

will come before the House later this week.

The Ganske-Dingell bill is a step in the right direction for American health care. Doctors and patients must live with the outcome of their decisions. Now it is time for the health maintenance organizations to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, in many instances, HMOs have streamlined services and cut the cost of health administration. Spiraling costs seem to be contained, and medical options seem to be plentiful. However, containment of costs have also adversely affected the quality of patient care.

We now know that reform must happen. We now know that the middleman must be held accountable and liable for medical decisions. We now know that the basic American principles and values must be inherent in medical public policy.

The bipartisan Patient Protection Act gives all Americans the right to choose their own doctors, to hold a plan accountable when the plan makes a decision that could kill.

#### ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, Americans are looking for quick answers on the present energy prices and burden that is put on families and farmers. Nuclear power can help lead us in the right direction to address this problem.

Nuclear power plants provide about one-fifth of America's electricity, and about 30 percent of California's electricity. They also run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and are not affected by inclement weather, such as solar and wind.

Besides being able to run efficiently, nuclear power has a strong environmental record. For example, nuclear plants are free of numerous gases such as sulfur dioxide, mercury, carbon emissions, and nitrogen oxide.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that nuclear power is the answer to at least alleviating the current energy crisis. Nuclear power is shown to be a reliable source, which is why the Congress must take the necessary steps to use nuclear power to address the energy shortages, not just in California, but, of course, the rising energy prices across the country.

#### SUPPORT THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, too many times when Americans get sick,

not only do they have to fight their illness, but they also have to fight their managed care company. That is not right. It is up to the Congress now to make things happen.

For the last 2 years, we passed a bill and the Republicans have killed it in conference committee. It is time to pass the bill. If my colleagues agree with me that one should see the doctor of one's choice, then they should vote for this. If they agree that that doctor should have the decision to decide if one should see a specialist or not, then they should be in favor of this. If they agree that we should not have a gag order, that doctors should be able to provide the options that one should have, then my colleagues should vote for the Patients' Bill of Rights.

Mr. Speaker, it is up to us now. It allows a review. We did it in Texas. The then Governor, now President Bush, decided then to allow it to go through. Now he has a problem with it. We are only asking that we do the same thing that we have allowed in Texas and that is to allow an opportunity for people to see a doctor of their choice, to allow an opportunity for the physicians to decide on the specialists, to allow them an opportunity to have an external review.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues support the Patients' Bill of Rights.

#### TIME TO IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED ENERGY POLICY

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to urge this Congress to act immediately and implement a comprehensive and balanced energy policy.

The Bush administration has provided much-needed leadership on this issue, stepping up to the plate and articulating a clear plan to address our energy needs.

One part of the President's plan calls for the construction of 1900 new power plants to catch up with the current demand for electricity. Yesterday, I introduced a bill that calls for construction of one of those plants, using clean-coal technology called coal gasification.

Building more coal gasification plants makes sense for a number of reasons. Number one, the process removes virtually all the sulfur, nitrogen, and other pollutants, leaving cleaner air and water for future generations. Two, it uses an abundant resource, coal, which is the dominant source of power in our country; and three, it means jobs. Building new power plants, coal-based or not, creates lots of new jobs, creates rail operators, barge captains, truckers, construction workers, and also those that will be

running the day-to-day operations in the plant.

Today, more than ever, the U.S. needs to adopt a policy making advanced clean coal technology easier and more productive. I look forward to working with this Congress to advance this technology.

#### PASS MEANINGFUL PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry managed care reform legislation, H.R. 2563.

I would like to take a moment to talk about one of my constituents in south Arkansas. Her name is Wendelyn Osborne, who provides a real life example of the need for a meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights.

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Mrs. Osborne has a congenital and rare bone disease that involves continuous growth of her jawbone. She was not expected to live past the age of 14. She is now 35.

Wendelyn's disease requires frequent trips to her specialist and surgeries. Unfortunately, each time she has to have an appointment, she must go through her primary care physician. Additionally, her surgeries to correct the continued growth of her jawbone, which are life-threatening, are considered cosmetic, but they are not.

The Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry bill will help Wendelyn in the following ways. It will remove the gatekeeper to her medical care and allow her care to be coordinated by her specialist, and it will give her a fair and timely external appeals process that will allow her to appeal her case to independent medical experts.

Let us pass this bill. Let us pass it for Wendelyn Osborne.

#### INTRODUCING CHILDREN'S AIR TRAVEL PROTECTION ACT AND PARENTAL RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, last year, as thousands of children do every day, a 15-year-old girl from my district logged onto her computer and struck up an online acquaintance. Little did she or her family realize that this was the beginning of a nightmare that continues to this day.

Lindsay's new online friend turned out to be a sexual predator who eventually convinced her to run away from her home in Florida, eventually to Greece. One of the most troubling aspects of this case was the lack of support and the disinterest from Federal

authorities. Not only was the FBI reluctant to become involved, but the U.S. Attorney's Office has declined to enforce existing laws, claiming that this series of crimes involving interstate and international air transport and the use of the Internet to lure a child away from home into international sexual servitude is not a matter of Federal jurisdiction.

In response to this failure and the failure of the FAA and the Department of Transportation to use their rule-making authority to address any of these issues, I have filed legislation that would clarify the power of the Federal Government to bring such predators to justice.

The Children's Air Travel Protection Act and the Parental Rights Protection Act would require that airlines get a written certification that a minor has parental or guardian's permission and would forbid the use of the Internet to interfere with a parent's authority or induce a minor to run away from home.

I would encourage my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 2600 and 2601.

#### PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my strong support for a real Patients' Bill of Rights, H.R. 2563, which is sponsored by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD), and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY).

In working to craft patient protection, we must ask ourselves, are we really helping the patient? One of the biggest concerns raised by the proponents of the competing bill is that the liability limit on punitive damages is too high in the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry bill.

But I ask the Members, can anyone put a price tag on someone's life? If an HMO is found guilty of negligence, they should be held accountable for their actions; and HMOs exist to help patients, not to harm them. Opponents of the legislation argue that employers will be hurt by the liability provisions in this bill. This is misleading. Employers who do not directly participate in making medical decisions are protected from liability. Employers are also protected by language in the bill which allows them to name a designated decisionmaker to make decisions on their behalf.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2563, the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry bill.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2590, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 206 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 206

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2590) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. Points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. The amendment printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 5 pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII may be offered only by Representative Smith of New Jersey or his designee and only at the appropriate point in the reading of the bill. All points of order against that amendment are waived. During consideration of the bill for further amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 206 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 2590, the fiscal year 2002 Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill. It provides for 1 hour of general

debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, and it waives all points of order against consideration of the bill.

House Resolution 206 also provides that the two amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying the rule shall be considered as adopted. This rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI, which prohibits unauthorized or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill.

House Resolution 206 provides that the bill shall be considered for amendment by paragraph. The rule also waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 5, which may be offered only by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) or his designee, and only at the appropriate point in the reading of the bill, and shall be considered as read.

The rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions, as is the right of the minority. The underlying bill, H.R. 2590, provides a total of roughly \$17 billion in funding for a variety of Federal agencies and departments, about \$1.1 billion more than the current fiscal year, and \$400 million more than President Bush's budget request.

The Committee on Rules approved this rule by voice vote last night, and I urge my colleagues to support it so that we may proceed with general debate and consideration of this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Treasury-Postal Operations appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002 and in support of the rule.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Oklahoma (Chairman ISTOOK) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), for their work on this bill and for their recognition of the importance to the entire country of the necessary departments and agencies it funds.

For a moment, let me just say how important this bill is to the American people. It funds such diverse agencies as Customs and the Postal Service. It increases funding for the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the National Archives.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the programs and agencies of national interest that I just alluded to, this bill contains