

To put it in perspective, the Veterans Hospital in southern Ohio, where I serve, tells me that the average veteran who gets a prescription medication there on average gets 10 or more prescriptions. So if we take \$7 a prescription and we multiply it by 10, that is \$70 per month. Many of these veterans receive a 3-month supply of medications at a time. Three times \$70 is \$210. If I multiply the cost of a 1-month supply of medication at \$7 per prescription for 10 prescriptions, that is \$840 per year.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is an unnecessary burden to place upon our veterans. We hear a lot of lofty rhetoric in this Chamber about how we appreciate the fact that so many American citizens are willing to serve in our military, and many of them give their lives and limb in order to protect our freedoms.

It seems so inappropriate at this time in our Nation's history to place this additional burden upon our veterans. So I have introduced H.R. 2820. I have over 75 cosponsors at this time, bipartisan cosponsors, and I am happy to say the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) has introduced this legislation with me. This legislation is very simple. It would simply return the cost of the co-payment for a prescription drug from the \$7 that has been imposed down to the \$2 level where it has been. It would freeze the co-payment at the \$2 per prescription level for the next 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, surely when we can find the resources to give a \$15 billion bailout to our airline industry, surely when we can find the resources to give tax breaks, surely when we can find the resources to do a whole host of other things in this Chamber, we can find the resources that will enable us to keep from imposing this additional burden upon our Nation's veterans.

So, once again, I ask all of my colleagues of both parties in this House to simply cosponsor H.R. 2820 so that we can remove this burden which has been placed upon our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to mention another burden for our veterans. For category 7 veterans, there is a proposal that we would place upon them an annual \$1,500 deductible when they go to our veterans' health centers and clinics and hospitals to receive medical attention. This also seems like something that we should take action to prevent in this Chamber. I urge my colleagues, this is something that we can do. We ought to do it. I believe if Members talk to veterans around the country, this is something that they are keenly aware of and keenly object to.

We can solve this problem regarding the prescription co-pay by passing this very simple but important piece of legislation, H.R. 2820.

PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON STEEL IMPORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on President Bush's decision to levy up to a 30 percent tariff on steel imports coming into the United States. I am glad the President took a step forward, something that we hoped he would do, but he did much less than we asked. Steel companies, steelworkers, elected officials representing steel States, asked the President to levy 40 percent tariffs for 4 years, something to level the playing field for imported steel in the United States.

The International Trade Commission had found that steel companies in foreign lands, especially in Russia, Brazil, Korea, and China had violated international trade laws by subsidizing and selling into our market illegally priced steel, so-called dumping. The President had the option of levying tariffs up to 40 percent for 4 years. That is clearly what we needed for LTV in Cleveland, for RTI in Lorain, for CSC in Warren, Ohio, and steel companies all over this great country from Alabama to Ohio to Michigan, to Indiana, wherever steel is made in the United States.

Unfortunately, the President's decision to do up to 30 percent, understanding that it was not 30 percent in every case but up to 30 percent for only 3 years, fell short on that mark. It also fell short because the 30 percent is phased out during those 3 years.

The second thing that the President neglected to do was deal with the issue of legacy costs. That is those costs of health care and pensions that companies have promised to steelworkers that in many cases the commitment will not be met.

So on the one hand steelworkers with their health care are left out in the cold, those people who are retired. Second, those companies that absorbed legacy costs are in a competitive disadvantage with the rest of the world because most countries have universal health coverage provided by a government program, while in the United States in our employment-employer based health care system, the steel companies and other companies pay for the cost of the health care. So that puts us at a competitive disadvantage there.

It also is an argument for universal coverage because all American companies are at a competitive disadvantage when the government provides the health care in a Medicare-type system that most countries around the world have. Yet, in America, employers must pick up those health care costs.

The third problem with the President's decision on steel and where he fell short and the reason for my disappointment is that the President opened up several loopholes in his tariff proposals, in his tariff enactments.

For instance, there is a Mexico exception which allows companies in China, Korea, Japan and other places to sell their steel into Mexico at very low or nonexistent tariff rates. Then Mexico will sell that steel into the United States at a zero tariff because of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

So that Mexico exception allows those companies which have illegally priced their steel according to the International Trade Commission to back-door their steel through Mexico into the United States at no tariff. All Mexico has to do, if even that, is a Mexican company needs to do a little value added to the steel, stamp Made in Mexico, and send it into the United States.

Mr. Speaker, that could be a difficult thing to do, except that we do not police our borders well enough. We do not have tariff and customs inspectors in as nearly a comprehensive way as we ought to have.

Those are the problems with the Bush tariff plan. One, it is not 40 percent over 4 years. It falls woefully short. Second, it does not deal with the legacy costs which is unfair to those retirees. LTV workers lose their health care March 31. Other retirees have already lost theirs. It does not deal with the legacy costs for those companies that are continuing to produce steel. And, third, it creates the Mexico exception. That will hurt our steel industry. It is a question of national security. That will hurt our steelworkers. It is a question of our communities.

TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT JOHN A. CHAPMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Technical Sergeant John A. Chapman of the Twenty-fourth Special Tactics Squadron of the United States Air Force who gave his life in the service of our country. I join with his family and friends in paying tribute to him for his ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. My prayers are for his family.

John Chapman was a decorated soldier who readily and courageously participated in Operation Enduring Freedom. Among his many awards and decorations were: two Air Force Commendation Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, and two Joint Service Achievement Medals.

This tragedy should act as a reminder to all Americans that the liberties we hold dear are neither free nor secure. Our freedoms are earned and protected by our servicemen and women. They risk their lives so that freedom may survive.

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Technical Sergeant Chapman's courage in the face of danger reflects a

character born of his commitment to his family as a devoted husband, father, and son, and his commitment to his many friends and to our country.

We owe Technical Sergeant John Chapman our sincere appreciation for his 17 years of committed service to our Nation. His determination, devotion, and dedication to freedom should serve as an example for us all. It is important that we not only remember John as an excellent and dedicated airman and family man but also as the American hero that he is.

May God bless him and his family and those who have served with him. May God bless our great country. We indeed are a better Nation because of John Chapman and those who serve with him in our Nation's Armed Forces.

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, recently a study was conducted by the GAO, the General Accounting Office. It was to look into the degree of fraud in the immigration benefits program. I have oftentimes, Mr. Speaker, taken the microphone for the purpose of identifying what I believe to be our serious concerns in this particular agency. There are, of course, many people who work in this agency, many people who are assigned especially on the border, assigned with the task of trying to defend our borders, trying to actually make sure that people do not come into the country illegally.

This is an overwhelming task. I commend those people for doing everything they can to uphold the laws of the United States. But it is something I have likened to trying to keep back a flood with a sieve because of the variety of conflicting laws that have been passed by this Congress, because of the culture within the INS which has absolutely no support for upholding the laws, the immigration laws of this land, and because they are just overwhelmed by the numbers. I have often brought those things to the attention of the Congress. I have personally been to the border. Several Members and I took a CODEL down there just a month and a half ago or so. We observed firsthand the problems that are confronted by our people there on the border. I know and I sympathize and I understand their problems. They not only face the daunting task of trying to deal with the hundreds of thousands of people a day that come into the United States and determine whether or not they are coming here legally, for what purpose, for how long and that sort of thing, and they not only face the, as I say, conflicting laws that have been passed by Congress, some designed to enhance border security, others de-

signed to degrade it, but they are also, it is apparent now, working within a system that is broken beyond the ability for us to fix it. In their own system, they realize that they cannot look to anyone higher up on the ladder, those people that are there today who, as I say, are in the trenches, either on the borders or the people who work in customs, all of them recognize that the system in which they are operating is broken.

Recently, I returned from overseas. As my wife and I were going through customs at JFK in New York, the lady looked up and she said, "I think I recognize you. I actually watch C-SPAN. I think I recognize you. Aren't you on?" I said, "Yes, I have been on often talking about immigration-related issues."

She just hung her head the minute I said it, she said, "Oh, yeah, that's right, it is such a mess. Don't get me started on this. I don't know where to start. It is a mess." Her brief response to the word immigration, immigration policy, is I think probably the best analogy I can give you to the whole system. It is a mess. That is the best example I can give you, the best definition of the system I can give you. It is a mess. This recent report of the GAO is just the most recent example of the problem.

We have actually had over the course of the last 10 years several reports done by a variety of different agencies all on the INS talking about the inefficiency in the organization, their inability to get the job done, even referencing their lack of a true desire to get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, the INS, as you know, is divided into two parts at the present time. They have two different functions within the same organization. Maybe that is part of the problem, because these responsibilities conflict with one another. One part of the INS, Immigration and Naturalization Service, is designed to be what I call the immigration social work side, that is, to find benefits for people coming to the United States, hopefully legally, help them get their green card, help them get visas, all the things that are attendant to people coming into the United States legally and then being able to function when they get here. All of that stuff is part of their responsibility.

Then on the other side, of course, is the enforcement arm. The INS is supposed to be the agency to which we go when we say, look, we are concerned about the number of people coming across the border illegally; we are concerned about not knowing who is here, when they are here and what they are doing here and we are supposed to rely on them to do something about it.

But, as you know, as most of the Members of this body know, the INS is completely incapable and to some extent it is not really desirous of taking on that role. There are literally scores of examples to show that. The fact that 19 of these hijackers on September 11

came here on visas, some of them, of course, then expired, some people were here illegally at the time that it happened and the inability of the INS to control that process is a dramatic example, one dramatic event that happened as a result of their inability to actually know who is in the United States, know for what purpose they are here and know when they have overstayed their visa, for instance, so that they can in fact be deported. But the INS pays little, if any, attention; and they will tell you when you call them and ask them, do you actually go out and look for people who are here illegally. Their answer is, Well, of course not. That's not our job.

I was on the radio not too long ago with a lady who is the spokesperson for the INS in the Denver area and she said, really, that is not what they do anymore. They do not go out on sites and look for people who are here illegally. Really, our job is just to explain to them why they are here illegally and then help them get benefits. That was her statement. It was almost incredible, but that was what she said. That is what they think, that it is not their job. They will say, well, we do not have the resources, we do not have the time; but what they actually should add to it is, we do not have the inclination. It is really not in our makeup. It is not what we want to do. We want to be the social work side of it. That is what we can do well. We do not really do this very well, this sort of becoming a policeman. We do not like that idea. So they shy away from it.

We have had calls in my office from incredibly frustrated INS inspectors, from INS agents, sometimes who have been on board for 30 years. The caucus that I head, the Immigration Reform Caucus, has actually held hearings bringing these people in so they can talk and vent some of their frustration. It is incredible the stories they tell. They have every reason to be frustrated, because they work for an agency that is dysfunctional; and they are trying to do a job that is not supported by the agency itself. It would drive you nuts. I can certainly understand it.

We have had calls from judges who will tell us that they are immigration law judges, and they are also frustrated by the fact that day after day after day they see people in front of them who have committed crimes in the United States besides, by the way, being here, probably many of them, illegally but they have committed crimes and they are aliens and so they are ordered to be deported by a judge. But because they turn that function over to the INS right after the gavel falls and the person is ordered to be deported, they turn that function over to the INS and the INS simply looks the other way.

So at this point in time, we have at least, and I underline at least, because when you ask the INS for specific information, they come back with the same response. In fact, it is the logo that I have designed for the INS. It