

the investigation, including prompt compliance with outstanding document requests and full cooperation with the efforts of the Committee on International Relations to convene a briefing with State Department officials on this matter.

(2) The GAO should consider taking enforcement action against the Administration for any continuing failure to provide requested documents.

(3) The Administration should provide to the GAO the full text of any documents, policy papers or memorandums that it has agreed to make available to any other member country of the United Nations General Assembly.

(4) The Administration should cooperate fully with the GAO and with Congress in their efforts to oversee future United States participation in United Nations or other multilateral peacekeeping operations.

HONORING RON HASKINS

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as the 106th Congress comes to a close, my colleague Mr. SHAW and I pay tribute to Dr. Ron Haskins, Staff Director of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources. Ron will leave the Committee at the end of this year and he will be sorely missed by the Members of the Committee and the many staff who have worked with him over the years.

Since joining the Ways and Means staff in 1986, Ron's hard work, intelligence, quick thinking, and unique personality have made him a strong force in the Congressional process as we have worked to improve the lives of children and families. His ability to truly understand the diverse points of view of people intensely interested in a problem has made action possible where others would have failed.

Once he became Staff Director in 1995, Ron put his extensive knowledge of the nation's welfare system to use by working with Chairman E. CLAY SHAW to develop and pass legislation overhauling the system. Despite two Presidential vetoes, Ron successfully urged Republican Members to continue to push for welfare reform. On August 22, 1996, the welfare reform bill finally became law (P.L. 104-193). The sweep of this reform has been spectacular, resulting in dramatically reduced child poverty, increased numbers of working single parents, and families living improved lives with both more income and real hope.

Three years later in 1999 the Speaker of the House, J. DENNIS HASTERT, spoke of the accomplishments of welfare reform: "we've broken the mold from a lifestyle of generational welfare dependency. In turn, we've created a path to the American dream which holds more personal security and more control for individuals over their own lives."

In 1999, Representative NANCY L. JOHNSON took over as Subcommittee Chair. Since then Ron has continued to have a major role in developing important legislation including the Foster Care Independence Act (P.L. 106-

169), the Fathers Count Act of 1999 (H.R. 3073), and the Child Support Distribution Act of 2000 (H.R. 4678). The positive influence of Ron's presence here on Capital Hill will be felt long after he's moved on to new endeavors and by millions of families who will never know his name.

Before joining the Committee staff, Ron was a U.S. Marine, a high school teacher, and a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition to working for the Committee, Ron is a devoted father and husband, a prolific writer, an outstanding public speaker, a man of strong principles, one of the most honest people either of us has ever met, and a true friend.

As he embarks on the next chapter of his life, we wish Ron well and know that he will be a great success in any endeavor he undertakes. We will always be grateful to him for his fine service, his good cheer, his high energy, and his excellent advice.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have decided to do a little distortion for Halloween about the record of the Republican-led Congress. Let's make a comparison based on the facts.

As we all remember, the Democrat-led 103rd Congress was a not a success for public health in this country. As Congressional Quarterly noted, "Clinton" had presented his health care plan—crafted under the direction of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in a massive, secret and much-criticized task force process . . . the bill was immensely complex. . . . The committee system, designed to resolve both the policy and political problems of legislation, broke down entirely . . . For all their work, not one committee had managed to write a health care bill that the leadership was willing to bring to the floor. . . ."

With the Democrat leadership resorting to scare tactics in the past few days, it might bode well for the American people to remember their record.

The Republican-led Congress has been active and provided real public health improvements for the American people. In the prior two Congresses, we have empowered states and localities to meet the health care and nutritional needs of two-income residents, and provided relief to those hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic. We provided portability so working Americans can change jobs without risking the loss of their health care insurance due to a preexisting condition. This was a fundamental change that the Democrats weren't able to get done on their watch.

Our Republican led Congress has also reined in health care fraud and abuse, eliminated tax code discrimination against millions of small businesses and the self-employed and provided tax relief for the long-term health

care needs of terminally ill patients and their families. We enhanced Americans' access to safe, abundant, and affordable food and water. In the Food and Drug Modernization Act of 1997, we enacted measures which have significantly cut down the waiting time at the FDA for approval of new medicines. As a result, many patients will have access to life saving drugs much quicker. Our Republican Congress also passed landmark legislation in 1997 that established the Medicare+Choice Program and the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Under our legislation, low-income children will have expanded access to quality health care coverage. Democrats talked about that for years; it took a Republican Congress to make it happen.

We enhanced the Birth Defects Prevention Program, reauthorized the National Bone Marrow Registry, reauthorized Mammography Quality Standards, and enhanced Women's Health Research and Prevention.

That's a pretty strong record for public health.

Now let's look at the 106th Congress. Here are a number of public health provisions that are already enacted into law: the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments, and the Medicare, Medicaid, & SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act. Under this Act—

Hospitals received an additional \$7.3 billion; Skilled nursing facilities received over \$2 billion;

Home health agencies received an additional \$1.3 billion;

Health plans participating in the Medicare+Choice program received an additional \$1.9 billion;

Nearly \$1 billion in additional monies were provided for the Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs; and,

\$150 million was provided to ensure that organ transplant recipients could continue to receive access to immunosuppressive drugs.

We also enacted into law the Health Research and Quality Act, and the Work Incentives Improvement Act. This law was sponsored by Mr. LAZIO and expands the availability of health care coverage for workers with disabilities. Add to this list the Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act and the Children's Health Act of 2000, which increases and intensifies research on and programs for autism, juvenile diabetes, asthma, prevention of birth defects, epilepsy, infant health, pediatric research, skeletal malignancies, adoption awareness, healthy start, traumatic injuries and autoimmune diseases. This Act also reauthorizes the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and improves drug addiction treatment programs.

Add to this list the Ryan White CARE Act of 2000, which provides funding for those suffering with AIDS, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, and the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.

Those bills that have already been enacted are a solid record but we have even more that are sent or being sent to the President. This includes the Public Health Improvements Act. This bill was sent to the President containing the following provisions which are bipartisan efforts:

Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act;

Clinical Research Enhancement Act;  
Twenty-First Century Research Laboratories  
Act;

Cardiac Arrest Survival Act;  
Rural Access to Emergency Devices Act;  
Lupus Research and Care Act;  
Prostate Cancer Research and Protection  
Act;

Organ Procurement Organization Certifi-  
cation Act;

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinical Re-  
search and Training; and,

Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Research and  
Training.

We are also sending to the President the  
Medicare, Medicaid, and S-CHIP Benefits Im-  
provement & Protection Act. This Act in-  
creases preventive benefits, including glau-  
coma screening, medical nutrition therapy,  
colonoscopy, and biennial pap smears, limits  
beneficiary exposure to hospital outpatient  
charges, increases payments to providers  
under the Medicare and Medicaid programs,  
adjusts the allocation formula under the State  
Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP),  
and provides \$475 million for the Ricky Ray  
Hemophilia Trust Fund.

These are real and meaningful bipartisan  
accomplishments.

There are other important bills we have not  
been able to reach consensus on. That should  
not be an excuse for dismissing the many  
public health accomplishments of the Republi-  
can-led Congress. Nor should we easily for-  
get the failure of the Hillary-care Congress.

We have heard that Republicans are not for  
a real patients bill of rights. That is false. In-  
deed, the distortion from AL GORE and the  
White House is the problem. Republicans  
have voted for legislation both to increase ac-  
cess to insurance and to provide for HMO re-  
form. The Vice President erroneously claimed  
in his last debate that Republicans opposed  
an enforceable, independent external review  
board. He also claimed that Republicans op-  
posed emergency room and access to special-  
ists provisions. That is nonsense and distorts  
our record.

Republicans have voted for legislation that  
provides an enforceable independent external  
review board for benefits denials. This will  
make sure health care professionals make  
medical decisions and that we don't resort to  
unnecessary litigation.

Republicans have also supported the patient  
protections which included the emergency  
room issue and access to specialist issues Mr.  
GORE mentioned. We have basic bipartisan  
agreement on these issues and could easily  
have such legislation alone.

Let's look at the remaining disagreements.  
The White House and the trial lawyers want  
uncapped liability and litigation. Employers  
around the country are opposed to these fea-  
tures of Norwood-Dingell because they would  
increase litigation, drive up costs, and would  
force many employers to drop health insur-  
ance. That is the opposite of what we want.

We are also concerned about interfering  
with State patient protection programs. We  
need to make sure that States can implement  
their own programs where they want to with-  
out federal interference and disruption to pro-  
grams that are already in place. Norwood-Din-  
gell does not address this problem and places

a huge implementation burden on the Federal  
government. We need to find a middle road on  
this.

Finally, we cannot understand the failure of  
the White House and Democrat leadership to  
support provisions which provide choice, ac-  
cess and tax deductions to help increase the  
number of people with health insurance. There  
are over 40 million uninsured people in Amer-  
ica. The Republican-led Congress has passed  
serious proposals to address this problem and  
they are being ignored by the White House.

When Democrats sent a letter to Senator  
NICKLES in early summer saying that they  
would no longer meet with him in private con-  
ference, that was not a good sign. Obviously,  
you can't negotiate through the press and you  
can't negotiate if you do not meet.

The plain fact is that the Republican-led  
Congresses have been energetic, productive,  
and responsible on public health. The many  
bipartisan accomplishments are a tribute to  
both Democrat and Republicans. We have en-  
acted legislation that improves Americans' ac-  
cess to quality health care. Under our pro-  
posals, our country's commitment to basic  
medical research has been expanded and our  
promises to provide high quality to seniors and  
the most vulnerable in our society kept. Distor-  
tion of this record is not helpful and will only  
risk jeopardizing future gains.

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#### NATIONAL LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 30, 2000*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Lupus is  
a chronic, autoimmune disease which causes  
inflammation of various parts of the body.

Lupus is not rare. In fact, it is more preva-  
lent than AIDS, sickle cell anemia, cerebral  
palsy, multiple sclerosis and cystic fibrosis  
combined. Lupus affects 1 out of 185 Ameri-  
cans, and almost 30% of the Lupus cases in  
Florida are found within my South Florida re-  
gion.

This month we celebrate National Lupus  
Awareness Month.

And, I congratulate The Lupus Foundation  
of America for its work on patient education,  
and dedication to raise funds for research.

I especially congratulate J. Reeve Bright,  
Chairman of the Board of the Lupus Founda-  
tion of America and President of the South-  
east Florida region; Jack McAllister, the Exe-  
cutive Director; Jackie Brown, and all who  
helped arrange an educational symposium in  
my district this month.

The House passed a bill that provides re-  
search and services to fight Lupus. As a co-  
sponsor, I thank my dear colleague, Con-  
gresswoman CARRIE MEEK, for the Lupus leg-  
islation and for her dedication in seeing it  
through.

This represented a great victory in women's  
health care, and it is our wish that this triumph  
will generate countless benefits for American  
men and women who suffer from Lupus.

#### CHINA AND PNTR: SUCCESS STORIES NEEDED

#### HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 30, 2000*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, one of the  
truly momentous decisions reached by this  
Congress was to approve Permanent Normal  
Trade Relations with China. Supporters of  
PNTR worked very hard to achieve this out-  
come, which held out so much promise for the  
development of stronger trade and business  
ties between China and the United States.  
Now, the major challenge facing both coun-  
tries will be to show positive results that justify  
such extraordinary efforts and faith in the fu-  
ture.

Like many of my colleagues, I voted for  
PNTR and view with hope the potential for  
mutual benefits. For that reason, it concerns  
me to learn of examples where American  
companies have encountered unexpected dif-  
ficulties in trying to do business in China. One  
such distressing case of which I am aware in-  
volves Panda Energy. Panda is a Dallas-  
headquartered company with a significant gas-  
fired cogeneration power plant located in Roa-  
noke Rapids, North Carolina, within my Con-  
gressional district. Based upon an earlier  
agreement reached with the local Chinese  
government, in 1995, Panda began construc-  
tion of a major, private, foreign-invested plant  
near Tangshan in Hebei Province. unfortu-  
nately, while that facility is now completed and  
ready to commence generating electricity, it is  
still not operational. Why? Because the local  
government has failed to honor its agreement  
to grant a reasonable tariff computed on a ne-  
gotiated formula. The situation is even more  
complicated and troubling in its implications,  
because construction of the facility was fi-  
nanced through the U.S. capital markets in  
good faith reliance on this agreement. Unless  
a fair tariff is granted soon, the bonds are in  
danger of default, putting at financial risk not  
only the investors but also the company.

Mr. Speaker, Panda's experience in China  
is disappointing and contrary to the spirit of  
PNTR. Therefore, I would urge the Beijing  
government and its Ambassador to the U.S.,  
His Excellency Li Zhao Xing, to review this sit-  
uation carefully and do everything possible to  
find a fair and workable solution. It is not too  
late to avoid an unnecessarily negative prece-  
dent that could undermine high hopes raised  
by passage of the PTNR legislation.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 30, 2000*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on October 28,  
2000, I was unavoidably absent when the  
House voted on "Approving the Journal", H.J.  
Res. 118, "Further Continuing Appropriations  
for FY 2001", and two Motions to Instruct on  
H.R. 4577.

Had I been present, I would have voted  
"aye" on "Approving the Journal" (rollcall vote