

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to recognize the achievement of an exceptional group of young women in my Cincinnati congressional district, the St. Ursula Bulldogs volleyball team.

St. Ursula battled Ursuline Academy, another outstanding Cincinnati school, for Ohio's State volleyball championship. St. Ursula emerged victorious, capping off an undefeated season. With 29 wins and zero losses. St. Ursula was also declared national champion.

The victory marked St. Ursula's eighth State volleyball title, making it the only Ohio school to accomplish this feat in history.

Mr. Speaker, these are two excellent schools academically as well as in sports. They have faced each other three straight years for the State title. They are shining examples of what can be accomplished with hard work, perseverance, and teamwork.

It gives me great pleasure, especially since my niece, Maria, is a student at St. Ursula, to acknowledge in the United States Congress the success and achievement of these exceptional young women and their coaches, St. Ursula's Julie Perry and Ursuline's Amie Meyer.

Congratulations.

MEDICARE CONFERENCE REPORT'S RURAL PACKAGE

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rural package provided for in the House-Senate Medicare agreement. The package corrects existing inequities for rural and small town hospitals and providers by equalizing the disproportionate reimbursement payments they have been experiencing in the past.

Rural hospitals' base payment rate will be permanently extended by 1.6 percent to match the urban hospital payment rate and the amount of disproportionate share payments will be more than doubled to 12 percent of total Medicare inpatient payments.

The bill additionally pays cost plus 1 percent to the Critical Access Hospitals to ensure that they can improve access and services.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is exactly the purpose of the rural package: To provide immediate help to rural area and small city hospitals so that they can provide sustained access and quality service to their patients.

Our seniors deserve nothing less than that, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of our Nation's rural hospitals. Pass the Medicare conference report.

CONGRESS COULD DO BETTER FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today the House will take up an incredibly complicated \$400 million bill which purports to provide seniors something they need: help in buying pharmaceuticals. We could do this more simply and more cost effectively. We could have the government negotiate lower drug prices on behalf of seniors as they do for the Veterans' Administration, a minimum of a 24-percent reduction for veterans' drugs and actually an average of about 50 percent.

There is a bigger group of Medicare people. We could do better. It would not cost anything.

We could also allow the free reimportation of FDA-approved, U.S.-certified, U.S.-manufactured drugs from Canada and other countries. Many seniors in my district are doing that now, saving an average of 50 percent. But, no. Instead, this bill is going to prohibit the reimportation. This bill is going to prohibit the government from negotiating lower prices for pharmaceuticals, all to protect the profits of the pharmaceutical industry at a time when many seniors cannot afford the drugs they need to maintain their health.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECH IN LONDON

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week President George W. Bush gave an inspiring speech at Whitehall in London, while visiting the Royal Family and Prime Minister Tony Blair. The President stated clearly that the United States is committed to winning the war on terrorism.

In one of the most important moments of the speech, President Bush explains why we cannot forget September the 11th and the innocent thousands that were killed that day. The President said, "The hope that danger has passed is comforting, it is understandable, and it is false. The attacks that followed on Bali, Jakarta, Casa Blanca, Bombay, Mombassa, Najaf, Jerusalem, Riyadh, Baghdad and Istanbul were not dreams. They're part of the global campaign by terrorist networks to intimidate and demoralize those who oppose them."

The President is absolutely correct and I encourage all Americans to remember the act of war brought upon our Nation just 2 years ago. I have confidence that our military will win the global war on terror and I commend the dozens of coalition countries that have joined us in this fight for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, may God bless our troops.

BUSINESS WILL NOT ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE LIKE A BUSINESS

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, very often when we go out and hold town hall meetings, people stand up in the town hall and say: Congressman, why do you not run the government more like a business?

The answer is when we try to run the government like a business, business won't let us.

If one is a Wal-Mart, they negotiate their pharmaceutical prices. They negotiate the prices of goods sold in their store.

In one is a COSTCO, they negotiate pharmaceutical prices and people go to COSTCO to buy their pharmaceuticals.

But if the government wants to negotiate the prices as the largest purchaser of pharmaceuticals in the world, we will not be allowed to because the Republican bill prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating a better price for America's seniors and American families.

We cannot run the Congress like a business when the businesses are all lobbying to keep a monopoly, to keep high prices, to keep people from going to Canada and getting FDA-approved drugs. That is what suppliers do. People go where there are lower prices. They can search the world over in the globalized economy for lower prices. But American seniors who need life-saving drugs cannot search the world over for lower prices like the businesses can, because business will not let government run the government like a business.

JOBS AND GROWTH PACKAGE REAPING BENEFITS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it has become apparent that the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Package passed by Congress earlier this year has helped fuel the recent surge in the economy. The American economy grew at a rapid pace of 7.2 percent during the third quarter of this year, the best since 1984.

The seeds of economic growth are beginning to take hold. Our economy is rebounding. We have created strong economic policy built on a foundation of tax relief. The jobs and growth package that Congress passed has been responsible for putting taxpayers' hard earned dollars back in their own pockets.

This week we further our focus on jobs by passing an important comprehensive energy package and we will have an opportunity to strengthen our health care system by passing an important Medicare prescription drug bill

later today. These building blocks will continue to provide substantial stimulus over the coming months.

Most importantly, we must remember that America's strength comes from its workers, its small business owners, and its families dedicated to a better way of life. As a Congress, we must continue to assist our working men and women by removing the obstacles so they can capture the American dream.

NEVER NEVER LAND OF CORPORATE WELFARE

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle always talk about being the protectors of the free market system and believes if the free market would operate without government hindrance, business would be fine and society would be fine.

This week this House passed an energy bill that gave \$20 billion of taxpayer money to companies to do drilling for oil, do their basic services, when they should be doing that on their own without taxpayer subsidies.

Now, we are about to pass a prescription drug bill that pays HMOs \$80 billion to provide health insurance.

These are the bastions of capitalism? We used to have "end welfare as we know it." This is a new form of welfare. These are businesses who have come to rely on the government subsidies as the only way to operate their businesses. I think that today, rather than being the culture of the protectors of capitalism and the principles of capitalism, the Republican Party has become the bastions of the culture of welfare and we need to end welfare as it is being abused in our society.

Lately, the way I have seen our government turn into literally a culture of welfare for corporate and special interests, I am beginning to think that we have been caught captive in the Never Never Land. It is not Michael Jackson, it is us who have been caught here in this culture of welfare that has come to dominate and be used by businesses that have come to rely on the government, and the taxpayers more importantly, to afford their basic bottom line.

ADOPTION INFORMATION ACT

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, November 22, numerous organizations will join together in celebration of National Adoption Day to recognize the many blessings afforded by adoption. In honor of this day, I would like to draw attention to a bill that I introduced this year that seeks to raise awareness of adop-

tion, the Adoption Information Act, H.R. 1229.

Essentially, the Adoption Information Act would require all federally funded clinics to provide a detailed pamphlet of adoption referral information to all people seeking family planning services. All too often, women seeking pregnancy counseling do not receive all the information necessary to make an informed decision. Information on what adoption is and referral for adoption services are rarely discussed at all, and when they are that information is often inaccurate and incomplete.

H.R. 1229 aims to ensure that women are empowered with the accurate and complete information they need to make informed decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Adoption Information Act.

FIRST DO NO HARM

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to respond to one of my physician colleagues who was on the floor last evening and speak to others who think that they and we ought to support the conference report on Medicare reform. One of the most important tenets of the oath we take as physicians is that we must do no harm. This is to guide us in our practice and our interactions with both our patients and society.

The Medicare bill that will be before us today will do much harm by threatening to take away retiree prescription drug coverage. By refusing to provide wraparound coverage for poor seniors and disabled on Medicare, it will exclude many poor, disabled, and elderly by means testing, and most of all it will begin to destroy this important program which so many depend on and need.

Mr. Speaker, if this bill were to pass tomorrow, it would not help one senior next year. We have time to do it right and fulfill the promise we made to provide a comprehensive plan. Physicians, do not allow our profession to be used to pass a bad bill or hurt our patients.

I urge physicians to call their representatives and tell them to vote "no." I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Whether physician or Member of Congress, above all we must do no harm.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 456 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 456

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Friday, No-

vember 21, 2003, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this resolution.

□ 0915

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for suspensions that will be in order at any time on the legislative day of Friday, November 21, 2003. It also provides that the Speaker or his designee will consult with the minority leader or her designee on any suspension considered under the rule.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted yesterday, the Republican leadership of this House has set out on an aggressive legislative plan for this week on behalf of the American people. The goal of this plan is to pass a number of bills over the next few days which will dramatically improve the quality of life for all Americans.

This week we have already succeeded in passing an energy conference report that will bring our Nation's outdated energy policy into the 21st century through comprehensive legislation that promotes conservation, reduces America's growing dependence on foreign oil, and creates new jobs and cleaner skies.

Today we will consider legislation to make sure that America uses best practices technology and procedures to prevent tragic wildfires, like the ones that California just suffered through, from ravaging our Nation's forests. This important bipartisan legislation takes a healthy step forward in providing a better approach to addressing the problems that have to date prevented the proper management of forest health on private forest land.

This bill creates new programs to detect and suppress dangerous forest pests. It also creates two new programs which help family forest owners to manage their forests, protect watersheds, and help to protect wildlife on private lands. Both of these programs use a nonregulatory, incentive-based approach to promote conservation, rather than a top-down, one-size-fits-all regulatory approach.

For the balance of the week, we are slated to consider legislation to, among other things:

Number one, to authorize spending levels for the intelligence activities we need to win the war.

Number two, to reform Medicare to make sure that more of our seniors have the prescription drug coverage that they need while giving them much more and more choices for their health