

want to have insurance companies prohibited from not insuring folks for their preexisting conditions. But let me tell the Members, under the banner of reform, what the congressional majority has done to the health care bill.

Do not take my word for it, take the word of Consumers Union. Consumers Union produces the Consumer Reports that advise us on buying an automobile, an appliance, and not to buy a lemon. Let me tell the Members what they say about medical savings accounts, which is holding up the health care reform bill:

The inclusion of the Republican MSA proposal in the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill makes the legislation worse than a wash for consumers. It takes us backward in our efforts to make health insurance accessible and affordable.

MSA's are a time bomb. They turn the very principle of insurance on its head. Instead of pooling resources, they help healthy people accumulate wealth.

I ask Members to be on their guard and oppose the MSA's.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: COMMON-SENSE ANSWERS FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our colleagues to join me in calling on the Senate to pass our commonsense health care reforms now. These are reasonable changes like portability, affordability, and most of all, accessibility.

Portability is within this Congress' grasp. And here our reforms can end job lock, giving tens of thousands of Americans the opportunity to maintain their health care coverage, without sacrificing their careers.

Second, by allowing individuals tax-free medical savings accounts, expanding the health insurance deduction for the self-employed and introducing tax incentives to promote long-term care coverage, we are helping people help themselves.

But finally, Mr. Speaker, this Congress has the opportunity to end the preexisting conditions exclusion, which keeps more than 20 million Americans from the coverage they need.

One of these is, in fact, one of my own family. They have a full time job and pay their taxes. Yet, because of a condition that they developed, they cannot secure the health care coverage that they need and want.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that when we cast our final votes on this package, it will be these three commonsense reforms, portability, affordability, and accessibility, that will be foremost in the minds of all Americans.

GRANTING MFN TO CHINA NOT FAIR TO AMERICAN WORKERS

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I had planned to hold up a toy assault weapon when I spoke today on the House floor. House rules suggest I not do so.

This toy gun was made in China. It is only a toy. But the 2,000 assault weapons that the U.S. attorney in San Francisco found last month were not toys. They were the real thing, smuggled in by the Chinese Government or a company controlled by the Chinese Government. It is sometimes hard to tell the difference when you are dealing with a Communist country that uses slave labor.

The assault weapons in California kill people. Those toys made by the Chinese in Chinese slave labor camps kill jobs, American jobs. The trade deficit with China is \$34 billion a year and growing. Before long it will be greater than the deficit we have with Japan. MFN, most-favored-nation status, is not fair to American workers. Kill MFN.

THE NEA MUST GO

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. The NEA insists on offending American families. Freshman Republicans tried to eliminate taxpayer funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, in part because taxpayers should not have to subsidize art which blatantly offends the religious beliefs and family values of most Americans. As Bob Dole puts it, most people know the difference between Mapplethorpe and Michelangelo.

Now the NEA has crossed the lines again with a debut this Sunday of the "Watermelon Woman" film at the New York Lesbian and Gay Video and Film Festival. The film is described in the Washington Times as "black lesbian quirky, steamy, and taxpayer funded." The Times goes on to quote Edmond Peterson, chairman of Project 21, an organization of conservative blacks, saying: "This is a classic example of the Clinton administration being in bed with the gay-lesbian movement and funding a project through tax dollars that cannot get funded any other way."

Mr. Speaker, it is a free country and people can make any kind of trash they want, but taxpayers should not have to pay for it. It is time we cut off funding for the NEA.

A MODERN-DAY HELEN OF TROY

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, Helen of Troy supposedly launched many ships with just her face. Today I

picked up the Hill and read that the Speaker of the House is giving me credit for launching the Republican budget with my face. I want to thank him, but I cannot take credit.

Everybody wondered how the Republicans got the last four votes on this Republican budget that they launched, because this Republican budget increases the deficit from this year, next year, and the next year. It is a disaster. It's a ship that should be sunk, not launched.

Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans counted the votes, they did not have them, so they had to keep the voting machine open for a very long time while they pressured their Members to change. The Speaker said he did not have to work at all, that their four changers very willingly came down here and changed when they saw my face. That is fairly incredible, because I was not here. I was one of the first to vote, went home, and was watching the vote on C-SPAN, so I have something over Helen of Troy. If the Speaker is right, they can beam my face right back in here from C-SPAN even if I'm absent.

MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ARE NEW APPROACH WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, medical savings accounts have become a focal point for this whole debate over the health care reform. MSA's are a new approach, but they do have a proven track record.

A recent study by researchers at Cleveland State University prove the effectiveness of MSA's. They studied 27 Ohio firms of less than 200 employees. The average employee had lower out-of-pocket costs—as much as \$1,355 per family. The firms themselves saved an average of 12 percent a year without passing on the savings to their employees.

Mr. Speaker, as of last year, 17 States have passed MSA laws, another 11 are considering them, and another 11 have called on Congress to enact MSA's. Even the United Mine Workers offers MSA's to its members. Let us join the trend toward serious, workable health care reform; let us follow the lead of the States and enact the kind of reforms that have a proven track record.

CALL GHOSTBUSTERS FOR AIRLINE SAFETY

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, before the ValuJet crash, an FAA inspector said that ValuJet is an accident waiting to happen. It is so bad, she