

and accelerate corrosion of the nuclear waste containers, potentially causing a reaction similar to the Japanese nuclear disaster.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress cannot in good faith place the lives of thousands of citizens living in the surrounding area of Yucca Mountain in peril. The plan to store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain is simply unwarranted, unwise, and dangerous. We can and must prevent such a disaster.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DINGELL-NORWOOD PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the bipartisan Dingell-Norwood Patients' Bill of Rights. We need protections for patients to ensure that they have access to specialists, to ensure that they get accurate information about all of their medical options and not just the cheapest options. We need to ensure that they can get reimbursed for emergency room care. That is what the Patients' Bill of Rights is about.

I am not here to paint the HMOs as the ultimate villains, but I will say that the profit motive leads to greed and greed leads to some of the worst abuses of patients we have seen.

Mr. Speaker, we need a Patients' Bill of Rights that is enforceable. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership wants to give an empty can. If we cannot enforce patients' rights, the rights are meaningless. Some would say that is a boon for trial attorneys. Not so. The importance of having the right to sue is so there is a deterrent against bad medical practices.

Texas has shown that there is not a significant increase in lawsuits when there is an enforceable bill of rights. We will also hear that this will drive up costs. Not so. Minimum cost increases are a couple of dollars. What is important is that we have an enforceable bill of rights with teeth to protect all Americans.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

(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, this week the House Committee on Education and the Workforce will consider the Dollars to the Classroom resolution stating that our schoolchildren and teachers in our public schools throughout this country can benefit by directing Federal funding for elementary and secondary education directly to classrooms where the learning process actually takes place.

By seeking to get 95 cents of every dollar into the classrooms of our public schools, the children and teachers of

this Nation would see an additional \$870 million out of the existing appropriation. That is \$10,000 per school translating to about \$450 for every classroom in America.

By seeing that dollars actually get into the hands of those who directly teach our kids their ABCs and their 1, 2, 3s, we will get maximum efficiency out of the use of our tax dollars.

As the House considers the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, let us look at how we can empower teachers at the local level. No longer do we want our seventh graders saying their books were printed when their teachers were in the eighth grade.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Dollars to the Classroom resolution.

CONGRESS MUST PASS PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just recently we read a report that tells us that 43 million Americans are uninsured and without health insurance. Shame on America and shame on this Congress. That is why among many things that we have to do to include those who are uninsured, we must pass the Patients' Bill of Rights.

Tragically in my own State of Texas under Republican leadership, Texas is number one with uninsured persons with no coverage to protect them and provide for health insurance. Shame on Texas and shame on the Republican leadership in the State of Texas.

But the Patients' Bill of Rights will give minimal relief to those who are covered. It provides access to any emergency room. It will stop the closed-door policy of an emergency room because of nonapproval, allow women to have OB/GYNs as their primary caregiver, and will give relief to sue HMOs, not frivolously but if they decide to determine a patient's medical destiny and they are hurt.

Mr. Speaker, does it mean patients will sue their employer? Of course not. Does it mean this will work? Yes, because it worked in the State of Texas.

We must pass the Patients' Bill of Rights, otherwise more shame on America.

TRIBUTE TO THE CINCINNATI REDS FOR AN INCREDIBLE SEASON

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, this was a special year for baseball in my hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. The Cincinnati Reds with a handful of dedicated veterans, a lot of young talent, and one of the lowest payrolls in baseball captured the Nation's attention with their unbridled enthusiasm and passion for the game.

Last night the Reds' incredible run ended earlier than we had hoped. And while it may be of little consolation to the players, their inspirational efforts have brought many fans, both young and old, back to baseball.

Sadly, baseball's economics may not allow this same talented team to return to the field for another run at the pennant, but we will not soon forget the 1999 Cincinnati Reds. We will remember Barry Larkin and Pokey Reese turning spectacular double plays; Mike Cameron running down balls in the gap; Sean Casey and Greg Vaughn and many others driving pitches over the outfield walls; and the determined outings by the pitching staff.

Every Member of the Reds and their fans should hold their heads up high today. They gave it their all day in and day out and reminded the country that our national pastime is alive and well in the home of baseball's first professional team: Cincinnati, Ohio.

GOP OBSTACLES TO PATIENT PROTECTIONS

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight on managed care reform. Just this week, the GOP leadership accused the President of trying to rush through a health plan simply to get it done and said that, "Republicans want to get it done right, not fast."

However, Republicans want it done right for their special interests like insurance companies, not for the American people. Their plan would protect insurance companies from liability, rather than protect patients when insurance bureaucrats deny them care. Our proposal on the other hand is the right approach for the American people. We guarantee patients the right to hold plans accountable when they arbitrarily deny medical care.

The Republican leadership's proposal is right for insurance companies because it lets insurance bureaucrats rather than doctors make decisions about medical treatment. Our proposal is right for the American people because it ensures that doctors make medical decisions that are in the best interest of a patient, not the health plan.

So I ask, who is really doing what is right for the American People?

□ 1030

CONGRESS AWAITING PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, where is it? Let me ask my Democrat and Republican friends, where is it? They