

are doing in a variety of areas is, in some cases, very inaccurate and misleading. I've asked the Health Care Financing Administration to give us more information on this problem and the extent of the errors.

There are private groups which accredit HMOs and use HEDIS data to help measure those plans. The leader in these private groups is the National Commission on Quality Assurance. But it is all very confusing to the consumer. The following shows why.

How NCOA Accreditation Compares to U.S. News and World Report Rankings of HMO's

U.S. News ranking	Full Acc.	1-Yr. Acc.	Prov. Acc. ¹	Denied	Review ²	N/A ⁴	P/S/E ³	Totals
****	41	15	0	2	0	6	0	64
***	46	30	7	1	1	5	6	96
**	47	30	0	1	1	16	8	103
*	13	7	1	0	1	5	10	37
Not ranked	14	0	0	0	1	7	5	27
Totals	161	82	8	4	4	39	29	327

¹ Provisional accreditation: plan meets some standards; can move up if review after one year shows improvement.

² Initial status determined but under review.

³ Initial status Pending/review Scheduled/rating Expired.

⁴ Accreditation information not available.

Source: U.S. News and World Report, October 13, 1997.

One of the most important things would be to ensure that these private accrediting and rating groups, which are paid for their services by those they rate, are true to the public interest. I have proposed legislation, H.R. 800, which would require that the boards of accrediting organizations like NCQA and JCAHO include public interest representatives and public meetings.

So much money is at stake in the quality ratings of managed care plans, that I do not believe the ratings should be directed in private and by boards of directors who include representatives of the interest being evaluated.

HONORING JACKIE SMITH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the skill and achievements of Jackie Smith. Her contribution to women's sports is incomparable.

Jackie began playing organized basketball at the age of 11. The effort that she put into the game since then has made her a competitive player of international renown. She attended Forest Hills High School and, as a premier player, received All-City honors and the 1st Regusus award given by New York City. Upon graduation, she received a full athletic scholarship to St. John's University where she led the team to two Big East championships, four NCAA appearances, and has received numerous individual awards.

In 1986, after receiving her Bachelors degree, she played professionally with the Racing Club de France in Paris, France. In 1988, she returned to New York City to play an instrumental role with the Brooklyn Sports Foundation as its Community Relations Director. While in this position, she worked closely with the Foundation's Chairman, Board of Directors, and community leaders to plan and develop the first and only sports complex for amateur sports in Brooklyn.

In keeping with her love of sports, this year she became the Head Women's Basketball Coach at York College and is committed to building a successful program.

The October 13, 1997 issue of US News and World Report rated 223 HMOs using data largely from the National Commission on Quality Assurance's HEDIS system. The rating also showed whether NCQA had given full or partial accreditation to those HMOs.

Using the HEDIS data on things that people care about, like immunization rates, mammography rates, etc., US News ranked plans as Above Average or Below Average—but the NCQA accreditations had relatively little to do

with how plans did on the US News ratings. For example, NCQA denied accreditation to 2 plans that US News found among the best, but denied none among the plans that US News found the worst. Following is a table my staff did showing the results.

What can be done to make this babble of ratings more useful to the public?

Mr. Speaker, join me in congratulating Ms. Jackie Smith for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and showing young women everywhere that they can do, and accomplish, anything.

TRIBUTE TO DAWSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous bravery shown by Dawson High School students earlier this year. These students, whose high school is in my district, have displayed an incredible example of courage in the face of danger and given all of us a fascinating story of courage and bravery.

Mr. Speaker, on January 6th of this year, students from Dawson High School arose and planned their day as usual. As they waited in their neighborhoods for the school bus, they had no way of knowing about the dangers that awaited them. Because there has been heavy rains in Dawson the previous week, many of the roads were flooded. The school bus that the Dawson students were on, got caught in one of those flooded roads and was swept off into a ditch towards the flooded creek.

Mr. Speaker, this would have been a tragic situation, if it had not been for the quick thinking of the older students on the bus. They took the initiative to check for anyone who was hurt, and then they moved all 40 students to the right side of the bus in order to keep it from flipping over.

The students who put their fear aside and acted so bravely were: Shelley Wheat, Jessica Hall, Misty Rounsavall, Jeremy Rounsavall, Jasm McCury, Keith Becker, James Stults, Sarah Urrutia, Kevin Ivie, Dorinda Golden, April Dooley, Jennifer Wren, Mandy Houk, Niki Dooley, Krysty Copeland and Sharlaine Hooley.

Mr. Speaker, it's hard to overestimate the fear I think anyone would feel faced with a situation such as this. I know I join the people of Dawson in thanking these young heroes and heroines for their courage and their inspiration.

THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF SENATE APPROVAL OF THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO IN 1848

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today—March 10th—marks one of the great historic occasions in the history of the United States, and it is a particularly significant anniversary for the people of the great State of California. Today is the 150th anniversary of the vote in the United States Senate in which that body approved the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo by a vote of 38 to 14. That historic document marked the conclusion of the two-year war with Mexico.

The treaty is also a tribute to American diplomacy and the creativity of Nicholas P. Trist, the chief clerk of the Department of State who was sent to Mexico by President James K. Polk at the end of 1847 with instructions "to take advantage of circumstances as they might arise to negotiate a peace." After a lengthy delay, Trist was about to begin negotiations with Mexican representatives when the President sent instructions for Trist to return to Washington. Trist—convinced that he was on the verge of achieving all of the objectives that he was sent to achieve—ignored his instructions to return, continued his negotiations with Mexican officials, and concluded the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, named after the place where it was completed.

When Trist returned to Washington with the treaty, President Polk could find no fault with the document and, despite "the exceptional conduct of Mr. Trist," submitted the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo to the Senate for its advice and consent. It was this document which was approved by the Senate on March 10, 1848, which I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating today, Mr. Speaker.

The anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mr. Speaker, is an occasion for both celebration and for thoughtful reflection about the nature of our great nation.

First, Mr. Speaker, it is an occasion for celebration because the treaty led to major changes that helped to define the United

States as we know it today. Under terms of the treaty, 1.2 million square miles were added to the United States, and the United States government paid \$15 million to the government of Mexico. Included in these new territories were the Mexican states of Upper California and New Mexico, which today comprise the entire state of California, plus most of New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada, as well as portions of Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado.

The treaty also confirmed the Rio Grande River as the boundary between the State of Texas and Mexico. Texas had become an independent Republic in 1836, and, at the request of the majority Anglo American population, it was annexed to the United States in 1845. Questions regarding the boundary between Texas and Mexico were among the principle causes of the United States' war with Mexico.

My home state of California has become the most populous state in our Union, with some 32 million residents—12 percent of the entire population of our country, considerably ahead of Texas (19 million) and New York (18 million). Furthermore, California has made significant contributions to the history, character, and culture of the United States. It has provided a number of prominent national leaders in science, medicine, education, entertainment, and many other fields, and our state has been the home state of two presidents of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this Sesquicentennial of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is also an occasion for us to reflect thoughtfully upon the cultural heritage of Hispanic Americans in the United States. Under terms of the treaty, residents of the land that was ceded to the United States who were Mexican citizens were permitted to choose American or Mexican citizenship, and it guaranteed the property rights of new Hispanic Americans by reaffirming land grants that had been made by Spain and Mexico before 1846. The treaty, however, did not define or affirm the language or cultural rights of these new American citizens of Hispanic background. In the half century after the approval of the Treaty, most states in the new territories that were added to the United States enacted laws limiting the participation of Hispanic participation in voting, the judicial process, and education. Other laws resulted in dispossessing many Hispanic Americans of their lands.

Throughout most of the 150 years since the historic approval by the Senate of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Hispanic Americans have been subject to exclusion and marginalization. In recent times, however, this treaty has become a potent symbol as Hispanic Americans have affirmed their right to participate fully in American life. Again, Mr. Speaker, it is California that is a harbinger of the America of the twenty-first century. Hispanic Americans play an important role in the economic, political and social life of the State of California, and they bring a vitality and a healthy diversity to our state and to our nation. As California moves toward becoming a "majority minority" state, with Hispanic Americans the largest of our state's minority populations, it is my hope that Americans of all ethnic backgrounds can work together in contributing to the greatness that the rich diversity of our nation can produce.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the Sesquicentennial of the Senate's approval of the Treaty of

Guadalupe Hidalgo, it is my sincere wish that all of us as Americans will take this occasion to recommit ourselves to understanding, appreciating, and celebrating the depth and meaning of our historical past. It is also my hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will also recommit ourselves to the ideals of equality and diversity which have contributed so much to the richness and culture of our nation and of which this anniversary should remind us.

HONORING ELBA IRIS ROJAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Elba Iris Rojas. Elba was born in Puerto Rico and she and her family moved to the United States when she was just a child. Her family has allowed her to become the success that she is today.

As a result of her dedication to education, Ms. Rojas was awarded a scholarship to Kings County Hospital of Nursing in 1968. During her tenure in the nursing program, Elba knew that she could best serve her community as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. For over twenty years she has managed to provide invaluable services in this capacity through a joint program of Kings County Hospital Center and Down State Medical Center. While working at the Hospital, Ms. Rojas has participated in numerous health fairs and career days in community high schools. She also serves as a mentor to nursing students. I have no doubt that Mrs. Rojas has guided many young people to make their own contributions to the field of health.

When one speaks to Ms. Rojas, one gets a sense that she is truly excited about her life. As a wife, mother of three, and a professional, it is clear that the demands of these roles do not exhaust her, but strengthen her commitment to her work and family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Elba Iris Rojas for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and for showing young women everywhere that they can do and accomplish anything.

CARING AND SHARING, INC.

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization in my district that's doing amazing work for veterans in Western Pennsylvania, Sharing and Caring, Inc.

Sharing and Caring is an all volunteer organization dedicated to helping our nation's most important heroes, our veterans. Each year, Sharing and Caring organizes a cruise on Pittsburgh's rivers for hospitalized veterans. The event gives these veterans an opportunity to spend a day outside the hospital, but it's also an opportunity for our entire community to honor the service of our veterans by sponsoring, or "adopting", a veteran for the boat ride.

In 1985, the first year of this event, Sharing and Caring's river boat cruise benefitted over 500 veterans. Today, that number has doubled, allowing more than 1,000 veterans to take part in the day's events. This effort to give veterans a "holiday" outside of their normal hospital environments deserves acknowledgment and commendation.

The people who started this event, however, deserve just as much praise. As a hospital volunteer, Bernard Pack, who himself is a veteran of World War II and Korea, was dismayed by the sight of so many veterans spending their days watching television inside hospital wards. His desire to bring something special to the lives of his comrades propelled him and fellow volunteers Robert Riethmiller and David Gool to organize the first river boat cruise. Out of this event, Sharing and Caring, Inc. was formed, and the organization has gone on to help numerous hospitalized veterans.

I want to extend my personal thanks and best wishes to Bernie, Robert and David for the time, energy and effort they put into creating Caring and Sharing. And I also want to thank all the volunteers that keep the organization going. Your efforts to help our veterans is an inspiration to us all.

INTRODUCTION OF DUTY
SUSPENSION BILLS

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the attached four bills at the request of a chemical manufacturer in my Congressional District. Enactment will increase this company's ability to compete in a highly competitive U.S. agricultural market. These bills will also improve the health of our environment, because the products involved are used in lower concentrations than chemicals used today, and they break down quicker in the environment than the older generation of products. Suspension of the duty on these products will have a positive effect on U.S. companies, because they are not currently manufactured in the United States.

A BILL To provide for reductions in duty for the chemical DPX-E9260

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REDUCTION IN DUTIES FOR DPX-E9260

(a) REDUCTION IN DUTIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the general column rate of duty for the article described in subsection (b) shall be—

(1) 6.0% for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, during calendar year 1999; and

(2) 5.3% for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, during calendar year 2000.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE.—The article which subsection (a) applies is DPX-E9260, 3-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-pyridinesulfonamide (CAS No. 117671-01-9), provided for in subheading 2935.00.75 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.