's numbers we are going to lose 800,000 jobs to the unfair trade practices of the People's Republic of China.

At some point the policy of constructive engagement starts to look an awful lot like appeasement, and we all know how effective the policy of appeasement was in dealing with Hitler's Third Reich.

ENDING HEALTH CARE REFORM GRIDLOCK

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the American people have two major concerns about their health care insurance. One is can they afford it;

and, second, will they be able to take it with them when they have to move from one job to another?

First, the good news. A bipartisan majority in the House and the Senate supports passage of the Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act, which addresses both of these problems. Now the bad news. One Member from the other side of the aisle in the other body is standing in the way because of his opposition to providing more Americans the option of choosing a medical savings account, or MSA, for their health insurance.

Dozens of companies and thousands of employees around the country have MSAs. They love MSA's for three reasons. MSA's give employees control over how their health care dollars are spent and make them careful but satisfied shoppers.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I thought the Chair had said that we could not impugn motives to Members of the other body.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELLER). The gentlewoman is correct. The Chair was attempting to ask the gentleman to suspend.

The Chair would ask that Members refrain from disparaging remarks about Members of the other body.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned no specific Member of the other body.

Mr. Speaker, dozens of companies and thousands of employees around the country have MSA's. They love MSA's for three reasons: MSA's give employees control over how their health care dollars are spent and make them careful but satisfied shoppers. They provide them freedom from worry by eliminating out-of-pocket costs for those with chronic or catastrophic illnesses. MSA's save money for employees and for the companies. Americans want this kind of health care coverage. We should move to make it possible for them.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET DOES NOT REFLECT THE PRIORITIES OF MIDDLE AMERICA

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, despite the heated rhetoric surrounding the budget debate, the Republican budget passed last week. It will tragically increase the deficit from \$130 billion to \$153 billion. Just when most of us who are deeply committed to deficit reduction thought that we had the opportunity to address the budget in a forthright manner, we have been duped. If we have learned anything about the tragic budget debate of last year, we have learned that if it is going to succeed, the design and the details of the budget must reflect the priorities of modern Americans.

Middle America wants to see the deficit decreased. Middle America does not want to see education and health care programs cut while defense spending increases. Middle Americans are willing to share in the sacrifice necessary to balance the budget. Yes, most support tax cuts. So do I. However, we should not borrow money temporarily to pay for a tax cut if we are sacrificing the future of our children and grandchildren. We must be willing to set our priorities straight and make the tough choices necessary to balance the budget.

END THE APATHY AND THE POLICY OF APPEASEMENT TOWARD CHINA

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in 1980, China was first granted MFN status. Since then, very little has changed. In fact, it would be easy to argue that the situation has worsened. In the last 5 years, China has accumulated a \$117 billion trade surplus with the United States, most of which is being used by the Chinese Government to build a war machine—a United States financed and outfitted Communist army.

Also troubling is the continued theft of American intellectual property rights. Even the Clinton administration has called the Chinese "the most egregious violator of agreements intended to combat the piracy of American products."

Our apathy and appeasement have actually worsened our position as a trade partner and as a steward of democracy in one of the world's most volatile regions.

The House will soon vote to end China's privilege. We will soon have the opportunity to send a message to the world that America will not support a rogue nation. We cannot continue to ignore the truth' we must be proactive in changing China's policies.

THE 1996 CHICAGO BULLS MADE AMERICA PROUD

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, let me join the chorus of Chicagoans, Illinoisans, and fans everywhere in saluting our world champion Chicago Bulls. The Seattle Supersonics were a worthy team, but 1996 was the year of the Bulls: a regular season record of 72 victories, a playoff record of 15 wins and 3 losses.

Why were they so successful? The greatest coach in the NBA, Phil Jackson, the man who proved that Zen can win; the greatest player in the history of the sport, Michael Jordan, whose athletic ability is only surpassed by his class; and a great team, with players