

to discuss how the School Readiness Act will adversely affect minority children. What we are talking about here is Head Start. Of the 900,000 children in Head Start, 300,000 are Hispanic. This is something very near and dear to my heart. I am a former Head Start child.

The Republicans argue that the School Readiness Act will not allow States to supplant Federal funding, but, in fact, CRS, the Congressional Research Service, indicates that that is just the case.

Why should we care? I will tell my colleagues that every kindergarten, first grade and second grade teacher in my district that I have visited in every school, and I have gone to all of them, has told me that the number one thing that the Federal Government can do at the education level is to fund Head Start, to give our children the ability to start even at the starting line of education.

So why, why would the Republicans take a program that is working and try to change it, to put more barriers in front of our minority children?

OPENING AMERICAN MARKETS TO IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today we may be voting on a measure to open American markets to the reimportation of prescription drugs. I say we may be voting because, as a Member of this House, I have never seen an issue so important to me, to our colleagues, and to the American people treated so unfairly.

Access to affordable prescription drugs is too important an issue to only be debated on the House Floor for 1 hour.

Under the rule formulated for the debate on reimportation, the Speaker may pull this bill at any time. If that happens, Americans may remain under the thumb of the pharmaceutical industry for the foreseeable future.

In America, breast cancer kills over 40,000 people, especially women, each year. Mr. Speaker, a bottle of Tamoxifen used to fight breast cancer costs \$360 in the United States. It costs \$60 in Germany. How long will American women who cannot afford Tamoxifen continue to subsidize those in Europe who can? And if the drug companies have their way in this debate, Mr. Speaker, the sorry status quo will persist. Lives will be shortened, lives will be lost. This is bad process, bad form, and a bad rule. Our seniors deserve better.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF NEW YORK CITY COUNCILMAN JAMES DAVIS

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as New York City lost a true public servant yesterday in a violent shooting at City Hall.

Councilman James Davis of Brooklyn was an intelligent, passionate, and energetic young man who had an extremely bright future. He worked very hard and took his duties as a public servant very, very seriously.

With James, it was always about the community. He was dedicated to his community, having served as a police officer and district leader before being elected to the city council. One could always see the love he had for his community.

I met James through the Youth March Against Violence that he organized. He was only 41 years old and had served almost one term in the New York City Council at the time of his murder. But he had already made his mark. I will miss him greatly, as will the entire city and Nation, especially those of us from Brooklyn.

My sympathies and prayers go out to his family, to his staff, and friends. Farewell, James. You fought a good fight. Farewell, farewell.

A GRATEFUL NATION HONORS JEFF ALLEN AND SHANE HEATH, BRAVE IDAHO FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn humility to remember Jeff Allen and Shane Heath, two young Idaho firefighters who were killed on the afternoon of July 22 while battling a wildfire in Idaho's Salmon-Challis National Forest.

The loss of life is always tragic. The deaths of people working to protect our lives, property, and resources are especially painful; and I extend my heartfelt condolences to the families of these brave Americans.

Those with the skills and the courage to defend us against the ravages of nature and the folly of man are among the best and the brightest, and we must do all we can as a Nation to ensure that their lives are not put at unnecessary risk and that their sacrifice is never forgotten.

My own son, John, once served with a hotshot first strike crew for the Sawtooth National Firefighting crews, so I can empathize with the fear and the pain that comes from incidences like this that these families now face.

Today we pause to remember that wildfire does more than just damage our economy and our environment. It kills. May the loved ones of Jeff Allen and Shane Heath take what comfort they can in the sure knowledge that a grateful Nation honors them today and all those who follow them into the forests on our behalf.

AMERICANS NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH

(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, the death toll in Iraq of the United States military has now reached and will exceed the number of deaths in the Persian Gulf War. I stand again to acknowledge and respect the brave young men and women who stand for justice and freedom and fight for our beliefs in the war in Iraq. But as Ambassador Bremer has made his rounds in Washington, there is still a missing element: a lack of a plan.

It is now time for the administration to announce a collaborative and understandable plan for Iraq, for the aftermath of Iraq; a similar plan to the Marshall concept that brings together all of our allies, not whispering and suggesting that these allies are with us, but a pronounced plan where we know who are the ones that are sending troops and paying for the costs of those troops.

What is the humanitarian aid? What are the humanitarian groups that are there on the ground helping to rebuild Iraq?

And, yes, the American people must know the truth: An independent commission on the understanding or the question of intelligence and the paper trail that caused this administration to pronounce to the American public that we are about to be under imminent attack and that was the reason for the unilateral preemptive attack against Iraq.

All we need is the truth. All we need is facts. All we need is a collective, collaborative plan in order to ensure that there is a good exit strategy for Iraq and that the American people know that we are not going to be there 1 year, we are not going to be there 6 months, we may be there 4 or 5 years, and there may be continued loss of life.

The American people need to know the truth.

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, today this body will consider the School Readiness Act of 2003, better known as Head Start.

Since its inception in 1965, America's taxpayers have funded the Head Start program which has served nearly 20 million low-income children and their families. Unfortunately, the lobbying against this reauthorization legislation has been intense and, in many cases, misleading.

When did we lose the desire in this country to make a program better? Despite the millions invested each year,

test scores continue to remain low. There still has been a wide achievement gap between Head Start kids and their more advantaged peers. We have a long ways to go.

Meanwhile, since 1996, funding for Head Start has nearly doubled in this Republican Congress. Do we think we can do better for these children? Yes. This is a modest attempt to improve a program.

The demonstration program in this bill is voluntary, I repeat, voluntary, on the part of eight States who want local control to try and do better. Why not? What could possibly be wrong with that?

The School Readiness Act of 2003 is a good bill and an improvement to the program.

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FDA'S LOBBYING QUESTIONED

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in today's Roll Call, the Capitol Hill newspaper of record, there is an article, FDA's Lobbying Questioning. Let me read a couple of paragraphs:

"In a rare lobbying campaign by a Federal agency, the Food and Drug Administration has formed an unofficial alliance with the pharmaceutical industry to urge House Members to vote against a bill that could flood the Nation with cheap prescription drugs from Canada and overseas.

"The FDA's extraordinary moves to kill the bill" this article says, "and the informal lobbying partnership between a Federal regulator and an industry it oversees, has coming under fire from several Members who support this legislation."

Mr. Speaker, this may not be illegal, what the Food and Drug Administration has done, but it is certainly untoward, it is certainly unprecedented.

In my 11 years as a Member of Congress I have never seen a Federal agency use its civil servants to lobby Congress so directly and so brazenly; and what is particularly outrageous is that they are doing that against American consumers, against America's elderly, against people who need lower-priced prescription drugs. The drug industry's contributions to the Bush administration and to far too many people in this Chamber unfortunately might be paying off.

HELPING CONGRESS MAKE BETTER DECISIONS

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

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise quickly to make a couple of points. Sometimes we change legislation through impassioned speeches on the

floor of this House. Sometimes, in the quiet of committees, members offer amendments that make substantial changes in law. Sometimes you can make substantial change in our practices through change in the way we do business.

Yesterday, I introduced a change to the rules of House as a bill introduced in this House, which I would like to ask everybody to be a part of, that simply says this: Whenever a conference committee appropriates new moneys, expands a program or adds a program that was not incorporated within the House and Senate bills as they went through their normal procedure in this House, that those programs be delineated on the surface of that conference report, and that that conference report lie on the Members' desks for 24 hours before its vote.

When the sun shines in on the knowledge of last-minute appropriations and deals that are made, then we in Congress will make more intelligent votes on the bills that come before us than the late night and late hours of the conference committee reports and votes.

BALANCED BUDGET AND NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, if has been 804 days since the angels of debt, led by President Bush and the Republican majority in this House, embarked on the economic plan for our Nation. During that time the national debt has increased by \$1,085,680,723,163.

According to the Web site for the Bureau of Public Debt at the U.S. Department of Treasury, yesterday at 4 o'clock, Eastern Daylight Time, the Nation's outstanding debt was \$6,726,006,109,521.

Furthermore, in fiscal year 2003, interest on our national debt, or the debt tax, is \$277,768,492,816 as of June 30.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for you to schedule a vote on this House floor for a balanced budget amendment to the American Constitution.

UNITED STATES-CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 329, I call up the bill (H.R. 2738) to implement the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of H.R. 2738 is as follows:

HR. 2738

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Purposes.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—APPROVAL OF, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO, THE AGREEMENT

Sec. 101. Approval and entry into force of the agreement.

Sec. 102. Relationship of the agreement to United States and State law.

Sec. 103. Consultation and layover provisions for, and effective date of, proclaimed actions.

Sec. 104. Implementing actions in anticipation of entry into force and initial regulations.

Sec. 105. Administration of dispute settlement proceedings.

Sec. 106. Arbitration of claims.

Sec. 107. Effective dates; effect of termination.

TITLE II—CUSTOMS PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Tariff modifications.

Sec. 202. Rules of origin.

Sec. 203. Drawback.

Sec. 204. Customs user fees.

Sec. 205. Disclosure of incorrect information; denial of preferential tariff treatment; false certificates of origin.

Sec. 206. Reliquidation of entries.

Sec. 207. Recordkeeping requirements.

Sec. 208. Enforcement of textile and apparel rules of origin.

Sec. 209. Conforming amendments.

Sec. 210. Regulations.

TITLE III—RELIEF FROM IMPORTS

Sec. 301. Definitions.

Subtitle A—Relief From Imports Benefiting From the Agreement

Sec. 311. Commencing of action for relief.

Sec. 312. Commission action on petition.

Sec. 313. Provision of relief.

Sec. 314. Termination of relief authority.

Sec. 315. Compensation authority.

Sec. 316. Confidential business information.

Subtitle B—Textile and Apparel Safeguard Measures

Sec. 321. Commencement of action for relief.

Sec. 322. Determination and provision of relief.

Sec. 323. Period of relief.

Sec. 324. Articles exempt from relief.

Sec. 325. Rate after termination of import relief.

Sec. 326. Termination of relief authority.

Sec. 327. Compensation authority.

Sec. 328. Business confidential information.

TITLE IV—TEMPORARY ENTRY OF BUSINESS PERSONS

Sec. 401. Nonimmigrant traders and investors.

Sec. 402. Nonimmigrant professionals; labor attestation.

Sec. 403. Labor disputes.

Sec. 404. Conforming amendments.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to approve and implement the Free Trade Agreement between the United States and the Republic of Chile entered into under the authority of section 2103(b) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002;

(2) to strengthen and develop economic relations between the United States and Chile for their mutual benefit;

(3) to establish free trade between the two nations through the reduction and elimination of barriers to trade in goods and services and to investment; and

(4) to lay the foundation for further cooperation to expand and enhance the benefits of such Agreement.