

I am proud to have been a cosponsor of H.R. 2723. This was a bipartisan vote as it passed this House. I would hope our conferees, as they are named, would remember that this House sent that bill to the Senate with a strong majority. It was a bipartisan majority because it addressed the issues that dealt with managed care reform: an outside appeals process, obviously to eliminate the gag rule, also allowing where a reasonable person or a medical necessity could be included in there.

The most important, and I know this will be the toughest issue on the conference committee, was the accountability section in there. And, again, going on the experience that Texas has, it does not do any good not to have the ability to go to the courthouse. Because, ultimately, that makes the appeals process work.

In the State of Texas, in the last 3 years that we have had our bill, we have had actually about half the cases that are being taken to the outside appeals process are being found in favor of the patient. Even a little bit more, 51, 52 percent. But the important part is that the insurance companies then will let that person have that care that they need. And the ones who are losing, well, they have already laid out that they could not make a medical case even to the outside appeals, much less to go to the court. But without the threat of the courthouse there, if people do not have that right, then we do not have that appeals process.

And I think we will not have a lot of lawsuits filed. In fact, in Texas we have had, I think, no more than five; three by one attorney, I understand, in Fort Worth, Texas. So we have not had a groundswell of lawsuits.

I would hope our conferees would remember how strong this bill came out of the House and how it spent a whole day debating it. I know it is a hard issue, but for the people in our country, we need to make sure we stay as close to the House bill as we can. So I support this rule.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and would just simply say since this appears to be noncontroversial, I only heard one speaker across the aisle oppose the rule, and it would seem to me that that would be confounding to that speaker's goal, which is to move the process. That is what we are trying to do. So I see no justification for opposing this resolution, if we are trying to move the process forward, and I believe we all are trying to do that, because I agree we have had a great debate in the House about that; and we have come up with product, and it is now time to deal with the other body.

I would point out that the product we have come up with provides for both

patient protection and access for those 40-some million Americans who do not have the blessing of any kind of health insurance. And I think that that is a very strong menu for consideration at the conference.

I do think we have lived up to our promise to move the process forward, in my view in a very rapid way, given the way most things move around here.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). The Chair will appoint conferees tomorrow.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 491 of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1098(c)), and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a 3-year term to fill the existing vacancy thereon.

Ms. Judith Flink, Illinois.

There was no objection.

□ 1915

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

DAY OF HONOR 2000 PROJECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to share my support for the Day of Honor 2000 Project, which will give long overdue recognition to the 1.2 million invisible African American World War II veterans.

During the Second World War, these valiant African American soldiers were waging a war on two fronts. They fought gallantly beside their comrades, saving the world from the evils of fascism while battling the bigotry and racism that was still prevalent in the United States military. These same African American war veterans continued their fight against racism at home by forming the grassroots of the civil rights movement.

In my State of Florida, we have the oldest veteran population in the Nation. Unfortunately for these veterans and veterans all across the country, the VA budget continues to be underfunded, causing them to be denied the health care and services they need and deserve.

As our aging veterans population declines, we need programs like the Day of Honor 2000 to remind us of the sacrifices African Americans made to protect their freedom they now enjoy.

I wish Dr. Smith and the other leaders of the Day of Honor 2000 Project the greatest success in portraying the honor and dignity displayed by our African American World War II veterans. These efforts and accomplishments have been ignored for far too long, and I look forward to sharing their achievement for the people today and for the generations to come.

SITUATION IN HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I had not intended tonight to bring this subject forward, but the situation in Haiti has become so egregious that I think it is necessary to have a series of statements to alert the American public to what has happened.

I feel very sad about the people in Haiti. It is a country that I think has great promise, and it is a country that wishes very much to join the commonwealth of democracies in this hemisphere. Unfortunately, all our hopes seem to have dissipated because of events that have taken place in that country in the past few years and an increasing trend towards self-destruction.

In fact, I daresay if there were a case study of a failed foreign policy of the Clinton administration, Haiti would probably be the first example. And I am sorry to report that.

I think the administration first lost sight of what went wrong in Haiti when they lost sight of the fact that the solution to democracy in any country is the people going about the business of looking after themselves, having accountability and reliance for their own activities on behalf of their community, their country, and putting forth their own social value message about what they stand for and what they want to be.

When another country comes in and tries to do that job or intercedes, and did we ever intercede in Haiti, we sent something like 20,000 troops down there initially armed but, fortunately, at the last minute turned into a non-armed invasion force, as opposed to an armed one, and we spent somewhere between \$2 billion and \$3 billion, that would be billions of dollars of taxpayers' money, in Haiti in the past few years.