

McInnis	Ramstad	Smith (WA)
McIntyre	Rangel	Snyder
McKeon	Regula	Souder
McKinney	Rehberg	Stearns
Meehan	Reyes	Stenholm
Meeke (NY)	Reynolds	Strickland
Mica	Riley	Stump
Millender-	Rivers	Stupak
McDonald	Rodriguez	Sununu
Miller (FL)	Roemer	Sweeney
Miller, Gary	Rogers (KY)	Tancredo
Mollohan	Rogers (MI)	Tanner
Moore	Rohrabacher	Tauzin
Moran (KS)	Ros-Lehtinen	Taylor (MS)
Moran (VA)	Ross	Taylor (NC)
Morella	Rothman	Terry
Murtha	Roikema	Thomas
Myrick	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (CA)
Nadler	Royce	Thompson (MS)
Napolitano	Rush	Thornberry
Neal	Ryan (WI)	Thune
Nethercutt	Ryun (KS)	Thurman
Ney	Sanchez	Tiahrt
Northup	Sanders	Tiberi
Ortiz	Sawyer	Toomey
Osborne	Saxton	Trafficant
Ose	Scarborough	Turner
Otter	Schaffer	Udall (CO)
Oxley	Schakowsky	Udall (NM)
Pallone	Schiff	Upton
Pascarell	Schrock	Visclosky
Pastor	Scott	Vitter
Paul	Sensenbrenner	Walden
Payne	Serrano	Walsh
Pelosi	Sessions	Wamp
Pence	Shadegg	Watkins (OK)
Peterson (MN)	Shaw	Watt (NC)
Peterson (PA)	Shays	Watts (OK)
Petri	Sherman	Weldon (FL)
Phelps	Sherwood	Weldon (PA)
Pickering	Shimkus	Weller
Pitts	Shows	Wexler
Platts	Shuster	Whitfield
Pombo	Simmons	Wicker
Pomeroy	Simpson	Wilson
Portman	Skeen	Wolf
Price (NC)	Skelton	Woolsey
Pryce (OH)	Slaughter	Wu
Putnam	Smith (MI)	Wynn
Quinn	Smith (NJ)	Young (FL)
Rahall	Smith (TX)	

NOT VOTING—15

Cummings	Larsen (WA)	Radanovich
Gilchrest	Linder	Spence
Gordon	Lipinski	Spratt
Hutchinson	Norwood	Stark
Johnson (CT)	Nussle	Young (AK)

□ 1051

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches per side.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 770

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 770.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST

(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, throughout the past several months I have been listening to my constituents during town hall meetings and other listening sessions to hear just exactly what it is we need to do and what we need to change. I believe we do need a Patients' Bill of Rights, not a lawyers' right to bill.

I support increasing access to health care for all Americans and ensuring that all patients can receive health care and hold HMOs accountable. The Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 2001 is comprehensive, bipartisan legislation that will increase the quality of health care for all Americans and small businesses will be better able to offer health insurance for employees through association health plans and expanded medical savings accounts.

Mr. Speaker, patients need to be protected and this plan gives patients access, access to emergency room and specialties care, direct access to obstetricians, gynecologists, and pediatricians; access to needed prescription drugs and approved clinical trials and access to health plan information. It also ensures that patients have the right to choose their doctor with continuity of care and protection that allows patients to definitely see their own doctors even when they are terminally ill, pregnant, or awaiting critical surgery. Let us pass the Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 2001.

PASS THE REAL PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day for patients and their doctors. A good bipartisan bill, the Patients' Bill of Rights, went down to the White House yesterday and came back as the insurance companies' bill of rights. It went down to the White House as the patient protection act and came back the insurance company protection act.

The President took a bill that has passed the Senate, the same bill that received almost two-thirds of the votes of this Chamber last year, and he negotiated away the rights of patients to secure the health care their doctors prescribe.

The Patients' Bill of Rights was negotiated away by the President to giving a special deal to the insurance company, a deal that has never been granted to any individual or any business in the history of this country. If we vote for this bill, we will be rolling back the rights of patients for every State in the union.

In Texas, we have had a Patients' Bill of Rights since 1997. It is working. It has not resulted in a flood of litiga-

tion. It has not resulted in higher health insurance premiums. We have had only 17 lawsuits. The President's proposal will repeal this good law that is working. I urge my colleagues to stand up for States' rights, stand up for patients and their doctors and pass the real patients' bill of rights.

SOUTH FLORIDA MILITARY MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

(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 want to share the unique history of the South Florida military museum and memorial. The town of Surfside, led by Mayor Paul Novack, as well as Chief Petty Officer John Smith and Christine Ruup, rallied together to save the historic Building 25 to its original 1942 condition and establish a museum and veterans' memorial.

Building 25 is the last original structure of the former Naval Air Station Richmond, which was a World War II Navy blimp base.

During World War II, just off the waters of South Florida, a battle occurred between a U.S. Navy blimp and a Nazi submarine.

Isadore Stessel, a Machinists Mate, lost his life in the only blimp-submarine battle in history.

Building 25 served as the base headquarters to the Naval Air Station and blimp base, and it has been prominent in the history of our South Florida community.

The CIA used this facility as its center for anti-Castro operations during the 1960's and it was home to the Marine Corps Reserve during Operation Desert Storm. Mr. Speaker, let us preserve it.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS FAVORS HMOs

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we finally have a debate today on the Patients' Bill of Rights but it is not a good deal. In the dark of night we have an agreement that is masquerading as a Patients' Bill of Rights, but it is a patients' bill of wrongs. For example, one proposal gives rebuttable presumption to HMOs, placing the burden on the patients to get the care they need. This provision stacks the decks against patients and makes it nearly impossible to prove that the HMO, when they are denied care, was negligent.

Additionally, the compromise would change State law. Even in my home State of Texas and we have had a law for 4 years, federal law will change our Texas law. Texas has a meaningful patients' bill of rights on the books since

1997, and it has resulted in strong protections for both patients, doctors, and insurers. But under the Bush-Norwood plan, the Texas patients will have their case heard under federal law but in State court. So we are changing the rules in the State of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) worked long and hard on this issue, but every compromise in this proposal is in favor of the HMO and not the patient. I came here to vote for a strong patients' bill of rights, not an HMO's bill of rights.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, if we listen to the other side of the aisle, we get a clear theme coming out this morning. If it is not our way, send it down the highway. They say bipartisanship, but all they do is deride the things we have worked so hard for.

I have worked with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) since 1995 on a Patients' Bill of Rights and that man's heart is with patients. Their hearts are with trial lawyers. If we want to see how quick it is to file an action in court to get health care relief, our constituents will be waiting 5 years for a court to render a verdict.

Under the Norwood bill and the President's proposal they will get health care now, not 5 years from now. To malign this bill and say it was done in the dead of night does a disservice to every Member who has fought for good patient protection.

Now they are abandoning the very architect of that plan in the name of politics. They want to win the next election, but they will do it on the back of sick people. I believe people need help today; and if we pass the bill, they will get it today, not 5 years from now when a court may or may not rule in their favor.

REPARATIONS FOR AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, it is bad enough that Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Reports now confirm that Japanese companies like Mitsubishi and Matsui forced American soldiers into slave labor camps, many even murdered.

If that is not enough to eat your Toyota, our VA Secretary said and I quote, "America demands an apology."

Beam me up. American prisoners of war from World War II do not deserve an apology. They deserve compensation

for Japanese war crimes, period. I yield back all those Japanese cars on American streets, painted and tainted with the blood of prisoners of war, American prisoners of war from World War II.

□ 1100

NEW BEGINNING FOR INDONESIA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Megawati Sukarnoputri, the new President of Indonesia, and I commend the people, the government, and the military for the smooth, nonviolent transition of power.

I also urge President Megawati to use her leadership to address widespread human rights abuses, such as the bloodshed and destruction in the Maluku, the arrests and deaths of innocent civilians in Aceh and Irian Jaya, the shaky court cases established against pastors in Poso, and the intentional manipulation of religious tensions in a number of areas of the country.

The instability and human rights abuses can be involved through the arrest and bringing to justice of the perpetrators, such as Laskar Jihad leader, Mr. Jafar Umar Thalib, and his cohorts.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Indonesia deserve a peaceful and prosperous nation in which the fundamental rights of all people are respected. The President has a real opportunity to shape a new future with her cabinet appointments to shape the new future for the Indonesian people and ensure that democracy and civil society will reign.

VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, the violence in the Middle East continues. In December, I visited with wounded and with family members of the dead on both sides. Let me share with my colleagues some of the faces of violence.

This lovely young woman, a Jewish family and her in-laws, her husband was executed with a bullet to the head in an Israeli office in Arab East Jerusalem 6 weeks before I arrived.

This young man was shot in the chest, a Palestinian young man, the day before I arrived. This is at a hospital in Ramallah.

And finally, this mother and her son. This man was shot in the upper abdomen about 10 days before I arrived. Several years before she had had another son that was shot in the head in the violence. This is also at a Ramallah hospital in the West Bank.

An end to the violence, a solution, a peace agreement must come, because every traumatized family plants the seeds of more rage and more violence in the Middle East.

REPUBLICANS GIVETH AND DEMOCRATS TAKETH AWAY

(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, while traveling in Iowa recently, the minority leader said, in reference to the very, very large tax cut in 1993 that raised income taxes, gasoline taxes, and taxes on Social Security benefits, he said, I will do it again. He went on to say that the biggest tax increase in U.S. history was the right thing to do.

My colleagues, the message is clear, Republicans giveth and Democrats taketh away. Americans are just now receiving their tax refund checks, and Democrats are already trying to yank it back so they can spend more here on wasteful programs in Washington, D.C.

It is not terribly surprising that Democrats want to raise taxes, but one would think that they would let the American people get the check first. An enormous tax increase would be the wrong thing, the worst thing for our fragile economy at this time.

Mr. Speaker, now it appears the minority leader is back-peddling from the statement he made earlier. We need to find ways to get money back to the people, not to the Federal Government.

REJECT PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, as the representative here in Washington for the capital city of the Lone Star State of Texas, I take pride in the fact that our State has provided national leadership in protecting patients from their insurance companies with a model patients' bill of rights.

Now, all America should know that our success in Texas came despite the continual objection of then-Governor Bush, who threw up as many roadblocks as he could to those meaningful guarantees, in fact, almost as many as he now throws up to the bill we consider today on the Federal level for a national patients' bill of rights.

Incredibly, President Bush now seeks to override the effective State guarantees that we got enacted over his objection in Texas. And like the fine print in one of those policies that only pays if you get struck by lightning at leap year on a midnight summer day, this patients' bill of rights is riddled with loopholes for insurance companies to