

to one of the most barbaric acts known to mankind. Amazingly, this barbaric act is perfectly legal in the United States of America. This horrible act of violence is called partial-birth abortion. Actually it is a procedure in which a baby is partially delivered, the doctor actually reaches in and turns the baby for a breech birth, and then is killed in a procedure too horrible to describe.

Congress has voted twice to make it illegal, but the previous President vetoed it both times. Today we have a new President who will do the right thing and make partial-birth abortion illegal, but first we have to send him the bill.

We in the House will have the chance to vote on this bill later this summer, and we will do the right thing. It will be up to the other body to act. No one knows what they will do.

It is time to make partial-birth abortion illegal. It should have been illegal long ago.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I do not know how you measure greatness in the modern world, but if in fact America is the greatest country in the world, then it seems to me we ought to be able to provide prescription drug coverage to our seniors. Unfortunately, the Republican prescription drug plan that is going to be brought to the floor is best symbolized by the hole in the doughnut, too much cost for too little coverage when compared with the Democratic alternative.

Take a look at the premiums: the Democratic alternative, \$25 fixed in statute. The Republican premium, not in statute, fluctuates. It may be \$35. It may be \$85. Probably at least \$50.

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Clearly, the Democrat plan is better.

Deductible: Democrats, \$100 deductible; Republicans, \$200 deductible. Copay: Democrats, 20 percent; Republicans, after the first \$1,000, 50 percent copay. Clearly, too much cost, too little coverage.

Finally, stop loss. Between \$2,000 and \$3,700, and the taxpayer pays the bill. There is no coverage, no protection whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bad plan, and we ought to reject it in the land of the great.

HOOPS FOR HOPE

(Mr. QUINN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I started, on September 11 of last year, to come to the floor to make this presentation; and of course, we all know what hap-

pened that morning. This trophy is a result of the benefit basketball game that is played every year for the last 3 years, and this past year on September 10. So although the announcement is a little bit late, it is important for me to note that the Hoops for Hope, a unique contest here, which pits Members of Congress against lobbyists in a benefit basketball game, has raised over \$50,000 in its 3-year history. We are on the road to raising \$75,000 this September; and my duty this morning is to not only present the trophy, but to announce that this past year the lobbyists eked out a 63 to 60 win.

We just wanted everybody to know who participated in the game. We benefit Horton's Kids and Staffers for the Hungry and Homeless. This money goes to a great cause, and we appreciate everybody's cooperation.

GLARING INADEQUACIES IN REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last Friday morning, while most Americans were still asleep, the Republican plan to create a drug benefit was pushed with brute force through the Committee on Energy and Commerce. While the Republican plan has too many flaws to mention in 1 minute, its most glaring inadequacy is that it makes no provision for dealing with the outrageous prices Americans pay for prescription drugs.

Apparently, Republicans and their corporate sponsors in the brand-name drug industry do not believe high prices are a problem. Yet last year, prices for the 50 most prescribed drugs for seniors have risen three times the rate of inflation, and the prices for some popular drugs rose by 10 times the rate of inflation.

Last week I sought to introduce an amendment that would have reduced drug prices for all Americans by reducing patent abuse and enhancing market competition. But the Republican leadership, which loves to champion the virtues of the free market, would not even let the Committee on Commerce consider the amendment.

If we need another reason, another reason to oppose the Republican plan, which was written by and for the big drug companies, let it be known that the Republican plan does absolutely nothing to reduce drug prices.

PASS REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, the House Prescription Drug Action Team and other leaders have been working very hard to provide a plan for a prescription drug benefit to all seniors. We

have had many listening sessions, and we have crafted a meaningful prescription drug benefit. We need to pass this plan now, especially for women and our seniors.

Women make up more of the population over the age 65 because women actually live, on average, 7 years longer than men. If we look at a snapshot of Americans aged 85 and older, nearly three-quarters of these are women. But they are not just living longer; they have smaller incomes and have fewer financial resources to take care of their pharmaceutical needs.

Women are almost twice as likely as men to have incomes below \$10,000, and two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries with annual incomes below the poverty level are women. Fewer financial resources and greater longevity are key reasons why Congress needs to pass this prescription drug plan now.

Under this act, men and women under the age of 65 will benefit from substantial discounts.

Mr. Speaker, we need to pass this plan now for all seniors, but especially for our women.

DEFEAT REPUBLICAN SHAM PRIVATIZATION PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL

(Mr. TIERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans appear addicted to drug company money. Why else would they try to fool the American people with a plan written with the drug companies that fails to cover over 90 percent of seniors, that insurance companies say they will not participate in because it is good only for the wealthiest seniors with the highest drug costs, that would have seniors pay out of pocket \$3,800 per year, and that does nothing to lower the cost of prescription drugs? In fact, the Republican bill so distrusts the President's Secretary of Health and Human Services that it forbids him to negotiate lower prices for seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican sham bill is just an attempt to privatize prescription drug coverage in the same way they tried to privatize Social Security. It will not help most seniors, and it will not work.

So while Republicans are busy cutting taxes for less than 1 percent of the wealthiest estates in America, they trade off real prescription drug coverage, saying it is too expensive; and they offer a sham bill.

The Democrats have a plan to cover seniors. It is affordable, it is accessible to all seniors, it allows the Secretary to negotiate lower and fairer prices, and it is real.

Mr. Speaker, let us defeat the Republican sham privatization bill and pass the Democrats' real deal for seniors.

DIRECT LINK BETWEEN ENERGY POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the conference on our energy bill passed in this House almost 1 year ago today is beginning soon. American consumers sent Iraq and Saddam Hussein more than \$1.4 billion for oil in the first 4 months of this year. This is a corrupt regime that pays the families of homicide bombers \$25,000 for their attack on innocent victims in Israel. We are at war, and depending on Saddam Hussein for the fuel that powers our war on terrorism is untenable.

Mr. Speaker, there is a direct link between energy policy and our national security. That is why more than 80 percent of Americans want us to pass a comprehensive energy plan that protects our national security while strengthening our economy.

In 1992, we imported 32 percent of our energy. Now, nearly 60 percent of our energy is imported. We need an energy policy. The conferees on the energy bill begin meeting tomorrow. I urge them to bring us legislation to increase our energy independence, create jobs, and strengthen our economy, Mr. Speaker.

SUPPORT THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT AND DISCOUNT ACT

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, Congress must add meaningful prescription drug coverage to Medicare. Prescription drugs can cost as much as \$500 per month; and in Rhode Island alone, 200,000 seniors lack drug coverage.

A study I commissioned last year found that the uninsured elderly in the district of Rhode Island pay an average of 78 percent more for the most commonly used prescription drugs than do seniors in foreign countries.

That is why I support the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit and Discount Act which adds a new part D in Medicare that provides voluntary prescription drug coverage for all beneficiaries. It includes a premium of just \$25 a month, which would be subsidized for low-income seniors. It has a \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit per beneficiary per year.

In contrast, the Republican plan would require high out-of-pocket costs for seniors while offering low benefits.

We must ensure that seniors do not have to choose between food or rent and getting their prescriptions filled. We must provide meaningful drug coverage.

SUPPORT FISCALLY-RESPONSIBLE REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

(Mr. FLETCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Democrats, once again are

misleading the American people on the debate over necessary prescription drug coverage for our seniors. To illustrate to my Democrat friends how our plan will help States, Kentucky has 615,000 Medicare beneficiaries and 50 percent of these citizens are below the 175 percent of poverty level. In Kentucky, a study estimates that State Medicare savings under the Republican-proposed prescription drug benefit would be \$549 million in the fiscal years 2005 through 2012.

In a time when seniors and State governments are experiencing financial difficulty, our plan provides seniors with an affordable prescription drug benefit to Medicare and immediate savings. States also benefit by saving millions of dollars in Medicaid beneficiary costs over the next several years.

Mr. Speaker, this plan is the only fiscally-responsible choice for both seniors and government and should be supported next week when it comes to a full vote in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Democrat plan remains an \$800 billion boondoggle; and I encourage, as we continue this debate, full support of the Republican plan.

OMNIBUS CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AND RESTORATION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when Enron hit, most of America thought that this was an exception, a company that had not done right, that deserved to be reprimanded, and that we would go forward. Sadly, there has been an announcement that there has been a rollover of the corporate elite violating the laws of this Nation and throwing America's investment community into a sense of doubt and shame.

It is time now to take a very forceful and firm stand against corporations that violate the law and hurt the American people, people who have lost their pensions, people who have lost everything, people who are unable to pay for their rent, their mortgages, their college tuitions of their children.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to offer the Omnibus Corporate Responsibility and Restoration Act. Once and for all, it is an omnibus bill that gets rid of insider trading, that provides us a firewall between accounting firms that consult and do accounting, that protects the pension plans of this Nation, and protects employees who can be taken advantage of by a company filing bankruptcy and then terminating thousands of employees.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stand up against corporate criminal activity.

SUPPORT REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

(Mr. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, seniors in the first district of Oklahoma and across America cannot afford the rising cost of prescription drugs. In order to live within their budget, some skip a meal, some turn off their air-conditioning, and some consume half the prescriptions that they need.

Without a doubt, I believe the Republican prescription drug plan is the only plan that will give our seniors prescription drug coverage they need at a cost that the Nation's budget can afford.

The Republican prescription drug plan provides a two-tiered approach that allows seniors to start saving on their prescription drug bills immediately. By grouping seniors together, Medicare can negotiate discounts from manufacturers. This is projected to save seniors about 10 to 20 percent upon the signature of the President.

The second part of the plan will come as a comprehensive and voluntary Medicare-based prescription drug benefit. The Republican plan will significantly reduce the costs of prescriptions and save seniors approximately 70 percent of their out-of-pocket drug costs.

The House Republican prescription drug plan will work for seniors today, tomorrow, and for the rest of their lives. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4598, HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION SHARING ACT

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 458 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 458

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4598) to provide for the sharing of homeland security information by Federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies with State and local entities. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether