

## Roll Call Report

Here's how Observer & Eccentric area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Oct. 6.

**CATASTROPHIC COVERAGE REPEAL** — The House voted 360 for and 82 against to cancel a 1988

Medicare expansion designed to protect the elderly and disabled against catastrophic hospital, doctor and prescription drug costs. The repeal was included in budget reconciliation legislation (HR 3299) later sent to the Senate.

Under the 14-month-old Catastrophic Coverage Act, Medicare

beneficiaries must pay for the expanded benefits. Most of the cost falls on those with enough means to pay federal income taxes, with many of the elderly paying up to \$800 annually in tax surcharges. The repeal drive answers protests from those who would finance the catastrophic coverage.

Repeal advocate Roy Rowland, D-Ga., said Congress "made a mistake" in enacting the 1988 law. "Let us face it... let us correct this mistake completely."

Pete Stark, D-Calif., said the House was being "stampeded by a group representing a small group of the wealthiest seniors to deny needed benefits to a majority of seniors."

Members voting yes wanted to repeal the 1988 Catastrophic Coverage Act. Michigan representatives Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Lake Orion, and William Broomfield, R-Southfield, voted no.

**CHILD CARE LEGISLATION** — By a vote of 195 for and 230 against, the House rejected the less extensive of two proposals before it for expanding the federal role in providing child care.

This cleared the way for approval of legislation to provide several billion dollars over five years in areas such as expanding Head Start, increasing child-care tax credits, funding state programs for children and

setting federal quality standards for child care personnel and facilities.

Included in budget reconciliation legislation (HR 3299), the Democratic-authored program was backed by labor, education and civil rights groups. The alternative defeated by this vote was supported by President Bush and business groups. It cost less than the successful measure, did not establish federal standards, gave more emphasis to programs run by the private sector and was more beneficial to church-run programs.

Thomas Petri, R-Wis., said the alternative relied on choice by parents rather than "social engineering" to achieve its objectives.

Mary Rose Oaker, D-Ohio, said she opposed the alternative because it "guts the child care package."

Members voting yes supported a less extensive federal approach to child care.

Michigan representatives Pursell and Broomfield voted yes. Hertel, Ford and Levin voted no.

**GAY RIGHTS ISSUE** — By a vote of 262 for and 154 against, the House endorsed a Senate effort to exempt church-related universities from the District of Columbia's gay rights law. The vote instructed House conferees on the fiscal 1990 D.C. appropriations bill (HR 3026). It urged them to accept Senate language keeping Georgetown University, a Catholic institution, from being penalized for declining to accommodate gay student organizations.

Supporter Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said the main issue was Georgetown University's freedom to practice religion.

Opponent Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said "this amendment picks on a minority that is not popular" and resembles "the same kind of onslaught that we saw in Nazi Germany."

Members voting yes wanted to protect Georgetown University against D.C.'s gay rights law.

Michigan representatives Pursell and Broomfield voted yes. Hertel, Ford and Levin voted no.

**TO RESTORE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE** — By a vote of 162 for and 261 against, the House rejected an amendment in opposition to the "fairness doctrine." The vote preserved language in a budget reconciliation bill (HR 3299) restoring the federal requirement that broadcasters give opposing views on key issues a chance to be heard. The doctrine was repealed in 1986.

Amendment supporter Harold Rogers, R-Ky., said "how dare this Congress even contemplate a law which would fine broadcasters whose news coverage the government does not like."

John Dingell, D-Mich., said it is "only fair that when broadcasters own that wonderful right to use that money machine which they are given by the FCC, that they should use it in the public interest."

Members voting yes opposed rein-

statement of the fairness doctrine. Michigan Representative Broomfield voted yes. Pursell, Hertel, Ford and Levin voted no.

### SENATE:

**FLAG PROTECTION BILL** — By a vote of 91 for and 9 against, the Senate sent to conference with the House a bill (HR 2978) making it a federal crime to physically desecrate the American flag. The bill is a response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that flag desecration is dissent protected by the Constitution.

Supporter William Cohen, R-Maine, said the bill "restores protection for the flag without the need for a constitutional amendment."

Opponent Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said "a constitutional amendment is absolutely necessary" to protect the flag from desecration.

Senators voting yes supported the bill. Michigan Democratic senators Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

**TO NAB NORIEGA** — By a vote of 74 for and 25 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment reaffirming that President Bush can order U.S. troops to bring Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega to trial in the United States on drug-trafficking charges. A federal grand jury indicted Noriega in 1988. The vote came during debate on a bill (S1711) implementing the president's drug strategy.

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For more information call 527-5353.

## County sets nutrition class

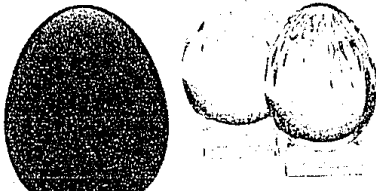
Do you know what's hot in nutrition? Do you need new ideas for meals? Zap the "What shall I fix for dinner?" blues. Learn to make meals fun, interesting and nutritious. Bring a friend or two for this fun-filled and practical class on better eating. Meet new friends, share ideas and sample delicious, healthy food.

**Better Eating for Better Health** will be held at Woodland Medical Center, 41935 W. 12 Mile, Novi. It is sponsored by the Oakland County Health Division.


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To register, call 348-8000, ext. 270. Class size is limited.

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