HMOs and big insurance companies are spending more than $100 million — money that should go to patient care — to kill a real patients’ bill of rights. And their money is working.

They won in the U.S. Senate. Now their target is the House of Representatives. The question is why?

• Why are they afraid to let doctors make medical decisions?

• Why are they afraid to let patients appeal when an HMO delays or denies care?

• Why are they afraid to be held accountable for their actions?

The answer is simple. It’s a case of dollars first and patients last. After all, some health insurance executives take home $10 million a year. And they certainly don’t want a $100 test to get in the way of that.

It’s time to end the politics of greed.

If you want a real patients’ bill of rights and not another HMO Protection Act, call 1-800-833-6354 and tell your Representative to put "patients" back into the patients’ bill of rights.

Paid for by the American Medical Association, the American Dental Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and the Patient Access Coalition’s 129 Provider and Patient Advocacy Groups.