overturn doctor’s orders. The changes could endanger a patient’s health. Patients do not lose the right to the care prescribed by a personal physician simply because they have entered a nursing facility. When government inspectors substitute their judgment for that of a physician, nursing home providers must choose between the doctor’s orders and government sanctions. An efficient and fair system requires that without fear of punishment, nursing home providers be allowed to follow a doctor’s orders in keeping with the best interest of their residents. Optimal quality care means that patients should enter nursing homes with the assurance that the care prescribed by their physician is the care they will receive.

I hope this legislation fosters a constructive debate over the best ways to improve care for residents and that involved stakeholders can come together to reach consensus on the need for changes in the current system. I am pleased that already the Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Lutheran Services in America, the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Catholic Health Association support this legislation. I appreciate the input I have received from others as well and look forward to working with other key stakeholders in long term care and interested members of Congress. As Congress considers further improvements to the Medicare program, I urge my colleagues to support this important effort.

RECOGNIZING THE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SIGNED A “PEACE PLEDGE” TO STOP THE SPREAD OF WAR TO IRAQ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, more than 3,000 individuals from 40 countries and 48 states have signed the Campaign of Conscience Peace Pledge. I support peace for Iraq. I grant permission to use my name and city publicly as an opponent of the ongoing war and bombing war on Iraq. I support peace...