

of children and families. His ability to truly understand the diverse points of view of people intensely interested in a problem has made action possible where others would have failed.

Once he became Staff Director in 1995, Ron put his extensive knowledge of the nation's welfare system to use by working with Chairman E. CLAY SHAW to develop and pass legislation overhauling the system. Despite two Presidential vetoes, Ron successfully urged Republican Members to continue to push for welfare reform. On August 22, 1996, the welfare reform bill finally became law (P.L. 104-193). The sweep of this reform has been spectacular, resulting in dramatically reduced child poverty, increased numbers of working single parents, and families living improved lives with both more income and real hope.

Three years later in 1999 the Speaker of the House, J. DENNIS HASTERT, spoke of the accomplishments of welfare reform: "we've broken the mold from a lifestyle of generational welfare dependency. In turn, we've created a path to the American dream which holds more personal security and more control for individuals over their own lives."

In 1999, Representative NANCY L. JOHNSON took over as Subcommittee Chair. Since then Ron has continued to have a major role in developing important legislation including the Foster Care Independence Act (P.L. 106-169), the Fathers Count Act of 1999 (H.R. 3073), and the Child Support Distribution Act of 2000 (H.R. 4678). The positive influence of Ron's presence here on Capital Hill will be felt long after he's moved on to new endeavors and by millions of families who will never know his name.

Before joining the Committee staff, Ron was a U.S. Marine, a high school teacher, and a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition to working for the Committee, Ron is a devoted father and husband, a prolific writer, an outstanding public speaker, a man of strong principles, one of the most honest people either of us has ever met, and a true friend.

As he embarks on the next chapter of his life, we wish Ron well and know that he will be a great success in any endeavor he undertakes. We will always be grateful to him for his fine service, his good cheer, his high energy, and his excellent advice.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have decided to do a little distortion for Halloween about the record of the Republican-led Congress. Let's make a comparison based on the facts.

As we all remember, the Democrat-led 103rd Congress was a not a success for public health in this country. As Congressional Quarterly noted, "Clinton" had presented his health care plan—crafted under the direction of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in a massive, secret and much-criticized task force

process . . . the bill was immensely complex. . . . The committee system, designed to resolve both the policy and political problems of legislation, broke down entirely . . . For all their work, not one committee had managed to write a health care bill that the leadership was willing to bring to the floor. . . ."

With the Democrat leadership resorting to scare tactics in the past few days, it might bode well for the American people to remember their record

The Republican-led Congress has been active and provided real public health improvements for the American people. In the prior two Congresses, we have empowered states and localities to meet the health care and nutritional needs of two-income residents, and provided relief to those hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic. We provided portability so working Americans can change jobs without risking the loss of their health care insurance due to a preexisting condition. This was a fundamental change that the Democrats weren't able to get done on their watch.

Our Republican led Congress has also reined in health care fraud and abuse, eliminated tax code discrimination against millions of small businesses and the self-employed and provided tax relief for the long-term health care needs of terminally ill patients and their families. We enhanced Americans' access to safe, abundant, and affordable food and water. In the Food and Drug Modernization Act of 1997, we enacted measures which have significantly cut down the waiting time at the FDA for approval of new medicines. As a result, many patients will have access to life saving drugs much quicker. Our Republican Congress also passed landmark legislation in 1997 that established the Medicare+Choice Program and the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Under our legislation, low-income children will have expanded access to quality health care coverage. Democrats talked about that for years; it took a Republican Congress to make it happen.

We enhanced the Birth Defects Prevention Program, reauthorized the National Bone Marrow Registry, reauthorized Mammography Quality Standards, and enhanced Women's Health Research and Prevention.

That's a pretty strong record for public health.

Now let's look at the 106th Congress. Here are a number of public health provisions that are already enacted into law: the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments, and the Medicare, Medicaid, & SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act. Under this Act—

Hospitals received an additional \$7.3 billion; Skilled nursing facilities received over \$2 billion;

Home health agencies received an additional \$1.3 billion;

Health plans participating in the Medicare+Choice program received an additional \$1.9 billion;

Nearly \$1 billion in additional monies were provided for the Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs; and,

\$150 million was provided to ensure that organ transplant recipients could continue to receive access to immunosuppressive drugs.

We also enacted into law the Health Research and Quality Act, and the Work Incentives Improvement Act. This law was sponsored by Mr. LAZIO and expands the availability of health care coverage for workers with

disabilities. Add to this list the Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act and the Children's Health Act of 2000, which increases and intensifies research on and programs for autism, juvenile diabetes, asthma, prevention of birth defects, epilepsy, infant health, pediatric research, skeletal malignancies, adoption awareness, healthy start, traumatic injuries and autoimmune diseases. This Act also reauthorizes the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and improves drug addiction treatment programs.

Add to this list the Ryan White CARE Act of 2000, which provides funding for those suffering with AIDS, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, and the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.

Those bills that have already been enacted are a solid record but we have even more that are sent or being sent to the President. This includes the Public Health Improvements Act. This bill was sent to the President containing the following provisions which are bipartisan efforts:

Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act;
Clinical Research Enhancement Act;
Twenty-First Century Research Laboratories Act;
Cardiac Arrest Survival Act;
Rural Access to Emergency Devices Act;
Lupus Research and Care Act;
Prostate Cancer Research and Protection Act;
Organ Procurement Organization Certification Act;
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinical Research and Training; and,
Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Research and Training.

We are also sending to the President the Medicare, Medicaid, and S-CHIP Benefits Improvement & Protection Act. This Act increases preventive benefits, including glaucoma screening, medical nutrition therapy, colonoscopy, and biennial pap smears, limits beneficiary exposure to hospital outpatient charges, increases payments to providers under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, adjusts the allocation formula under the State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and provides \$475 million for the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Trust Fund.

These are real and meaningful bipartisan accomplishments.

There are other important bills we have not been able to reach consensus on. That should not be an excuse for dismissing the many public health accomplishments of the Republican-led Congress. Nor should we easily forget the failure of the Hillary-care Congress.

We have heard that Republicans are not for a real patients bill of rights. That is false. Indeed, the distortion from AL GORE and the White House is the problem. Republicans have voted for legislation both to increase access to insurance and to provide for HMO reform. The Vice President erroneously claimed in his last debate that Republicans opposed an enforceable, independent external review board. He also claimed that Republicans opposed emergency room and access to specialists provisions. That is nonsense and distorts our record.

Republicans have voted for legislation that provides an enforceable independent external review board for benefits denials. This will make sure health care professionals make

medical decisions and that we don't resort to unnecessary litigation.

Republicans have also supported the patient protections which included the emergency room issue and access to specialist issues Mr. GORE mentioned. We have basic bipartisan agreement on these issues and could easily have such legislation alone.

Let's look at the remaining disagreements. The White House and the trial lawyers want uncapped liability and litigation. Employers around the country are opposed to these features of Norwood-Dingell because they would increase litigation, drive up costs, and would force many employers to drop health insurance. That is the opposite of what we want.

We are also concerned about interfering with State patient protection programs. We need to make sure that States can implement their own programs where they want to without federal interference and disruption to programs that are already in place. Norwood-Dingell does not address this problem and places a huge implementation burden on the Federal government. We need to find a middle road on this.

Finally, we cannot understand the failure of the White House and Democrat leadership to support provisions which provide choice, access and tax deductions to help increase the number of people with health insurance. There are over 40 million uninsured people in America. The Republican-led Congress has passed serious proposals to address this problem and they are being ignored by the White House.

When Democrats sent a letter to Senator NICKLES in early summer saying that they would no longer meet with him in private conference, that was not a good sign. Obviously, you can't negotiate through the press and you can't negotiate if you do not meet.

The plain fact is that the Republican-led Congresses have been energetic, productive, and responsible on public health. The many bipartisan accomplishments are a tribute to both Democrat and Republicans. We have enacted legislation that improves Americans' access to quality health care. Under our proposals, our country's commitment to basic medical research has been expanded and our promises to provide high quality to seniors and the most vulnerable in our society kept. Distortion of this record is not helpful and will only risk jeopardizing future gains.

NATIONAL LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease which causes inflammation of various parts of the body.

Lupus is not rare. In fact, it is more prevalent than AIDS, sickle cell anemia, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and cystic fibrosis combined. Lupus affects 1 out of 185 Americans, and almost 30% of the Lupus cases in Florida are found within my South Florida region.

This month we celebrate National Lupus Awareness Month.

And, I congratulate The Lupus Foundation of America for its work on patient education, and dedication to raise funds for research.

I especially congratulate J. Reeve Bright, Chairman of the Board of the Lupus Foundation of America and President of the Southeast Florida region; Jack McAllister, the Executive Director; Jackie Brown, and all who helped arrange an educational symposium in my district this month.

The House passed a bill that provides research and services to fight Lupus. As a cosponsor, I thank my dear colleague, Congresswoman CARRIE MEEK, for the Lupus legislation and for her dedication in seeing it through.

This represented a great victory in women's health care, and it is our wish that this triumph will generate countless benefits for American men and women who suffer from Lupus.

CHINA AND PNTR: SUCCESS STORIES NEEDED

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, one of the truly momentous decisions reached by this Congress was to approve Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. Supporters of PNTR worked very hard to achieve this outcome, which held out so much promise for the development of stronger trade and business ties between China and the United States. Now, the major challenge facing both countries will be to show positive results that justify such extraordinary efforts and faith in the future.

Like many of my colleagues, I voted for PNTR and view with hope the potential for mutual benefits. For that reason, it concerns me to learn of examples where American companies have encountered unexpected difficulties in trying to do business in China. One such distressing case of which I am aware involves Panda Energy. Panda is a Dallas-headquartered company with a significant gas-fired cogeneration power plant located in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, within my Congressional district. Based upon an earlier agreement reached with the local Chinese government, in 1995, Panda began construction of a major, private, foreign-invested plant near Tangshan in Hebei Province. Unfortunately, while that facility is now completed and ready to commence generating electricity, it is still not operational. Why? Because the local government has failed to honor its agreement to grant a reasonable tariff computed on a negotiated formula. The situation is even more complicated and troubling in its implications, because construction of the facility was financed through the U.S. capital markets in good faith reliance on this agreement. Unless a fair tariff is granted soon, the bonds are in danger of default, putting at financial risk not only the investors but also the company.

Mr. Speaker, Panda's experience in China is disappointing and contrary to the spirit of PNTR. Therefore, I would urge the Beijing government and its Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Li Zhao Xing, to review this situation carefully and do everything possible to find a fair and workable solution. It is not too late to avoid an unnecessarily negative precedent that could undermine high hopes raised by passage of the PNTR legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on October 28, 2000, I was unavoidably absent when the House voted on "Approving the Journal", H.J. Res. 118, "Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001", and two Motions to Instruct on H.R. 4577.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on "Approving the Journal" (rollcall vote 570), "aye" on H.J. Res. 118 (rollcall vote 571), "nay" on the first motion to instruct conferees (rollcall vote 572), and "nay" on the second motion to instruct conferees (rollcall vote 573).

On October 29, 2000, I was also unavoidably absent when the House voted on "Approving the Journal" H.J. Res. 119 "Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001", and a Motion to Instruct on H.R. 4577.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on "Approving the Journal" (rollcall vote 574), "aye" on H.J. Res. 119 (rollcall vote 575) and "nay" on the motion to instruct conferees (rollcall vote 576).

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DR. NINO CAMARDESE AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO INSTILL A SENSE OF CITIZENSHIP IN OHIO'S YOUTH

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the efforts of Dr. Nino Camardese of Norwalk, Ohio and a bipartisan group of State Representatives in the Ohio general Assembly. Recently, legislation was introduced in the Ohio General Assembly that calls for a "bill of Responsibilities" which outlines a student's civic responsibility to the state of Ohio and the Nation to be posted in each school. This Bill of Responsibilities was developed by Dr. Nino Camardese, a family physician in Norwalk, Ohio. Dr. Camardese recognized that there is a definitive correlation between freedom and responsibility. He also noted that many schoolchildren overlook this fact.

Dr. Camardese, with the assistance of leaders and educators at a Freedom Forum conference, drafted the Bill of Responsibilities, which seeks to remind students that citizenship is an essential part of liberty. The bill reinforces the fact that students must be good citizens, responsible not only to themselves, but to others as well.

Recently, several members of the Ohio General Assembly drafted a resolution that would post the Bill of Responsibilities in each classroom across Ohio. I would like to honor the efforts of Representatives Bill Taylor, Dixie Allen, Sylvester Patton and Ron Young, and recognize the leadership they demonstrated in introducing this important legislation in Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Camardese and these Representatives have taken a monumental step to stop the downward spiral of violence,