

The Republican Medicare bill fails on all of these points.

Today, prescription medicines are a critical component of medical treatment. Indeed, prescription medicines keep many seniors out of the hospital and at home with their families. But too many of our seniors must choose between paying for food and other necessities or the prescription medicines they need to live full, healthy lives. Seniors deserve prescription medicine coverage under Medicare. Yet, the Republicans continue to play politics with this vital issue.

There are several flaws in this Republican bill. First, it is inadequate. The Republican Medicare bill would cover less than 20 percent of what seniors are projected to spend on prescription medicines over the next ten years. The bill also leaves seniors who spend between \$2,000 and \$3,700 on prescription medicines without coverage for part of the year forcing nearly half of all seniors to pay the full cost of their medicines.

Second, the Republican bill provides no guaranteed benefit to seniors. The only thing this bill promises seniors is the ability to shop around for some type of coverage. There is no specific language in this bill that sets premiums at \$35. In reality, private plans can charge whatever they want for premiums. What's more, under their plan the insurance companies that will administer this plan are allowed to vary their prices and the availability of coverage all across the country, which will shortchange the seniors who need this benefit the most.

Finally, this Republican bill provides subsidies to private insurance companies instead of providing seniors with a guaranteed prescription medicine benefit. Tonight we see the Republican majority's priorities, Mr. Speaker. They put insurance companies first, not our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a prescription medicine benefit plan. It's a sleight of hand proposal designed to hide the Republican Leadership's true intention to eventually privatize Medicare.

It is noteworthy that the Republican majority has placed a number of provisions relating to physicians and hospitals into the bill that I strongly support. Currently, physicians are not being adequately reimbursed for taking care of Medicare patients, making it difficult to keep their doors open. The current system defies common sense, basing physician reimbursements on the state of the economy instead of the cost or need of health care. The fact is folks do not stop visiting the doctor because the economy is sluggish. I support the provisions in this bill that would correct this flawed payment system.

As a Member of the Congressional Rural Health Coalition, I also support provisions in this bill to increase the reimbursement payments for our nation's hospitals, especially those facilities located in rural areas. In fact, I joined 77 of my colleagues in writing the Chairmen of the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees in support of provisions to standardize the base payments between rural and urban hospitals. Language to this effect is also included in the bill. There are other worthwhile measures in this bill, and it is a shame these provisions are included in a fundamentally flawed bill.

Despite these provisions, I am unable to support H.R. 4954 because the Republican

Majority's Medicare bill will not help America's seniors get access to affordable prescription medicines. I support the Democratic alternative that is easy to understand, designed to fit into our Medicare system, and provides seniors access to all of the medicines they need. It also includes all of the provider reimbursement provisions that are contained in H.R. 4954. Unfortunately, the Republican majority has denied us the opportunity to offer this alternative.

America's seniors deserve a prescription medicine benefit that allows them to remain healthy in their golden years. We must strengthen Medicare with a real, guaranteed Medicare prescription medicine benefit, not a private insurance plan that leaves half of America's seniors without prescription medicine coverage. I urge my colleagues to reject this sham Republican Medicare bill, and to support the Democratic Motion to Recommit.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONGRESSIONAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of law enforcement who have exemplified themselves through uncommon and distinctive service to the citizens of New Hampshire during the course of their duties.

Few among us would question that one of the most demanding professions in our nation is law enforcement; it is a profession that requires sacrifice, courage and a dedication to serve others. Each day, these brave men and women put themselves in harm's way in order to administer the laws of our society. In so doing, they have earned—and deserve—our respect and our gratitude.

In 1998, my friend and colleague, Representative CHARLES BASS, and I first established the New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Awards at the request of current and retired New Hampshire law enforcement personnel. We both agreed that these awards would be an excellent way to honor the men and women of law enforcement whose service and professionalism was truly extraordinary, and this Sunday, July 14, a ceremony will be held at the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training facility in Concord to honor the 82 recipients of this year's awards.

In New Hampshire, the nominations process for the awards starts with all duty sworn officers of the law, full or part-time, including local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement professionals from other states who distinguish themselves in serving the people of New Hampshire are also eligible. Nominations are then made based on exceptional achievement in any police endeavor, including: extraordinary valor; crime prevention; drug control and prevention; investigative work; community policing; community service; traffic safety; search and rescue; and juvenile training, programs. Individual officers are nominated for the award by citizens, an officer's department or his or her co-workers, a city or town official or a government agency.

The awards honor law enforcement personnel in one of five separate categories: Ca-

reer Service Award, which recognizes those who have shown an outstanding dedication to law enforcement over the length of their career; Unit Citation Award, which recognizes officers for actions taken as a group in dangerous situations; Dedication and Professionalism Award, which recognizes personnel who exceed their normal duties in service to others; Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award, which honors officers who put their lives in harm's way in service to others; and Associate Service Award, which honors fire and rescue personnel as well as civilians who assist law officers in the course of their duties—at times putting their own lives at risk.

While Congress works each day to pass legislation that supports local law enforcement and protects the interests of our communities, families and children, the men and women of law enforcement, working on the front lines every day, take the necessary risks to ensure our safety and the safety of our loved ones. These awards have been a fitting tribute to our officers and a reminder to all of us of the important role they play in our lives and in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I join with Congressman BASS and all the citizens of the Granite State in offering our appreciation for the service and the dedication of our law enforcement personnel. I congratulate each recipient of the 2002 New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Awards, and thank the people with whom they work and the citizens they serve for nominating such outstanding individuals.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALAN TERRY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate an outstanding individual from Colorado whose hard work and dedication has produced a number of awards throughout his business career. Alan Terry, the president of Terry & Stephenson, P.C. has just received a very high honor from the business community, as he is the recipient of the Accountant Advocate of the Year award. The Denver Urban Renewal Authority nominated Alan for this award, which is among the most prestigious and coveted forms of recognition given in the business world, and I am honored to bring forth his accomplishments before this body of Congress and nation.

Alan attended Trinidad State Junior College, received an AA in Business Administration and went on to complete his undergraduate work at the University of Southern Colorado where he earned a BS degree in accounting. His professional career began with Price Waterhouse in Baltimore, Maryland and after several years, Alan moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he started Terry & Stephenson, P.C., a certified public accounting, and management consulting firm. In 1986, he moved to Denver, Colorado and opened the Denver office of Terry & Stephenson, P.C.

Since opening the Denver office, Alan has worked with a variety of businesses including start up businesses, Fortune 500 corporations, the State of Colorado, the City and County of Denver, and various nonprofit organizations.

He serves on many nonprofit boards and is an active member of the Colorado Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Alan Terry is a man of great dedication and commitment to his profession and to the people of Colorado. He has demonstrated that success can be achieved through hard work and commitment to his clients and I am honored to bring forth his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation. He has achieved great success in his career and it is my privilege to extend to him my congratulations on his selection for the Accountant Advocate of the Year award. Alan, I wish you all the best in your future.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORTH BAY STAND DOWN 2002

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of North Bay Stand Down 2002 as a vehicle for providing homeless and at-risk veterans in Napa, Solano and Yolo Counties with access to existing and planned programs.

Many of these veterans have never applied for the benefits they have earned through their service to our country. Through the user-friendly “veterans helping veterans” atmosphere of North Bay Stand Down 2002 they will be encouraged to transform the despair and immobility of homelessness into the momentum necessary to get in to recovery, to resolve legal issues, to seek employment, to access health services and benefits, to reconnect with the community and to get off the street.

It is estimated that veterans comprise nearly 30 percent of our homeless population nationwide. For them, life on the streets can be both dangerous and debilitating and often leads to feelings of hopelessness.

North Bay Stand Down 2002 will help veterans free themselves from this self-defeating cycle of despair and begin to repair their lives by breaking down the barriers that contribute to their isolation.

North Bay Stand Down 2002 has the support of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the California State Department of Veterans Affairs, the State Employment Development Department, local governments and veterans' and trade organizations and members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we acknowledge and honor today the men and women who organized North Bay Stand Down 2002 for their commitment to our veterans and to our country.

THE TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2003

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today, I and Representatives M. UDALL, R. HALL, WEINER,

HONDA, RIVERS, LARSON, ISRAEL, MATHESON, WOOLSEY, BACA, E.B. JOHNSON, COSTELLO, and LOFGREN are introducing the Technology Administration and National Institute of Standards and Technology Act of 2003. This bill provides a 3-year authorization for the Technology Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

For the Technology Administration the bill provides the Administration's FY03 request. The legislation then provides for inflationary increases in FY04 and FY05.

For the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the bill provides full funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program (MEP). The bill authorizes \$110 million in FY03, which will fully fund MEP Centers in 400 locations in all fifty states and Puerto Rico. The Manufacturing Extension Partnership program is strongly supported by small- and medium-sized manufacturers throughout the United States. It is a proven and successful industry/government partnership. Both the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing endorse the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and this level of funding. In FY04 and FY05 the bill provides for inflationary increases for MEP funding.

The bill also provides funding for the Advanced Technology Program and addresses Administration concerns about the program. First this bill provides a stable funding base for the ATP by providing sufficient funds to allow for \$60.7 million in new awards to be made in each fiscal year. In addition, the bill authorizes four policy changes to the ATP that were proposed by Secretary Evans. The bill makes Secretary's proposed changes to (1) allow universities to lead joint ventures, (2) allow universities and non-profit laboratories to be invested with intellectual property, (3) stress that ATP does not support product development, and (4) allows for private-sector experts to participate in the ATP project review process.

The bill also provides the Administration's request for the standards supporting activities performed by NIST. In addition, the bill provides \$12 million for NIST to continue its investigative work on the collapse of buildings in the World Trade Center complex. The bill also provides \$10 million to upgrade the Large Fire Facility at NIST's Gaithersburg campus. One of the most important recommendations of the Building Performance Assessment Team that did a preliminary investigation on the structural causes of the collapse of buildings at the World Trade Center complex was that current standards do not require actual fire testing of structural components. In other words, we can't evaluate how buildings will perform under actual fire conditions. Currently no place in the United States can perform this type of testing. The funding for the renovation of the Large Fire Facility will allow this type of testing to be done. Finally the bill provides much needed funding for the renovation of the NIST facilities in Boulder, CO. The bill provides the Administration FY03 request for this activity and in FY04 and FY05 provides funding in accordance with NIST's 10-year construction plan.

This bill also incorporates legislation that enhances NIST's measurement and standards activities. Title III of the bill is the text of the H.R. 2733, the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002. This authorizes the National Institute of Standards and Technology to work with major

manufacturing industries on an initiative of standards development for enterprise integration. Title IV of the bill incorporates the provisions of H.R. 3683, the Fair Play in Sport Act of 2002. These provisions were drafted by Representative MATHESON, and will utilize the National Institute of Standards and Technology's unique measurement capabilities to assist the United States Anti-Doping Agency in their mission.

This bill represents tough choices in a difficult budget scenario. In developing this legislation we realized that tough choices needed to be made and priorities set. As authorization legislation, this bill represents our priorities and funding allocations to our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee as they begin their difficult task this year. We also hope that this bill will signal the Administration of our views as they prepare the fiscal year 2004 budget request.

This is a solid authorization bill and I would urge my colleagues in the House to cosponsor this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed recorded votes on Monday, July 8, 2002. I would like the RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

On passage of H.R. 4609, rollcall vote No. 283, I would have voted “yea.”

On passage of H.R. 2643, rollcall vote No. 284, I would have voted “yea.”

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ZELMA LA BAR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Zelma La Bar and thank her for her contributions to the Pueblo Horizons Federal Credit Union and the community of Pueblo, Colorado. Zelma will always be remembered as a dedicated leader and an innovative CEO. As she announces her retirement, I would like to bring forth her accomplishments before this body of Congress today.

Zelma has served as chairperson of the Pueblo Area Chapter of Credit Unions since assuming that position in March 1997. She has also served on a number of Colorado Credit Union League Committees from 1991-2002, which includes the Legislative Subcommittee for Regulatory Issues and the Environmental Scan Sub-Task Force. Zelma is a member of the Credit Union Executives Society and serves as the Pueblo Horizons Federal Credit Union representative to the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Chamber of Commerce and PEDCO.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Zelma La Bar and the groundbreaking leadership that she has brought to the Pueblo Horizons Federal Credit Union and the City of