

I applaud the osteopathic medical community for emphasizing patient access issues, so important to my home state of Missouri and the nation.

Take for example, rural health. Many citizens of my home state face limited availability of health care services in their communities. Access to health care can be established only when medical professionals are available to provide quality health care. We must do more to ensure that all Americans have access to timely health care and part of the solution is to place physicians in rural communities. Let's not forget the access to care barriers facing minority populations, children and the elderly.

Over the past few years, medical liability premiums have escalated out of control causing health care quality, access, and cost problems. While some states have passed professional liability insurance (PLI) system reforms, not every state has effective laws in place. The osteopathic medical community recognizes many states face critical PLI system problems.

For more than a century, D.O.s have made a difference in the lives and health of my fellow citizens in Missouri. I am proud to say that the birth of this profession took place in Northwest Missouri. Overall, more than 100 million patient visits are made each year to osteopathic physicians. D.O.s are committed to serving the needs of rural and underserved communities and make up 15 percent of the total physician population in towns of 10,000 or less.

Similar to requirements set for M.D.s, D.O.s must successfully complete four years of medical education at one of the nation's 20 osteopathic medical schools; a one-year internship; and a multi-year residency program. Throughout this education, D.O.s are trained to understand how the musculoskeletal system influences the condition of all other body systems. Many patients want this extra knowledge a part of their health care. Individuals may call (866) 346-3236 to find a D.O. in their community.

In recognition of NOM Week, I would like to congratulate the over 1,700 D.O.s in Missouri, the 616 students at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, 871 students at the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine and the 47,000 D.O.s represented by the American Osteopathic Association for their contributions to the good health of the American people.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Sen-

ate messages from the President of the United States submitting a sundry nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 556. An act to prevent the use of certain bank instruments for unlawful Internet gambling, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2426. An act to encourage the development and integrated use by the public and private sectors of remote sensing and other geospatial information, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3450. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and strengthen the health centers program and National Health Services Corps, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3534. An act to provide for the settlement of certain land claims of Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Nations to the Arkansas Riverbed in Oklahoma.

H.R. 3802. An act to amend the Education Land Grant Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to pay the costs of environmental reviews with respect to conveyances under that Act.

H.R. 3813. An act to modify requirements relating to allocation of interest that accrues to the Abandonment Mine Reclamation Fund.

H.R. 4013. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Rare Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4014. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the development of products for rare diseases.

H.R. 4125. An act to make improvements in the operation and administration of the Federal courts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4129. An act to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the Central Utah Project, to redirect unexpended budget authority for the Central Utah Project for wastewater treatment and reuse and other purposes, to provide for prepayment of repayment contracts for municipal and industrial water delivery facilities, and to eliminate a deadline for such prepayment.

H.R. 4141. An act to authorize the acquisition by exchange of lands for inclusion in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Clark County, Nevada, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4692. An act to amend the Act entitled "An Act to Authorize the Establishment of the Andersonville National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes," to provide for the addition of certain donated lands to the Andersonville National Historic Site.

H.R. 4793. An act to authorize grants through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for mosquito control programs to prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

H.R. 4830. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Southern Campaign of the Revolution Herit-

age Area in South Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4851. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6910 South Yorktown Avenue in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the "Robert Wayne Jenkins Station."

H.R. 4874. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to disclaim any Federal interest in lands adjacent to Spirit Lake and Twin Lakes in the State of Idaho resulting from possible omission of lands from an 1880 survey.

H.R. 4944. An act to designate the Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4968. An act to provide for the exchange of certain lands in Utah.

H.R. 5091. An act to increase the amount of student loan forgiveness available to qualified teachers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5125. An act to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program.

H.R. 5303.

H.R. 5460. An act to reauthorize and amend the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5472. An act to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 291. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the disease endometriosis.

H. Con. Res. 425. Concurrent resolution calling for the full appropriation of the State and tribal shares of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

H. Con. Res. 451. Concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of teaching United States history and civics in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 484. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding personal safety for children, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments:

S. 434. An act to provide equitable compensation to the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota and the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska for the loss of value of certain lands.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 566. Resolution stating that the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Patsy T. Mink, a Representative from the State of Hawaii.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 556. An act to prevent the use of certain bank instruments for unlawful Internet gambling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3813. An act to modify requirements relating to allocation of interest that accrues to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5091. An act to increase the amount of student loan forgiveness available to qualified teachers, and for other purposes; to the