

As is typical of Washington, most of the proposed solutions to the malpractice problem involve unconstitutional usurpations of areas best left to the states. These solutions also ignore the root cause of the litigation crisis: the shift away from treating the doctor-patient relationship as a contractual one to viewing it as one governed by regulations imposed by insurance company functionaries, politicians, government bureaucrats, and trial lawyers. There is no reason why questions of the assessment of liability and compensation cannot be determined by a private contractual agreement between physicians and patients. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act is designed to take a step toward resolving these problems through private contracts.

Using insurance, private contracts, and binding arbitration to resolve medical disputes benefits patients, who receive full compensation in a timelier manner than under the current system. It also benefits physicians and hospitals, which are relieved of the costs associated with litigation. Since it will not cost as much to provide full compensation to an injured patient, these bills should result in a reduction of malpractice premiums. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act benefits everybody except those trial lawyers who profit from the current system. I hope all my colleagues will help end the malpractice crises while ensuring those harmed by medical injuries receive just compensation by cosponsoring my Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK D.
McLAUGHLIN

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2003 my friend and constituent, Patrick D. McLaughlin, will retire from 36 years of service with United Parcel Service. On that day, Pat will complete a very distinguished career that he began in 1967 as an office assistant. Since then, he has enjoyed a steady rise through the UPS ranks.

During this most recent tenure as the Upstate New York Public Affairs Coordinator, Pat has been a valuable source of information, always providing a straightforward assessment on the local impact of national policy being debated in Washington. UPS provides hundreds of steady, good paying jobs in my Congressional District. Pat's capable advocacy on behalf of these employees deserves our recognition and demonstrates his unwavering commitment to the betterment of the Central New York community.

In knowing and working with Pat through the years, we have developed a lasting friendship that will continue even though his duties at UPS will soon come to an end. As a friend, I am grateful for the opportunity to formally acknowledge his meaningful contributions to our community and honor his service to UPS on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

Good luck, Pat. Thank you for your hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 2003, I was unable to vote on H.R. 441 (rollcall vote 50), H. Con. Res. 77 (rollcall 51), and H. Res. 19 (rollcall vote 52). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three measures.

RECOGNIZING BESSIE C. ALLEN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Mrs. Bessie C. Allen. Through her work as an educator Mrs. Allen has clearly demonstrated her affection and dedication to the community and state of New Jersey. She is truly a woman of unique character, leadership and ability. Mrs. Allen is a role model to all the young people whose lives she strives to enrich.

Bessie C. Allen has exhibited an tireless commitment to education throughout her life. In 1960, Mrs. Allen graduated from Ebenezer High School in Dazell, South Carolina. She later graduated from South Carolina State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics Education. Mrs. Allen went on to get her Masters of Arts Degree in Urban Education from the New York State University, Buffalo, NY, and a Masters of Science Degree in Educational Administration & Supervision from Kean College in Union, New Jersey. In 2001, Mrs. Allen attended the Comer Principal's Academy and Comer training at Yale University in Stanford, Connecticut.

Bessie C. Allen served as an Extension Home Economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina where she diligently helped rural families and 4-H Clubs to improve life in Lee County, South Carolina. After teaching home economics at several schools, Mrs. Allen served as Head Teacher and Department Chairperson of Neptune High School, devoting her talents to the department of Home Economics, Physical Education, Health, Art, Music and Industrial Arts. Mrs. Allen also served as Vice President of Neptune High School.

Currently, Mrs. Allen is an esteemed and greatly admired Principal of the Gables Elementary School of Neptune, New Jersey and has been honored many times over for her diligent service. Bessie C. Allen was named Outstanding Young Educator in New York State, Teacher of the Year in the State of New Jersey and one of ten Teachers of the Year in the United States. In addition to these honors, Mrs. Allen has received the distinguished honors of Who's Who in American Education, the Worlds Who's Who of Women, Two Thousand Notable American Women and International Leaders in America. In 1989, Mrs. Allen received the Degree of Declaration as a Lifetime Deputy Governor of the American Biographical Institute.

Mrs. Allen is married to Frederick Allen. Together they enjoy the company of their seven

children and eight grandchildren. Mrs. Allen has spent thirty-nine years in her profession as an educator and throughout this time has continually strived to improve the lives of her students and the quality of her community. Bessie C. Allen is an exceptional woman whose strong character and talents are greatly appreciated by all who know her. On this day, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this extraordinary individual for her dedicated service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GIFT OF
LIFE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL
ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 2003. This legislation creates a commemorative Congressional medal of honor for organ donors and their families for performing such a brave and self-less act. Recognition of these gifts of life also publicizes our critical national need to increase organ donation. I want to thank Senator FRIST a heart and lung transplant surgeon himself, for introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

There is a serious shortage of available and suitable organs for donation. Over 80,000 people are currently waiting for an organ transplant; 2,200 are children under age 18. Every 13 minutes a new name is added to the list. Because of low donor rates, in 2001 alone over 6,000 people died for lack of suitable organ. Physicians can now successfully transplant kidneys, lungs, pancreases, livers, and hearts with considerable success. But, without expanded efforts to increase organ donation, the supply of suitable organs will continue to lag behind the need. Incentive programs and public education are critical to maintaining and increasing the number of organs donated each year.

Health and Human Services' (HHS) Secretary Thompson has been a strong advocate for organ donation throughout his years in public service. Under his leadership, HHS has already implemented initiatives to raise the public awareness of this vital act of giving life. The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act is a great opportunity for us to work with Secretary Thompson to draw attention to this life-saving issue. It sends a clear message that donating one's organs is an act that should receive the profound respect of our nation.

The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act establishes a nonprofit fund to be used to design, produce, and distribute a Congressional medal of honor to organ donors or to a surviving family member. Enactment of this legislation would have no cost to the Federal Government. The Treasury Department would provide a small initial loan for start-up purposes, which would be fully repaid. Subsequently, the program would be self-sufficient through charitable donations.

This is non-controversial, non-partisan legislation to increase the rate of organ donation. I ask my colleagues to help bring an end to transplant waiting lists and recognize the enormous faith and courage displayed by organ donors and their families. This bill honors

these brave acts, while publicizing the critical need for increased organ donation. I urge swift passage of the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act.

HONORING CAROL KOLBERG

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize one of Chicago's finest educators. Carol Kolberg has served the Archdiocese of Chicago for more than 32 years and has been principal of St. Bartholomew Montessori, an elementary school on the Northwest side, for the past thirteen years. Under her leadership St. Bartholomew has blossomed and today is recognized as one of the best elementary schools in the city. A lifelong educator, Ms. Kolberg was one of twelve principals in the United States selected by the National Catholic Education Association to receive the 2003 Dr. Robert J. Kealy Distinguished Principal Award. This prestigious honor is presented annually to an elementary school principal. In order to qualify an individual must first be nominated by their archdiocese. Once nominated, the Association selects the recipients based on their experience, community service, leadership, and educational philosophy. Carol Kolberg's credentials are outstanding in each of these areas and I am proud to recognize her.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this time to thank Ms. Kolberg for her service to Chicago. Across this country educators are being held to more stringent standards for preparing students. Carol Kolberg is a shining example of an educator, among many, who has devoted her life to school children. For 32 years Ms. Kolberg has selflessly given her best so that our children can learn and advance through life. I am proud to represent Ms. Kolberg and the other educators who serve the students of the 5th Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF INTERNET
GAMBLING LICENSING AND REG-
ULATION COMMISSION ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, you might remember a failed experiment the U.S. government tried in the 1920s called Prohibition. Back then, the government tried to prevent people from drinking alcohol by making it illegal. We know what happened—speakeasies flourished, alcohol consumption spiraled, and organized crime infiltrated and profited from the provision of alcoholic beverages.

Today, Congress is rushing to pass a similar type of ill-conceived prohibition: the prohibition of Internet gambling. Gaming prohibitionists believe they can somehow stop the millions of Americans who gamble online from visiting Internet gaming sites by passing legislation to prevent the use of credit cards and other bank instruments to gamble on the Inter-

net. Just as outlawing alcohol did not work in the 1920s, the current attempts to prohibit online gaming will not work, either.

Instead of imposing an Internet gambling prohibition that will drive gambling underground and into the hands of unscrupulous merchants, Congress should examine the feasibility of strictly licensing and regulating the online gaming industry. A regulated gambling industry will ensure that gaming companies play fair and drive out dishonest operators. It also provides a potential tax revenue source for financially-strapped States.

That is why I am introducing legislation to create a national Internet Gambling Licensing and Regulation Study Commission to evaluate how best to regulate and control online gambling in America to protect consumers, to provide badly needed tax revenue, and to prevent criminal elements from penetrating this industry. Rather than passing ineffective prohibition legislation in the vain hope that the problems related to Internet gambling will simply go away, the Commission will confront the issues head-on and formulate realistic, workable solutions.

Today in our country, gambling is a highly regulated, \$26 billion dollar industry that creates substantial tax revenue for the States and provides a safe environment for the 52 million people who gamble in U.S. facilities. The Commission will explore whether the same conditions that afford safety and fair play in land-based casinos can and should exist for Internet-based casinos. In addition, the Commission will study whether the problems identified by gambling prohibitionists—money laundering, underage gambling, and gambling addictions—are better addressed by an ineffective ban or by an online gaming industry that is tightly regulated by the States.

First, some claim that Internet gambling sites are being used to launder money for terrorists or other criminal organizations. Although there is no evidence that Internet gambling is any more susceptible to money laundering than other types of e-commerce, it is still a significant law enforcement concern. In this regard, it is useful to compare a system where Internet gambling is legal and regulated to another legislative proposal that would prohibit the use of credit cards and other financial instruments for online gambling. What that other bill essentially says to gamblers is this: use cash and offshore bank accounts if you want to bet online. This is nonsensical on its face. If you truly want to prevent money laundering, the last thing you would do is eliminate the financial controls and recordkeeping that credit cards and U.S. bank accounts provide. To the contrary, a regime where there is strict oversight by the States and transparent recordkeeping is far more likely to prevent money laundering and give law enforcement the tools it needs to effectively prosecute criminals and terrorists.

Second, the problem of underage gambling should not be discounted. Children can be kept off of gambling websites, however, by requiring the use of a credit card, PIN numbers, and other screening devices. In fact, Congress recognized the usefulness of credit cards as a tool to protect minors on the Internet when it passed the Children's Online Protection Act. Since Internet gambling prohibitions will not eliminate online gambling—just drive it underground—children will be better protected by a gaming industry that is held accountable to strict standards established by the States.

Finally, we must also consider the needs of problem gamblers and gambling addicts. Certainly, online gambling sites present difficulties for these individuals, just as land-based casinos do. Although unlicensed, unregulated gaming sites may have no incentive to prevent problem gambling, it is possible to establish a regulatory framework that can set financial limits on an individual's gambling, through the use of shared electronic recordkeeping. Technologies can even be employed to identify problem gamblers and put them in touch with organizations where they can get help. For this reason, the Internet affords the potential for greater protection for problem gamblers than land-based casinos.

Until now, Republicans and Democrats have stood together against those who wanted to cut off access to the Internet, restrict its boundaries, or use it for some special purpose. Except in the narrow areas of child pornography and other obvious criminal activities, Congress has rejected attempts to make Internet Service Providers, credit card companies, and the technology industry policemen for the Internet. We should not head down this road now. If we do, we'll be joining countries like Iraq, China, and other totalitarian regimes who limit their citizens' access to the Internet.

Attempts to prohibit Internet gambling in the name of fighting crime and protecting children and problem gamblers will have the opposite effect. Prohibition will simply drive the gaming industry underground, thereby attracting the least desirable operators who will be out of the reach of law enforcement. A far better approach is to allow the States to strictly license and regulate the Internet gambling industry, to foster honest merchants who are subject to U.S. consumer protection and criminal laws.

IN CELEBRATION OF WALTER
JEFFERSON LEWIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Walter Jefferson Lewis passed away on February 22, 2003. On that day, his family and friends lost a loving son, brother, and companion and the world lost a passionate lover of art, food, travel, and life itself.

Walter Lewis was born and raised in Schenectady, New York. He went on to study at Syracuse University and Schenectady County Community College, graduating with distinction in the Culinary Arts and Hotel and Business Management.

Walter served his country, spending eleven years in the United States Air Force. During that period, he was stationed in Alaska, California, New Mexico, and Germany. The time spent in those distant posts just whetted his appetite for travel; his journeys took him across much of the globe, and he made lifelong friends wherever he went.

That same passion and zest for life fueled both his occupation and avocation of baking. Walter worked for a number of years managing the bakery department of the Golub Corporation, and he shared his culinary skills with those around him: for him, food, family, and food, were all joyously intertwined.

Walter Lewis will be deeply missed by those of us who knew and loved him. He made a