

During recent years, the United States has experienced soaring prices of treatments, medication, and health insurance on levels not previously seen. Despite healthcare being undeniably necessary for our citizens, and therefore our country, to succeed and prosper, millions of Americans are unable to afford the treatment they need. According to the Centers for Medicare Services, in 2022, “the healthcare spending in the United States reached \$4.9 trillion,” which means on average, each person in America spends \$14,570 per year on healthcare. While these rising and unpayable costs are an issue across the globe, the rising costs are especially apparent in the United States. In fact, according to the National Institutes of Health, “The United States spent approximately twice as much as other high-income countries on medical care.”

Although several acts exist that attempt to combat the inflating prices of healthcare services, such as the “Lower Costs, More Transparency Act,” which passed the House of Representatives, and advocates for more price transparency in the healthcare sector, I believe that a large part of the issue lies in the simple fact that the United States remains an outlier in terms of per capita health care spending. The simple yet undeniable fact is that our citizens pay more for healthcare than citizens of any other country.

To combat the skyrocketing prices of the healthcare sector in the United States: I would propose a multi-tiered plan. Firstly, the large, private pharmaceutical companies should no longer be permitted to put their own profits over the health of Americans. For decades these huge insurance and pharmaceutical companies have been able to rip off American people with high prices for medication and treatments that are necessities. A cap for what each individual can pay for medication per year should be implemented. Secondly, a national healthcare system, similar to Medicaid, which is guaranteed for those 65 and older, that guarantees healthcare for all, not just those who can afford it, should be introduced. Healthcare should become a constitutional right, not just a privilege for those who can pay.

The unreasonable prices of prescription medication, insurance, and doctor's visits are actively working against our citizens, preventing our country from flourishing. If nothing is done, prices will only continue to increase and the percentage of Americans who are uninsured or cannot afford healthcare will likewise grow. Steps need to be taken to ensure the health of our citizens.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 754. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies.

H.R. 818. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 825. An act to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 828. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the veterans interagency task

force, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on access to credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 832. An act to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 754. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 818. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 825. An act to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 828. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the veterans interagency task force, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on access to credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 832. An act to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-442. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Privacy Act; Implementation at 45 CFR Part 5b” (RIN0925-AA69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-443. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the requirements of the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-444. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-5, “Rent Stabilized Housing Inflation Protection Continuation Temporary Amendment Act of 2025”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-445. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-719, “Restoration of Covenanted Roads and Alleys by the District

Government Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-446. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-717, “Harmonious Living Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-447. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-718, “Downtown Arena Revitalization Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-448. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-720, “Recidivism Reduction at DYRS Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-449. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department of Defense’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-450. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-451. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-452. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Marion, NC” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2023-2255)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-453. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Abbotsford Airport, Abbotsford, BC” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2023-2440)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-454. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment and Revocation of Domestic Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Federal Airways; Eastern United States” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2023-1848)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-455. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes;