

the misconduct of managed care plans results in serious injury or death. However, under ERISA plans, patients have no right to obtain remedy under state law. These patients are limited to the narrow federal remedy under ERISA, which covers only the cost of the procedure the plan failed to pay for. S. 6 would ensure that managed care companies can be held accountable for their actions. It does not establish a right to sue, but prevents federal law from blocking what the states deem to be appropriate remedies. A strong legal liability provision will discourage insurers from improper treatment denials or delays and result in better health care.

Mr. President, only a comprehensive bill will guarantee patient protection with access to quality, affordable health care. We should not miss this important opportunity to enact meaningful legislation that is federally enforceable and will improve care and restore confidence in our health care system.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARY E. STUCKEY, THE 1999 ELSIE M. HOOD OUTSTANDING TEACHER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to The University of Mississippi's 1999 Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Dr. Mary E. Stuckey.

Each year my alma mater The University of Mississippi, known as Ole Miss, recognizes excellence in the classroom with the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award during its Honors Day Convocation. Nominations for this honor are accepted from students, alumni, and faculty. A committee of former recipients then selects the faculty member who best demonstrates enthusiasm and engages students intellectually.

Dr. Mary E. Stuckey is an Associate Professor of Political Science. An 11-year veteran of the Ole Miss Political Science Department, Dr. Stuckey's teaching interests include the Presidency and political communications as well as American Indian politics. Her research focuses on Presidential rhetoric, media coverage of the President, and institutional aspects of Presidential communication. Dr. Stuckey is also working on several projects regarding depictions of American Indians in the media and in national politics. In addition to these areas of interest, she also teaches in the McDonnell-Barksdale Honors College.

Dr. Stuckey's research has earned her several prestigious grants. These include the President Gerald R. Ford Library, the C-SPAN in the Classroom Faculty Development, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, and the Canadian Studies Faculty Research. She has also published several studies such as "The President as Interpreter-in-Chief" and "Strategic Failures in the Modern Presidency."

A native of southern California, Dr. Stuckey earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California at Davis. She then completed her graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame and joined the Ole Miss faculty in 1987.

Now, Mr. President, let me tell you that Dr. Stuckey and I probably will not agree on much when it comes to political issues. But three members of my current staff, Steven Wall, Beth Miller, and Brian Wilson, tell me she is outstanding in the classroom. They all agree that she is an equal opportunity challenger, regardless of political views, when it comes to the study of politics. She requires her students to use logic rather than emotions when advocating any viewpoint. Dr. Stuckey does not penalize her students when they don't share her views; rather she rewards academic scholarship.

The study of political science is essential to any society. And I believe it is even more incumbent on us, as Americans, to do so. Thomas Jefferson once said, "Self-government is not possible unless the citizens are educated sufficiently to enable them to exercise oversight." He was right. Universities are an important institution to help instill in each generation an appreciation for the unique and honorable character required for our democratic republic. Americans want to learn from their past mistakes so they can strive to build a better society for their children and grandchildren. Dedicated and inspiring teachers, such as Dr. Mary E. Stuckey, this year's Elsie M. Hood Award recipient, are key to ensuring that our next generation of political leaders will have the necessary knowledge and character to make America strong.

ECONOMIC REFORMS IN RUSSIA

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I draw my colleagues' attention to an article that appeared earlier this year in Economic Reform Today. I ask unanimous consent that the full text of "Safeguarding Russian Investors: Securities Chief Speaks Out" be printed at the end of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, Economic Reform Today is a quarterly magazine published by the Center for International Private Investment.

CIPE is one of the core grantees of the National Endowment for Democracy and is dedicated to promoting democratic governance and market oriented economic reform. Their work has been particularly important in assisting the ongoing transition to free markets in the former communist countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The article I will include in the RECORD, highlights Russia's continuing effort to implement political and economic reforms. This has been a painful process in Russia. However, it is my firm belief that Russia's transition to a free-market democracy will be measured in decades, not years. During this important time—CIPE and the other NED grantees—have been working to ensure that the Russian people have access to the information and resources necessary to make a successful transition.

Again, I encourage my colleagues to read this important article.

EXHIBIT 1

SAFEGUARDING RUSSIAN INVESTORS: SECURITIES CHIEF SPEAKS OUT

(If Russia is to gain economic stability and attract foreign investors it will need to respond better to the needs and concerns of investors. Dmitry Vasiliev has made this the chief reform priority of the securities commission that he heads. He is one of the strongest voices in Russia today calling for more efficient and transparent markets to provide the necessary foreign and domestic capital to jump start Russia's newly privatized enterprises. In this interview with Economic Reform Today, Vasiliev underscores the importance of establishing strong shareholders' rights as a cornerstone of economic reform.)

ERT: You have made upholding shareholder rights one of the top priorities of the Federal Securities Commission (FSC). Why is this so important?

Mr. Vasiliev: Protecting investors' rights is an important prerequisite for attracting foreign investment, and, unfortunately, Russia faces serious problems in this area. Although we are gradually improving the quality of corporate governance, Russia is losing billions of dollars in investments because of poor investor safeguards, both in corporate and government securities. This is reflected in the lower value of Russian stock prices as compared with those of other emerging market countries. Better protection of investors' rights will attract more investors and allow companies to raise more capital and lead to the development of new technologies and more production.

ERT: Can you gauge the damage that denying these shareholder rights inflicts on the Russian economy?

Mr. Vasiliev: The Russian economy faces serious consequences unless it can offer adequate safeguards. Not only are foreigners reluctant to invest in Russia, but Russians do not trust it either. People are putting their savings into dollars because other forms of investment don't offer enough protection.

That's why we have concentrated our efforts on protecting the market from low-quality securities. Last year we denied registration to 2,600 issues; that is, we turned down 14% of all submitted prospectuses. That means we prevented 2,600 possible violations of shareholder rights. Of course we