

Americans deserve to get the health care they need and when they need it, a real promise we can keep and must deliver.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support a real Patients' Bill of Rights, the bipartisan Fletcher-Peterson Patients' Bill of Rights.

DEMAND THE RELEASE OF GAO ZHAN FROM CHINA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after a 1-day trial, China convicts a U.S.-based scholar of spying. Let me tell my colleagues who that is. Gao Zhan lives in this area. She is a mother, she is a wife, she is a researcher at the American University. She went to China to simply visit her relatives. She has a 5-year-old son that is a citizen. She has a husband that is a citizen of the United States. They would not allow the United States to sit in her trial and observe.

Gao Zhan needs to be released now. China needs to come into the world arena of friendship and understanding of human rights.

Secretary Colin Powell must demand her release, and we must pass a private bill in this Congress to make sure that Gao Zhan is a citizen of the United States. I have filed such a bill. There is a bill filed in the United States Senate. This bill must be brought forward, and we must demand that China understands that academics is not synonymous to spying. It is unfair. It is a tragedy. Unite this mother with her child; unite this wife with her husband. Unite this legal resident of the United States with her community. Demand Gao Zhan's release now.

SUPPORT A REAL PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll released last week shows that most Americans would oppose the McCain-Kennedy trial lawyers' bill because they know it would increase health costs. When asked point-blank if they are more concerned about suing HMOs or lawsuits driving up their health insurance costs, the majority of Americans said they feared the prospect of skyrocketing costs caused by lawsuits.

This is yet more proof that Americans want a Patients' Bill of Rights that ensures they get the care they need from a doctor they know. Americans want, need and deserve health care reform, not a trial lawyers' bill that would drive people into the ranks of the uninsured.

In short, I am with the American people who favor the responsible health care reform principles of the Fletcher-Peterson Patients' Bill of Rights. Under this bill, more Americans will be insured.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN OFFICERS J.J. CHESTNUT AND JOHN GIBSON

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise first to thank the Speaker of the House and the majority whip and all of the Members of the House who today, with one voice, rise on this floor to pay tribute to the brave, courageous heroes who gave their lives so that others could live: Officers Gibson and Chestnut. I rise today in sorrow at the loss that occurred here in the people's House 3 years ago today.

In the aftermath of this event, as we gathered around the families of both officers Gibson and Chestnut, we voted never to forget their acts of bravery and to memorialize what they did for us and their country on that day.

Officers Gibson and Chestnut literally saved the lives of countless Members of Congress, our staffs, and countless visitors who pass through our halls every day to visit this shrine to our American democracy. We owe them a gratitude for which words alone do no justice.

These two men, strong and decent, rank in the legion of honor of those who died so that freedom may live in the everyday lives of all Americans. They remind us that all of the officers who work in this building are real heroes of our democracy; they are guardians of our way of life. They are the men and women who face danger every day, and who are pledged to protect this citadel of freedom so that the people's business can be conducted, and so that people can visit this site of our government and take part in our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I have the honor of being served by two similar plain-clothes officers, and I want to again, as I did 3 years ago, take this opportunity to thank them and all of their colleagues who protect this building and all of us on a daily basis. We will never forget the sacrifice of these two officers. We will always cherish them and their families, and we will never forget that they died so that others could live and be free.

ANWR TECHNOLOGY III

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, opponents of ANWR often hold up a picture

of big, grimy, old oil rigs; and they ask this question: Do we want one of these on our precious wildlife refuges? Of course not, but that is the wrong question. The question should be: Can modern technology allow us to drill in the Arctic with absolutely no impact on the wildlife or plant life there? The answer is a resounding yes.

Cutting-edge technology, like horizontal drilling, allows us to reach oil 4 miles away from a surface location. Thirty years ago, it took a 65-acre drill site to slant drill only 3 square miles. Today, a 16-acre drill site can now drill 50 square miles of subsurface. That means that today we can drill 15 times further on a drill site one-fifth the size of what we used when we started developing oil in the Arctic.

We no longer build gravel roads in for oil development there. Instead, companies build ice roads that melt away with spring, leaving no hint that they were ever there. Let us use this amazing technology to help stabilize gasoline prices and make this country more self-reliant.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, instead of strengthening Social Security, the President has used the surplus for tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Americans. The President's Commission on Social Security has issued a report that tries to scare the public into thinking that sacrificing their guaranteed income is the only solution.

Social Security has allowed generations of retirees to live with independence and dignity, and in more than 60 years Social Security has never once missed a paycheck. Unfortunately, the President wants to privatize Social Security, a proposal that removes a promise that Social Security will be there. Under privatization, funds in the Social Security Trust Fund would be diverted into the stock market, subject to an unpredictable outcome.

Contrary to the report's claims, women and minorities do not do better under privatization. Because women and minorities tend to earn less during their lifetimes, they have less money to invest and accrue for retirement. Social Security guarantees that they will have a secure pension that grows with inflation. Privatization erases that guarantee and replaces it with a fixed, limited income.

Social Security's financial challenges are manageable. They do not warrant the President's radical restructuring. We need measures to preserve and strengthen Social Security, not rescind its guarantee.