commitment, beginning with the CNO and including every sailor in the fleet. That is why a larger Navy must be in the budget this year. The Navy cannot rely on Congress to add money above the top line to make up for its own budget shortcomings. For years, we in Congress added money to the administration’s defense budget. I do not believe that we will so readily revise the new administration’s plans.

But I do not doubt that with support in the administration budget, Congress will follow. As Members of Congress, the purse is our responsibility. Without a doubt, ships are expensive. Building more ships is more expensive, but not being where we are needed when we are needed there is the most costly of all. I believe in my heart that one ship flying the American flag alongside one foreign pier makes friends, warns enemies, and ultimately reduces the need to send many more ships out on the high seas.

To provide presence, we need hulls. To enact in literal, we need hulls. To do the job we ask the Navy to do, we need hulls.

URGING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY LAW REGARDING FUNDRAISING BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of legislation that would help clarify the law regarding fund-raising by nonprofit organizations.

I wish to first recognize and thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, who is sponsoring this bill with me for his leadership on this important issue.

Congress recognized the many important and worthwhile activities of nonprofits by establishing a nonprofit mail rate for charities, churches, educational advocacy, and other nonprofit organizations. These are enumerated in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. One of Congress’s objectives was to make it more affordable for nonprofits to collect donations to fund their activities. For a mail piece to be eligible for the lower rate, Congress prescribed two requirements: First, the organization or mailer must be qualified to mail at the nonprofit rate; and second, the qualified organization must own the mail piece.

Over the last several years, Mr. Speaker, the United States Postal Service, which has made great strides under Postmasters Runyon and Henderson, has increasingly applied the statutory standard of “ownership” in a way that may have a chilling effect on the use of nonprofit mail rates to obtain donations for charity, education, and advocacy.

The purpose of the bill that the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON) and I are sponsoring is to clarify ambiguities existing in both law and postal service regulations with respect to fund-raising.

The bill clarifies the law so the postal service does not read the statutory “ownership” test so literally as to disqualify fund-raising mail sent by otherwise eligible nonprofit organizations that negotiate a risk-sharing agreement with respect to their fund-raising mail.

In my view, Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that otherwise qualified nonprofit organizations be able to secure donations at the lowest possible cost. When nonprofits conduct activities that further purposes enumerated in the statute, for example, to provide safety net social services, they ease the burden on taxpayers and deliver high-quality services to all Americans.

This Congress is asking nonprofits to provide services the government has traditionally been ineffective and inefficient in providing. Given this purpose, it would be irrational for Congress to limit use of the nonprofit bill rate only to fund-raising campaigns that raise donations sufficient to pay mailing costs.

It is important to point out that our bill is not a back door to allow unauthorized parties to mail at the nonprofit rate. Current law restricts an otherwise qualified organization from utilizing the nonprofit mail rate to sell goods or services. However, it is different from promoting the sale of a product or service.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Congress has instituted reforms limiting a nonprofit’s use of the special mail rate to sell products and services. This bill does not affect the reforms Alaska Senator Ted Stevens set in motion in the 1980s in that regard.

This bill also recognizes the subsequent reform Congress enacted to require sales promoted at the nonprofit rate to be substantially related to the purpose for which the nonprofit qualified for the nonprofit rate.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, this bill does not limit the postal service’s authority to enforce any other section of the Federal postal statutes. Accordingly, the postal service retains all of its tools to discover and prosecute fraud, a mission I strongly support.

The problem addressed by this bill is the postal service’s present interpretation of the statutory “ownership” standard, which is causing litigation and inconsistent application in nonprofit fund-raising cases.

Respectfully, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislative measure.

MANAGED CARE REFORM, PATIENT ACCESS TO SPECIALTY CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue what is a series of speeches or Special Orders on the need to reform our Nation’s managed care industry. In the past I have discussed external and internal appeals processes, medical necessity, and the need for accountability. Today I would like to discuss patient access to specialty care.

Specialists fill an invaluable role in our Nation’s health care system. And many of us have sought the services of a specialist because of high blood pressure, a broken arm, or migraine headaches. But often times, HMOs refuse patients access to specialists because they do not have such specialists in their network or they are across town or literally unavailable.

Such is the case of Sarah Peterson from San Mateo, California. She was born with a brain tumor that required her to see a physician who specialized in brain tumors. But her HMO, which was obtained through her father’s employer, told her mother that she would not be able to see a pediatric specialist. She was told, what difference does it make, cancer is cancer.

Well, it does make a difference if you are the parent of a child with a potentially deadly tumor. While Sarah was fighting for her life, her parents were fighting an HMO to get her the quality health care they were paying for. This situation could have had dire consequences; but fortunately for Sarah, her parents changed plans during the middle of this medical crisis. Sarah is now 8 years old and is doing well. But she still has a tumor and will still need to see a specialist. Hopefully, her health insurance will let her continue to see that specialist.

The prognosis is not as promising for young Kyle of Bakersfield, California. Kyle began having ear problems when he was 6 months old. After months of corrective measures, antibiotics, infections, and finally a ruptured eardrum, Kyle’s HMO referred him to an ENT. The ENT performed surgery to put tubes in Kyle’s ears which would allow for the drainage of the infected fluids, but that surgery was too little too late. After 10 days, Kyle’s ears began to bleed. Had the HMO followed the advice of the ENT, they would have given Kyle a CAT scan to provide evidence of cholesteatoma, a severe infection that destroys the bone in the inner ear. But again, the HMO denied this vital test. In the end, Kyle’s ear problems continued along, undiagnosed.

Finally, after losing all patience with the HMO, his parents changed plans