

consumers who are in need of protection, State laws are more misses than hits: managed care consumers still cannot count on basic protections."

This report is only the latest in a growing body of evidence that proves what the American people already know, that we need a national Patients Protection Act. We need to ensure that doctors and patients, and not insurance company bureaucrats, are making the critical health care decisions, that patients have the right to go to the emergency room, that women can gain direct access to an obstetrician or gynecologist, and that health plans are held accountable when they deny patients care.

The only plan that ensures these basic protections is the Democratic Patient's Bill of Rights.

I urge the Republican leadership, schedule a vote today on the Dingell-KENNEDY Patients Protection Act.

"HEALTHMARTS" AND THE QUEST FOR QUALITY

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

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, the health care debate has been full of surprises. One of my favorites was the statement that there is no true marketplace today to drive health care equality. The surprise is not what was said, but who said it: Ron Pollack of Families USA, a leading supporter of President Clinton's efforts to nationalize health care.

Well, he and a lot of other health experts are right, we do not have a real health care market, and that is the problem.

Think about it: The last time you bought a car, you did not go to your bank, your credit union or GMAC first. You went to a dealership, talked to the salespeople and took a test drive. Then you arranged your financing. The car you bought was determined by your personal needs and preferences, not by the bank or credit union that financed it.

Why cannot health care operate the same way?

The legislation developed by the Speaker's Working Group on Health Care Quality includes a provision creating HealthMarts. HealthMarts are private, voluntary and competitive health insurance supermarkets. They will transfer choice within the current market from small employers to their employees and dependents.

HealthMarts would give millions of consumers the freedom to choose their health coverage from a menu of options. These options could include managed care and fee-for-service plans, coverage offered by provider-sponsored organizations, and medical savings accounts.

REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE PROPOSALS LACKING

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, the Republicans defeated President Clinton's health care bill, claiming it would allow the Federal Government to interfere with doctor-patient relationships.

Well, now the Republicans are offering legislation that does nothing to protect the choices made by doctors and their patients. Their legislation, for example, does not ensure that patients have the right to see a specialist, nor does it prevent insurance companies from continuing to send women home early immediately following a mastectomy.

□ 0915

What our health care system needs, Mr. Speaker, is the Dingell-Daschle bill, a patient protection bill that ensures doctors and patients are able to make the decisions about the patient's health care, not insurance company bureaucrats and clerks.

A patient protection bill must ensure that patients have the right to choose their doctor, see a specialist, and seek a court remedy when claims have been unfairly denied. It is time to put doctors and patients back in charge of health care.

I urge my colleagues to support the Dingell-Daschle patient protection bill.

U.S. SHOULD WAKE UP TO NUCLEAR ATTACK VULNERABILITY

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that it has taken nuclear blasts in India and Pakistan to convince American leaders that it is time to put an end to our policy of mutually assured vulnerability. What I mean by that is that the United States is vulnerable to a missile attack.

Many Americans are unaware of this, but if a missile were to be fired at American cities, the United States would be defenseless to stop it.

Not only that, but this is the deliberate policy of the United States to remain defenseless in the face of nuclear attack. The faith of liberals in arms control, in a piece of paper, is boundless.

But recent events in Pakistan and India should serve to force us to reconsider our position of vulnerability in the face of a missile attack.

I hope that recent reports that Communist China has 13 nuclear missiles aimed at the United States will finally cause our leaders here in Washington to wake up. The liberals and our President are always saying we must do this for the children, we must do that for the children. Well, let us make sure that our Nation is protected from nuclear attack for the children.

TERRIFYING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN INDONESIA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, reports of the riots in Indonesia last month tell of mass rapes targeted at the Chinese and non-Muslim women. There are several reports that some military leaders helped to organize the terrorizing of the ethnic and religious minorities. One 18-year-old woman reports that the apartment complex where she lived was invaded by an angry Muslim mob. The mob found this woman and her family, tied them up with bed sheets, knocked the father unconscious, and proceeded to brutally rape all the women. This woman's sister was raped by five men who all said, "Allahu Akbar" before they raped her.

The young woman's sister tried to fight against the rapists. In the end, one of her rapists sliced open her stomach and brutally killed her. There are many reports detailing the same situation for other women in Indonesia.

Mr. Speaker, the horrors done to the Chinese and the Christian communities must not be allowed to continue under any government whatsoever. The Indonesian Government should use its power to stop these terrifying human rights abuses and investigate the allegation of any military involvement in these atrocities.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 4194, and that I be permitted to include tables and charts and other extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Pursuant to House Resolution 501 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4194.

□ 0919

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for