

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight on managed care reform. Just this week, the GOP leadership accused the President of trying to rush through a health plan simply to get it done and said that, "Republicans want to get it done right, not fast."

However, Republicans want it done right for their special interests like insurance companies, not for the American people. Their plan would protect insurance companies from liability, rather than protect patients when insurance bureaucrats deny them care. Our proposal on the other hand is the right approach for the American people. We guarantee patients the right to hold plans accountable when they arbitrarily deny medical care.

The Republican leadership's proposal is right for insurance companies because it lets insurance bureaucrats rather than doctors make decisions about medical treatment. Our proposal is right for the American people because it ensures that doctors make medical decisions that are in the best interest of a patient, not the health plan.

So I ask, who is really doing what is right for the American People?

□ 1030

CONGRESS AWAITING PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, where is it? Let me ask my Democrat and Republican friends, where is it? They know what I am talking about: H.R. 1, the President's plan to save Social Security.

Right there he stood, Mr. Speaker, right there, and said, let us put Social Security first. Of course he only wanted to preserve 62 percent of it and has continuously stuck with that by trying to raid it every chance he gets, but he has not introduced a bill.

This box right here, he could put it in here any time, but he has not. That was back in January, Mr. Speaker. Where is the President's plan?

He goes from coast to coast bragging to America's seniors how he is going to take care of them; and yet, he has not introduced his plan to save Social Security.

Instead, he has kept saying, let us spend the money. He puts pressure on Congress: Spend more money on appropriations bills. I am going to have to veto this bill; not enough money in it.

Guess where he is going to get the balance, right from Social Security. That is why he is against the security

box concept for Social Security, the lockbox that would keep his hands out of the till. That is why he is fighting it.

Mr. President, the box is waiting. Congress is ready when you are. Go ahead and introduce your plan.

NO MORE TAX INCREASES; BRING SPENDING UNDER CONTROL

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, is it true that Bill Clinton, AL GORE, and House Democrats want to raise taxes one more time? Mr. Speaker, is it true that Bill Clinton, AL GORE, and House Democrats want to raid Social Security one more time?

Is it true that those who cheered Bill Clinton's reckless and irresponsible veto of the Republican efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty want to raise taxes one more time?

We can balance the budget. We must balance the budget without the Clinton-Gore tax hike. Let us not forget that Bill Clinton, AL GORE, and House Democrats gave America our biggest tax hike in history in 1993.

Our goal as Republicans is to wall off the Social Security Trust Fund, to stop the raid on Social Security, because we believe 100 percent of Social Security should go for retirement, Social Security, and Medicare.

We can save Social Security. We can help our local schools. We can lower the tax burden by eliminating the marriage tax penalty. We can pay down the national debt, all without raising taxes, all without dipping into Social Security.

No more tax increases. No more raids on Social Security. Let us balance the budget. Let us bring spending under control.

WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, many Americans are surprised to learn that the President's budget proposal spends the Social Security surplus rather than put Social Security first.

The President's proposal takes 38 percent of the surplus for Social Security and spends it, and that excludes his hidden tax increases, as if our taxes are not high enough already.

The Republican proposal sets aside 100 percent of Social Security, 100 percent of the Social Security Trust Fund. As many Americans are learning, the budget surplus this year is due to the surplus in the Social Security trust fund.

Republicans propose to take 100 percent of the retirement surplus, the

money coming from the FICA taxes, the payroll deductions, and set it aside for both Social Security, and also set aside all the money from payroll deductions for Medicare. Let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker. Medicare is included in our retirement surplus proposal. Our plan sets aside 100 percent of the retirement surplus for both Social Security and Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, the "Workhorse Congress" is ahead of schedule and moving ahead to deal with Medicare and Social Security, which will be insolvent in over a decade unless we act to protect the Trust Funds now. Let us work together to protect Social Security and Medicare.

OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON A SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKBOX

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, if we in this Congress accomplish nothing else in our session but to set in stone the idea of a Social Security lockbox, we will have accomplished a great deal for America.

If we have been able to get across to the people in this country the idea that FICA taxes coming into this government will be used for nothing else but Social Security, if we can firmly establish this concept, the lockbox concept, we will, in fact, save Americans well over \$2 trillion in the next 10 years.

We will do it this way: by assuring that those dollars coming in for Social Security will actually pay down debt, not go for new programs as they have gone for the last 34 or 35 years. We have expanded government by using Social Security money; and if we can stop just that one thing from happening and do nothing else here, we will have accomplished an enormous amount.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please think about the future of the country and how much it depends upon our ability to advance the idea of a Social Security lockbox.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU) laid before the House the following communication from the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 9, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR DENNIS: Enclosed please find copies of resolutions approved by the Committee on