

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

Pueblo. Her devotion helped enable many families to invest their money and helped to make their dreams come true. I would like to applaud her for her years of dedication and hard work. Her time and dedication have proved an invaluable addition to the company. I wish Zelma the best of luck in her future endeavors—I hope she will enjoy her well-deserved retirement!

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I opposed the Republican prescription drug bill. And not only the bill, but the process by which we considered it.

Since being elected to Congress in 1998, not a day has gone by without my hearing from a senior who is struggling to pay for prescription drugs.

I've told the story of the woman from Westminster, CO who has to visit the food bank once a week so that she can afford her prescription drugs.

I've told the story of another woman who plays her own version of the lottery. She puts all of her bills in a fish bowl, draws one bill, and the one she draws is the one she puts off paying so that she can buy the drugs her doctor tells her she has to take.

And I've told the story of Juanita Johns, a constituent who kept the thermostat in her home at 60 degrees so she could pay her drug bills. That is until she sold her house and moved in with her son in order to afford her medicines. Juanita is not with us anymore.

Unfortunately, these women are not alone. Over one-third of Medicare beneficiaries have no drug coverage. Medicare does not cover

outpatient prescription drug costs. Many seniors turn to supplemental plans for drug coverage, but these plans often are expensive and have high deductibles or low benefits.

No senior should be faced with the choice of buying food, paying the electric bill or buying critical life saving medicines.

We have an obligation to our Nation's seniors to provide them with the lifesaving treatments they need and deserve.

Last month, we had the opportunity to do something about it. But the Republican leadership insisted on pushing through a proposal that subsidizes insurance companies and drug companies instead of helping seniors. Their bill does nothing to guarantee coverage for seniors. It has a gap in coverage that will leave Medicare beneficiaries 100% financially liable for thousands of dollars in drug costs, covers only 6% of Medicare beneficiaries, and does nothing to lower the price of prescription drugs. Instead, their bill gives \$310 billion to insurance companies to encourage them to offer stand-alone prescription drug plans, something that the insurance companies themselves say will not work.

If this bill becomes law, and if past is prologue, we will have insurance companies knocking on our door in the not too distant future telling us that they don't have enough money to provide these plans, and that they need more. It's just like what is happening with Medicare+Choice. Several insurance companies promised seniors affordable health care, took their premiums and then dumped them a year later. And now many seniors are scrambling to find a new doctor.

Now, I support the increase in payments for providers, which are included in the Republican bill. As a matter of fact, I am cosponsoring legislation to increase physician payments and to change the formula upon which those payments are based. I support increased payments to our Nation's hospitals, and I've joined with several of my colleagues asking the leadership of this body to address Medicare HMO payment issues. But in a cynical political move, the authors of this bill at-

tached these provider payments to their prescription drug bill to force us to vote against them. So I am going on the record today to say that my vote against this bill should not be construed as a vote against provider payments.

And my vote against this bill should not be construed as a vote against prescription drugs for seniors. I support the Democratic plan, which is a defined benefit under Medicare. It has a guaranteed premium, a guaranteed copayment, guaranteed coverage, and is available to all those seniors who need it. It doesn't have any gaps in coverage, and it has no gimmicks. That's what our seniors deserve.

But the Republican leadership wouldn't even let us bring our bill to the floor for debate. They wouldn't even let us offer amendments to their bill. Why not? If it was so bad, they could have just voted it down. But they knew that our plan was better and if it were put up against the Republican plan, it would have prevailed. Instead, they took a "my way or the highway" approach.

On the day of the vote, many members took to the floor of the House to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. ". . . one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Where is the indivisibility? Where is the liberty in this rule? Where is the justice in this rule? In this debate? In this bill? We should set a better example for other governments around the world. This is not the way democracy works.

Mr. Speaker, the great civil rights worker Fannie Lou Hamer once said, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired." So am I, and so are the millions of seniors who can't afford the drugs their doctors tell them they have to take. The number of seniors in this Nation will double over the next twenty years, and at that time, their voices and actions will be stronger than the insurance companies and the drug manufacturers. I just hope we don't have to wait that long.

I could not support the rule or the bill.