

the letter is from two doctors who practice in my home State of Georgia: "Dear Representative GINGREY, although we continue to see Medicare patients in our practice, we are no longer accepting new Medicare patients. Further cuts in payments to physicians treating Medicare patients will undoubtedly result in a mass exodus of medical providers and secondarily limit access to medical care for the Medicare recipients. We have already noticed that many Medicare patients are having difficulties getting routine care. Despite the fact that we are physiatrists treating musculoskeletal problems, we find ourselves ordering routine care to working-up medical problems that their internists or primary care providers no longer have time to address. Unfortunately, we do not have the time to address these other issues either.

"Please help this situation by averting additional Medicare pay cuts. The courtesy of a response is appreciated.

"Sincerely, Amy M. Long, M.D. and Daryl L. Figa, M.D."

Madam Speaker, the courtesy of a response has been requested. What is our answer? Will we abandon those doctors who treat our most needy? Madam Speaker, we must stop, we must stop the 4.2 percent Medicare physician payment cut. Help our doctors help those who need their care the most. Madam Speaker, we must not forget doctors are the linchpin of the Medicare program.

ORTHOREHAB,

Lawrenceville, GA, October 13, 2003.

Hon. PHILIP GINGREY,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE GINGREY: Although we continue to see Medicare patients in our practice, we are no longer accepting new Medicare patients for treatment. Further cuts in payments to physicians treating Medicare patients will undoubtedly result in a mass exodus of medical providers and secondarily, limit access to medical care for the Medicare recipients.

We have already noticed that many Medicare patients are having difficulties getting routine care. Despite the fact that we are physiatrists treating musculoskeletal problems, we find ourselves ordering routine care to working-up medical problems that their internists or primary care providers no longer have time to address. Unfortunately, we do not have the time to address these other issues either.

Please help this situation by averting additional Medicare pay cuts.

The courtesy of a response is appreciated.

Sincerely,

AMY M. LANG, MD,  
DARYL L. FIGA, MD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MUSGRAVE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KUCINICH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for one half the time until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, today we have heard a great debate on H.R. 3289, the supplemental concerning Iraq and Afghanistan. This \$87 billion supplemental is the largest supplemental in American history, and we should look at it very closely; and we should be considering all portions of this supplemental.

I support the supplemental basically, and I will be voting for it even if my perfecting amendments are rejected. However, I have several suggestions that I will be making tomorrow that I believe are vital to the well-being of the American people.

So tonight I thought I would speak a little bit about the supplemental and about several of the changes that need to be made in order to ensure that the interests of the American people are being met.

First of all, of the \$87 billion we are being asked for in this supplemental, \$66 billion of it is for our military. And this portion of the supplemental I support. And I will have to suggest that, even as we have heard today, if someone is complaining that there was a lack of body armor, one does not suggest that the way to solve that is not to give them the money that they believe is necessary to complete their mission in Iraq. In fact, being someone who respects our Armed Forces and their leaders and respects the job and the courage it takes to do this job and knowing that I am not an expert on military matters, I would lean towards granting the requests from our military when they claim they need a certain amount of money in order to get their job done and to come home safely.

Certainly, a great deal of our defense resources have been expended in Afghanistan and Iraq; and many of these resources need to be replaced, whether it is fuel or ammunition, whether it is repairing equipment or whatever. We are going to need to spend a certain amount of money just to bring ourselves up to the point where we are not vulnerable because of the commitments that we have made overseas in these last 2 years. If we do not do this, if we do not pay heed to what our military says they need in order to finish their mission successfully and come home safely, either they will not succeed in their mission, more people will be killed, or we will be left vulnerable in years ahead. This makes no sense.

So I will give the benefit of the doubt to the military, to Mr. Rumsfeld to try to do his best job and get this operation over in Iraq and bring our troops home safely.

But, fundamentally, many people are talking about and challenging whether or not our military should have been in Iraq in the first place. Let me note that taking care of Saddam Hussein was necessary for America's security, and we should applaud our President for making the tough decisions and taking the heat and putting up with all the backbiting and nit-picking that he has had to go through in order to make sure that our operation, the democratic offensive there in Iraq, to make sure it kept going and was successful. The President has his detractors, and I am not saying he has not made mistakes, but by and large this has been a great President, a historic President who stepped up to the plate and did what was necessary and met the challenge of his day. And let us note that almost very few of the people who are now attacking our President and are attacking the supplemental would advocate that we permit Saddam Hussein to get back into power, and earlier we even heard the proposals that we give this to the United Nations so that Saddam Hussein will not come back into power. Unless we are going to provide leadership, the United Nations is useless, as we know. It is a debating society, and unless America provides the leadership, it will do nothing. So we can be very proud that our President said, I am going to take care of America's security.

Saddam Hussein was a monster. He is a monster. And he was a monstrous threat when he was in power. He was a mass murderer to his own people. He was a torturer, and he was not only a scourge to his own people in his right, but he was a threat when he was in power to the United States of America. He was a threat to our safety because Saddam Hussein hated America, hated every one of us, and would have done us harm had he had the chance because America humiliated him by driving his forces out of Kuwait a decade ago. There is no getting around it.

He had a blood grudge against us. What that means in that part of the world with a man who murders hundreds of thousands of his own people, that means he would not think twice if he had the opportunity to kill Americans in great numbers; and I am very pleased that our President took this tyrant out, eliminated this threat to America, and promoted democracy in Iraq at the same time.

Unfortunately, the reason we had to do that now was because a decade ago President Bush One did not do his job. He did not finish the job he set out to do, and now we have been paying for it. Let us make sure that the decisions we make now with this supplemental and other decisions that we will be making ensure that we will not have to go back to that region. Let us finish the job,