July 25, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, after fighting for 5 years, we finally have an opportunity to pass real managed care reform in the House of Representatives. The American people are demanding health care, and it is time for us to stand up and deliver.

By passing the Ganske-Dingell Patients’ Protection Act, patients will have access to emergency care, women will be able to see their OB-GYN without health plan interference, and children will have timely access to pediatric specialists.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake: the Ganske bill is comprehensive, quality health care; a positive step toward improving Americans’ health care, putting health care ahead of profits.

When it is time to vote for managed care, I urge my colleagues to vote for the reform that has an option that puts patients and doctors back in charge of their health care.

A TRIBUTE TO FATHER JIM WILLIG

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to pay a special tribute to a recently departed friend, Father Jim Willig, a dedicated and dynamic Catholic priest who was called by our Lord last month after a 2-year battle with cancer.

Even while suffering from a debilitating illness, Father Willig continued to give to our community, sharing his memories and his message and inspirational book: Lessons From the School of Suffering: A Young Priest With Cancer Teaches Us How to Live.

The Cincinnati Enquirer noted that “few touched as many lives as Father Jim Willig.”

Father Willig will be sorely missed in the Cincinnati community, not only by his parents and 10 brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews, but by the countless people he has touched in his ministry.

Father Jim, your flock deeply misses you, but we know you are with our Lord.

GANSE-DINGELL-NORWOOD BEST CHOICE FOR AMERICA

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, my constituents want a strong and enforceable Patients’ Bill of Rights. They are tired of HMOs who deny them the health care that they need. They are tired of insurance company bureaucrats who overrule doctors’ decisions. They want a bill like Ganske-Dingell-Norwood and others to protect the patients that they are supposedly required to protect because only this bill gives every American the right to choose their own doctor, the right to see health care specialists, the right to have direct access to an OB-GYN or a pediatrician, and the right to get prescription drugs that their physicians prescribe.

Only this bill holds health care plans accountable when they make a decision that harms or kills someone. Only this bill ensures that external reviews of medical decisions are conducted by independent and qualified experts.

We should take a chapter out of what happened in California. Our Governor there passed major reforms in HMOs, and I think that this House should take a look at what has happened there. They have done a fantastic job in actually being able to negotiate before they actually have to go to the court house.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for the support of my colleagues on this legislation.

V-CHIP TECHNOLOGY UNDERUTILIZED BY AMERICANS

(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, I rise to highlight a study released yesterday by the Kaiser Family Foundation indicating that few parents use the V-chip to block their children from viewing sex and violence on television.

Mr. Speaker, Congress included a provision in the Telecom Act of 1996 that television sets 13 inches or larger sold after January 1, 2000, must be equipped with a V-chip to screen out objectionable programming.

Well, yesterday’s study finds that 40 percent of American parents now own a TV equipped with a V-chip. However, despite high levels of concern about children’s exposure to TV sex and violence, just 17 percent of these parents who own a V-chip, or 7 percent of all parents, are using it to block programs with sexual or violent content.

Some of my colleagues are quick to rely on government as a panacea for all of our problems. Yesterday’s report reveals that the long arm of government regulation is no substitute for good parenting.

BIPARTISAN PATIENTS’ PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. WATSON of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for the bipartisan Patient Protection Act, H.R. 2563, that...