

the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my sadness over the bill before us today. Let me begin by saying that I am a cosponsor—once proud—of H.R. 2563, the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood Patient's Bill of Rights. When I signed onto this bill, this was a truly Bipartisan Patient Protection Act.

But there have been some changes. And the kicker? The kicker is that I, a cosponsor of this bill, was not told what those changes were. None of us were, not until the eleventh hour. I do know that this bill has been gutted. What I know, is that there have been back room deals and secret negotiations. As a result, what was once a good bill is now one I am extremely disappointed with. The process by which new provisions have been developed has been a deceptive one. We started with a very bipartisan process to develop workable language, but unfortunately, that process was hijacked. Instead, deals were made behind closed doors. Even when improvements were suggested that would improve the language, they were ignored. This process was a disgrace to the House and the American people, who would benefit far more from a bipartisan and open process.

The Patient's Bill of Rights I put my name on, is now the Providers Bill of Rights. The patient's Bill of Rights that we had yesterday would have ensured that patients come first—not HMO profits or health plan bureaucrats. The Providers Bill of Rights we have before us today, fought for by the other party, strips these provisions and makes sure a calculator, not caring physicians and concerned families retain control over medical decisions.

Our bill allowed doctors to make the decisions about what is medically necessary and not an HMO bean counter. It gave patients access to information about all available treatments and not just the cheapest. Can someone from the other side please explain why that's so bad? Will they please come to my district and explain it to the working families in my hometown why this is not a good idea? And while you're at it, could you explain it to me too? Because I don't understand. I don't understand why requiring HMOs to provide access to emergency care or specialists, or direct access for women to an OB-GYN, or giving a patient a chance to try an innovative new treatment that could save their life—I don't understand why these are not rights that the other side of the aisle thinks all Americans in all health plans should have. I don't understand why Republicans in this House are opposed to putting health decisions back in human hands where they belong.

Perhaps the most frustrating part of this debate has been the horrible and unconscionable scare tactics. Not a day has gone by in the past two weeks, that I have turned on my television and not seen a commercial from the health insurance companies arguing that the Ganske-Dingell bill will increase the number of uninsured. The fact remains, that the Congressional Budget Office has reported that the patient protections in this bill will only increase premiums by 4 percent over 5 years. This translates into only \$1.19 per month for the average employee. But they don't tell you that.

CBO also found that the provision to hold health plans accountable—the provision the other side of the aisle opposes the most and claims would cause health care costs to skyrocket—would only account for 40 cents of that amount. But they won't tell you that either. They also won't tell you that an independent study by the consulting firm Coopers and Lybrand indicates that the cost of the liability provisions is potentially less than that, estimating that premiums would increase between three and 13 cents a month per enrollee, or 0.03 percent.

This is a small price to pay to make sure that health plans cover the health care services we all deserve.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is a sham, these amendments, poison pills. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and pass a true Patient's Bill of Rights that provides real protections for all the 170 million Americans enrolled in a health insurance plan.

HONORING RICHARD "DICK" MOSS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richard "Dick" Moss for his contributions to the agricultural water needs of California's Central Valley. After many years of dedicated service, Mr. Moss is retiring as General Manager of the Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA).

Moss graduated from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, in agricultural engineering. He is a registered civil engineer in California and a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. His career began with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Moss served three years as a Lower Tule River Irrigation District staff engineer and later as the manager of the Orange Cove Irrigation District.

Formed on October 1, 1985, the FWUA has been managed by Dick from its inception. A joint powers agency, the FWUA has 25 member districts in portions of five San Joaquin Valley counties, all of which contract for water delivered through the Central Valley Project's Friant-Kern and Madera canals. Friant districts serve one million irrigated acres and 15,000 mostly small family farmers along the southern San Joaquin Valley's East Side.

Moss has long been active in water organizations and water issues in California and the West. He has guided the FWUA in search of solutions to major water questions, including the ongoing consensus-based cooperative effort with environmental organizations on San Joaquin River restoration possibilities. Earlier this year, the FWUA aided most Friant agencies in gaining enactment of 25-year water service renewal contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation. Even though he is leaving the FWUA, Moss will still work diligently on various water issues in the Central Valley.

Moss will be leaving the FWUA to establish his own engineering consulting firm. Moss, his wife Charlene and their three children live near Ivanhoe in Tulare County.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Richard "Dick" Moss for his years of service to the Friant Water Users Authority. I wish Mr. Moss continued success in the years to come.

HONORING LUIS RAUL CERNA-BACA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and charitable spirit of my good friend, a loyal patriot, Luis Raul Cerna-Baca.

Born to an army colonel and a housewife in Camoapa, Nicaragua, Luis did not receive a formal education. However, his incredible thirst for knowledge, solid work ethic, and commitment to his family and fellow man, laid the foundation for a life of success, dedication, and charity, which serves as an example to us all of the determination of the human spirit.

At an early age, Luis sought ingenious ways to make a living and to reading whatever books he was able to locate. Through hard work and personal sacrifice, Luis Raul Cerna-Baca rose to become a leading businessman and a member of the Nicaraguan Congress. His character, intellect, and dedicated spirit was respected by his colleagues, who sought his counsel and advice in the many matters facing his nation.

A man of vision, Luis began to invest in the real estate, agriculture, mining industries, in which he found personal financial success. However, he never forgot how hard he had worked to succeed, those who had helped him, and those who had been left behind. A true humanitarian, his charitable spirit overtook him and he set out to help those in need throughout his country in any and every way possible. He donated scholarships, built housing and roads, and donated lands and funds to establish the "Eliseo Picado Institute," in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, where more than five thousand students receive housing and education.

In recognition of his humanitarian assistance, Mr. Cerna, now a U.S. citizen, has been honored with numerous awards and by leaders and dignitaries from throughout Nicaragua and the United States. In Miami, he was recognized for his assistance to immigrants from Nicaragua and around the world. In January of 2000, he was selected as one of the "Personalities of the 20th Century in Nicaragua," and was named benefactor of Matagalpa, Nicaragua. This October, Mr. Cerna will be awarded a Doctorate from the University of Nicaragua.

In the years that I have worked with Luis Cerna, following the Sandanista revolution, to bring justice to the people of Nicaragua, I have had the pleasure of building a lasting friendship with him, his wife, and his family. The strength of his character, the commitment of his spirit, the kindness of his heart, and the hope that he holds for the people of Nicaragua, our nation, and our world, serves as a guiding light and a role model for his family, his community, and our nation.