

your chestnuts, the charge claims, and I quote, Rossotti got a conflict waiver from the Clinton administration in exchange for targeting and auditing Clinton's opponents.

What is the surprise? In addition, Rossotti is scheduled for another big, fat bonus from Congress.

Beam me up. The Internal Rectal Service does not need bonuses, they need abolished.

I yield back the fact that if a Member of Congress did what Rossotti did, you would go straight to the slammer.

ENERGY PRODUCTION NEEDED FOR OUR FUTURE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the energy crisis America is facing is still with us. Americans need our country to invest in and produce more energy from the few sites we have available on our public lands. That is the goal of the bipartisan Energy Security Act which will allow for the production of wind, solar and geothermal energies on public lands. These are clean energies, renewable energies that leave our environment untouched.

We cannot keep pretending our energy challenges will take care of themselves if we just wait long enough. When we fail to act, prices rise and our seniors and small businesses, our farmers and low-income families suffer. They suffered last winter. They suffered this spring. They are suffering now under the hot summer sun. Be assured, without a comprehensive plan they will suffer next year, and the year after that.

We need to have the courage and the vision to realize that increased energy production plays a key role in a sound national energy policy. We need to pass the Republican energy package for the sake of our future, for the sake of America.

H.R. 2540, VETERANS BENEFITS ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be here as a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to share my strong support of H.R. 2540, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2001.

These men and women, uprooted from their families and communities, served our country with honor and dignity. Yet when it was time for the VA to serve them, thousands were categorically denied.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 612, the Persian Gulf War Illness Compensation Act of 2001 with two other

outstanding advocates for veterans, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY). This legislation garnered strong bipartisan support from over 225 Members of the House.

The Veterans Benefits Act of 2001 will now clarify VA standards for compensation by recognizing fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, multiple chemical sensitivity, and other ailments as key symptoms of undiagnosed or poorly defined illnesses associated with Gulf War service. Additionally, this bill extends the presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses to December 31, 2003. This is a true victory for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, these veterans put their lives on the line to protect, defend and advance the ideals of democracy.

Vote for this bill. It is the right thing to do.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(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, Congress must pass trade promotion authority. International trade is an essential part of the U.S. economy. But when it comes to trade agreements, the U.S. is lagging behind significantly. Of the 130 preferential trade agreements that exist, the U.S. is a party to only two: NAFTA and a free trade agreement with Israel. That is it. The European Union has 27, 20 of which have been negotiated in the last 10 years. While the rest of the world is moving rapidly ahead, we are not.

Canada, our neighbor to the north, has agreements throughout the southern hemisphere. There are currently over 12 million U.S. jobs that depend upon exports. American jobs that export goods pay up to 18 percent more than the U.S. national average. As we can see, trade agreements are a crucial element for the success of the U.S. economy. Remember, the jobs stay here; the products are exported overseas.

Mr. Speaker, in order to get back in the game and develop a stronger economy, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting trade promotion authority.

PROUD TO SALUTE THE HONORABLE DONNA SHALALA, NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute the Honorable Donna Shalala who has assumed the reins as the fifth president of the Uni-

versity of Miami. Donna Shalala was U.S. history's longest serving Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. During her tenure, Dr. Shalala distinguished herself on a broad range of issues, including taking care of the needs of our elderly and our Nation's children.

She led campaigns for child immunization, for biomedical research, and played a key role in reforming our welfare system. In fact, the Washington Post described her as "one of the most successful government managers of our time."

Donna brings to UM more than 25 years of experience in education, also, including serving as President of Hunter College. As chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she was the first woman to head a Big 10 university.

The University of Miami is already a leader in international and medical education, biomedical research and environmental sciences, but with Donna Shalala at its helm, UM will be certain to reach great new heights.

The Florida congressional delegation welcomes Donna Shalala back to Washington, D.C. today and looks forward to helping her achieve her vision for the future of the University of Miami and for our South Florida community.

MANAGED CARE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, some health plans systematically obstruct, delay and deny care. That is a fact.

Earlier this year, Republicans and Democrats negotiated a bill that contains the minimum protections necessary to get health insurance back on track. Ganske-Dingell reminds HMOs that they are being paid to provide coverage, not excuses. And it contains a right to sue with enough teeth in it to deter health plans from cheating their enrollees, and enough definition to preclude frivolous lawsuits.

Recourse in the courts is essential. If we tell HMOs that they are accountable, we must hold them accountable. Unfortunately, the Fletcher bill compromises away the two most important patient protections, leaving HMOs thrilled and consumers no better off. It provides a right to sue that cannot actually be exercised and a right to an external appeals process that simply cannot be trusted.

We need to enact legislation that does not just sound like it protects patients but actually does protect patients. Ganske-Dingell fits that bill. I ask for House support.