

National Institutes of Health, NIH, and the valuable research being done by them. I know how important NIH is to our Nation's future, including its economic well-being. Advances in medical research to prevent, cure, or at least minimize the degree of financial devastation caused by such diseases experienced in the United States is a major reason why it is so necessary that we fund these vital research projects.

That being said, however, I must admit that I have been troubled by several newspaper stories I have read recently concerning the manner in which NIH chooses its spending priorities. One such article appeared in the Washington Post on July 9, and used as its source a recently released report from the Institute of Medicine, IOM.

The roughly 200-page report, entitled "Scientific Opportunities and Public Needs," warns that NIH must do a better job of justifying its spending decisions or it could lose its historically elevated credibility. The premise of the report is that political pressures often play a crucial role and can influence funding decisions.

I have always steadfastly defended the work being done at NIH, and assured its critics that, contrary to what they may think, this was not true. However, when I read the conclusions made by the IOM, I decided to look into this report further. I have with me, Mr. Speaker, a chart. Let us take a look at this chart prepared by the Institute of Medicine on NIH spending priorities.

As Members will note, heart disease is the number one killer in America; 732,400 people die. The spending is \$852 million; cancer, 534,300 die. We spend \$2,571,000,000.

Let us go further down and look at AIDS-HIV. It is listed as the eighth leading cause of death. It kills 42,100 a year, yet it receives \$1.4 billion. The death figures are for 1994 and the spending priorities are for 1996.

Mr. Speaker, in other words, NIH spends approximately \$43,000 per death researching AIDS and HIV, while heart disease, which kills over 20 times as many people each year, receives only \$1,160 per year per death. Heart disease was the number one killer in 1995, 1996, and 1997. Research dollars at NIH do not reflect this.

According to a Centers for Disease Control, CDC, 1997 report, the top five killers are: cardiovascular disease, one; two, cancer; three, stroke; four, chronic lung disease; five, accidents. Mr. Speaker, note that HIV-AIDS does not even appear in the top five killers, but receives almost the top funding from NIH.

It is very difficult to justify such types of funding disparities. Other diseases, such as diabetes, were responsible for causing 56,700 deaths in 1996, making it the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. By contrast, diabetes research received only \$299 million research dollars.

Not only has scientific research made important strides in identifying the

causes of certain diseases, it has also launched tests of new drugs to enhance recovery from stroke and spinal cord injury and produce a new drug for the treatment of epilepsy.

In these days of trying to balance the budget, we must not lose sight of the fact that by delaying the onset of diseases such as Alzheimer's, stroke, and cardiovascular disease, we would save almost an estimated \$35 million through a reduction in the need for nursing home care.

Now, to my way of thinking, that is not a small amount of money. However, this can only occur if the huge spending increases that NIH receives do in fact flow to all the institutes, so that all the diseases benefit from these new sources of dollars.

I respect the work being conducted at NIH and believe it has some of the finest first-class scientists and researchers in the world. I would caution, however, that the articles of criticism about the way it runs its shop are becoming more and more frequent. They also need to restructure their priorities based upon the needs. That is my message this afternoon.

Congress has an obligation to ensure that all of its citizens are represented, and this includes how their tax dollars are being spent, especially when it comes to funding for biomedical research.

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#### DISCHARGE PETITION ON PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, today I am initiating a discharge petition to force the House to debate House Resolution 486, a rule for consideration of managed care reform bills.

House Resolution 486 provides for the consideration of the Dingell-Ganske Patients' Bill of Rights, and would allow both the manager's substitute amendment and a substitute by one of the leading Republican advocates of managed care reform, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHARLIE NORWOOD).

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) could offer the bill developed by the Hastert task force or some other reform plan. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, this week the House may debate House Resolution 4250, the patient protection bill developed by the Hastert task force. This bill just became available for review a few days ago. It has serious problems. It is not the best bill.

I have many concerns which I will not outline today, but let me give just one example. A year or so ago when we passed patient protection legislation as part of the Medicare reform bill, we banned what are called gag rules. These are rules that HMOs set up that

prevent doctors or nurses or other health professionals from telling the patients all of the information or treatment options they need.

In our Medicare bill, we said that HMOs could not prohibit or restrict communications. Those last two words are important, "or restrict." They are in the bill that I support, the Patients' Bill of Rights. However, in the Hastert bill, the word "restrict" was taken out.

What that means, then, is that an HMO could erect a thousand hurdles that your doctor or nurse would have to jump over to try to tell their patients all of their treatment options. That would be okay, as long as the HMO did not prohibit those types of communications. That is a serious, serious loophole in the legislation, and it is one of the many reasons why I think it is not the best legislation.

I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that it is my intention to testify before the Committee on Rules and to ask that they permit the Dingell-Ganske Patients' Bill of Rights to be offered as an amendment, not merely as a motion to recommit or as a part of some other procedural move. If the Committee on Rules makes such an amendment in order, I can always take my name off this discharge competition.

Mr. Speaker, there are only 33 legislative days left this year. The clock is ticking on our patients. There are many other Republican Members who are concerned that the debate on patient protection legislation be timely and fair.

If the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and I are not permitted to offer the Patients' Bill of Rights as an amendment, then I will seek to collect Republican signatures on this petition to bring the best HMO reform bill before the House for a fair vote.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

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□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) at 2 p.m.

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#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are instructed in the Psalms in the scriptures, "Be still, and know that I am God."

With so many voices to be heard and many lessons to be understood, it is no wonder that Your still strong voice, gracious God, is not heard. May this moment of prayer allow us to be still

and focus on the clarity of Your forgiving word and the soothing comfort of Your eternal voice. We pray with earnest hearts that we will continue to listen to Your good graces, O God, so that Your peace that passes all human understanding will be with us now and until our last day. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1439. An act to facilitate the sale of certain land in Tahoe National Forest in the State of California to Placer County, California.

H.R. 1460. An act to allow for election of the Delegate from Guam by other than separate ballot, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1779. An act to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements.

H.R. 2165. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 3862 in the State of Iowa, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2217. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 9248 in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2841. An act to extend the time required for the construction of a hydroelectric project.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 434. An act to provide for the conveyance of small parcels of land in the Carson National Forest and the Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico, to the village of El Rito and the town of Jemez Springs, New Mexico.

H.R. 765. An act to ensure maintenance of a herd of wild horses in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

H.R. 3616. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe

personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4101. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 3616) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COATS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. GLENN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. CLELAND, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

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The message also announced that the Senate passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 638. An act to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of private mineral interests within the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument mandated by the 1982 Act that established the Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act entitled the "National Discovery Trails Act of 1997".

S. 1132. An act to modify the boundaries of the Bandelier National Monument to include the lands within the headwaters of the Upper Alamo Watershed which drain into the Monument and which are not currently within the jurisdiction of a Federal land management agency, to authorize purchase or donation of those lands, and for other purposes.

S. 1403. An act to amend the National Historic Preservation Act for purposes of establishing a national historic lighthouse preservation program.

S. 1418. An act to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of methane hydrate resources, and for other purposes.

S. 1510. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico.

S. 1683. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction over part of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area from the Secretary of

the Interior to the Secretary of Agriculture for inclusion in the Wenatchee National Forest.

S. 1695. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 1807. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of public domain land in Lake Country, Oregon, to facilitate management of the land, and for other purposes.

S. 2057. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2058. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

S. 2059. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military construction, and for other purposes.

S. 2060. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 105. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the culpability of Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia, and for other purposes.

#### THE PROPER ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, during this appropriations season here in Congress, we should all remember exactly why we are here and what promises we made to the American people. Those promises are to reduce the size and the scope and the power, especially the power, of the Federal Government over our lives.

Some people believe that government was solely created to correct the wrongs in people's lives. However, I think that is only half right. I look at the government's responsibility from a different perspective.

Over the last 40 years, government has shown that its one-size-fits-all approach rarely if ever solves problems, whether it is here in Washington or in my district in Nevada.

Government provides little opportunity to create wealth, and over the years has become very effective at taxing one person's wealth and giving it to another. Sure, government has a role to play in helping people who are truly in need by providing needed resources to State, county and local governments so they can create targeted local solutions to those in need.

I urge my fellow colleagues to remember that government must never become counterproductive or create unnecessary entitlement programs without proper responsibility.