

save them between 15 and 25 percent on each drug purchase. Lower income seniors will receive a benefit of \$600 on top of that starting next year.

There are also some other significant features in this bill. Medicare's reimbursement systems have historically tended to favor large urban areas and failed to take into account the needs of more rural States. This simply is not fair to States such as New Hampshire, which the Presiding Officer represents so ably, or my home State of Maine.

Ironically, Maine's low payment rates are also the result of its long history of providing cost effective high-quality care. We have a strange system where, if you delivered care in a low-cost manner, the formula actually penalizes you for doing so. In the early 1980s, lower than average costs in Maine were used to justify lower Medicare payments to doctors and hospitals. Since then, Medicare's payment policies have only served to widen the gap between low- and high-cost States.

This is an issue on which I have been working my entire time in the Senate. I remember in the previous administration meeting with the head of what was then called the Health Care Financing Administration and her telling me that in fact the State of Maine ranked dead last in Medicare reimbursements. Since that time, I have worked hard to improve the reimbursements to Maine, and now we are up to about 46, but that still represents a tremendous inequity.

I am, therefore, particularly pleased the legislation before the Senate takes steps to strengthen the health care safety net by increasing Medicare payments to physicians and hospitals in rural States such as Maine to help even out the reimbursement and eliminate the inequities that have hurt rural States.

According to the American Hospital Association, the provisions in this bill will increase Medicare payments to hospitals in Maine by approximately \$63 million over the next 10 years. That is a step in the right direction. It will be particularly helpful for our small community hospitals which are struggling to make ends meet. Those same hospitals tend to serve a population that is older, poorer, and sicker, so they particularly suffer when Medicare reimbursements are unfair because they simply do not cover the cost of treating this older, poorer, sicker population.

This legislation also restores funding to some extent for home health. That benefit has been cut far more deeply and abruptly than any benefit in the history of the Medicare Program. Earlier this month, 54 Senators, at my request, joined me in sending a letter to the chairman and the ranking member of the Finance Committee asking that they avoid any further cuts in home health care and extend the additional payment for home health services in rural areas that expired on April 1 of this year.

I am pleased the legislation before the Senate does provide for a full infla-

tion update for home health agencies and also extends the rural add-on that is vital to sustaining home health care in rural areas of our country. Surveys have shown the delivery of home health services in rural areas can be as much as 12 to 15 percent more costly because of the extra travel time required to cover long distances between patients, higher transportation expenses, and other factors.

While I am disappointed the Finance Committee reduced the add-on payment from 10 percent to 5 percent, at least it has been extended, and that will help to ensure that Medicare patients in rural areas continue to have access to home health care services.

The Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvement Act was approved by the Finance Committee by a strong 16 to 5 bipartisan vote. I think that bodes very well for the future of this legislation. At long last, this legislation holds out real hope to our seniors that they will finally receive an affordable, comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Since the cost of providing a meaningful drug benefit will only increase as time passes, it is imperative that we act now. I am pleased the majority leader has scheduled this legislation and set a goal of its passage before we adjourn for the July 4 recess.

Our senior citizens deserve no less from us. We must act. I am confident we will act to provide a long overdue prescription drug benefit.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FITZGERALD). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to speak as in morning business for no longer than 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION PROGRAM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words about our Nation's immigration policy.

The United States has been built on the labor, industry, and initiative of immigrants. The immigrant character that undergirds our country and enriches our society is expressed through our art, music, and culture—the fulfillment of one of America's greatest gifts to the world: the promise of thriving multi-ethnic democracy. In every war America has fought, from the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom, brave immigrants have fought alongside American-born citizens, with distinction and with courage.

And throughout history, those who have longed for the blessings of liberty

have looked to America as a beacon of hope, freedom, and the opportunity of a better life.

The American Dream itself is rooted in the immigrant spirit. What sets this country apart is our conviction that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are not just American rights, but the gift of a benevolent Creator to all humanity. And so America has always welcomed immigrants from every shore, saying: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Yet for too long, we have failed to address the flaws in our nation's current immigration policy. This issue is even more urgent in a post 9/11 world. Special interest groups dominate the discourse, employing the potent but morally repugnant rhetoric of fear.

We must acknowledge that we have done far too little to reform a system that cries out for change. The fruit of our current immigration policy is death, danger, and denial.

For immigrants willing to risk their lives for the opportunity to live here in America, exploitation at the hands of human smugglers can mean a slow and painful death.

According to some estimates, there are as many as ten million individuals who are in this country illegally; our homeland security demands an accounting of the identities of these individuals, their reason for being here, and whether they pose a danger to our citizens. And we can no longer afford to deny both the sheer number of undocumented immigrants in our country and the extent of our economy's dependence on the labor they provide.

Our relationship with Mexico, an important ally and trading partner, is a prime example of the ramifications of the tired old status quo. The stated desire of our Mexican friends for general amnesty for the millions of undocumented immigrants here in America is an untenable position in support of an unrealistic policy.

Instead, the guest worker program I propose acknowledges the vital role hard-working immigrants play in our economy and creates a comprehensive program, which will serve as an important step toward reestablishing respect for our laws and restoring dignity to immigrants who work here. It will enhance America's homeland security, facilitate enforcement of our immigration and labor laws, and protect millions who labor today outside the law. This program will benefit all participating nations and their citizens who wish to work in the United States and contribute to our Nation's prosperity.

Our immigration policy must adapt to modern realities. An effective guest worker program will acknowledge that millions of undocumented men and women go to work every day in America in violation of our immigration law, outside the protection of our labor law, and without any way of our Government knowing who, or where they are.

My proposal will encourage undocumented immigrants to come out of the shadows, to work within the law, and then to return to their homes and families with the pay and skills they acquire as guest workers in the United States. It will help guest workers receive the health care they need, without overburdening already strained health care providers.

It will protect immigrants from exploitation and from violence. And guest workers will no longer fear the authorities, but rather will come to see the law as an ally, not an enemy.

I have always believed that, as Americans, our patriotism isn't just expressed by flying the flag. It's about more than that. Patriotism means we all share in an ideal that is larger than ourselves. In all of our differences, there are some things we all have in common. In all our diversity, each of us still has a bond with all humanity.

We must bring our broken immigration system into the 21st century. We must move transient workers out of the shadows. We must ensure the security of our borders.

We must act for the sake of the rule of law, for the sake our homeland security, for the sake of immigrants who endure exploitation and even death for a chance to share in the blessings of American liberty—in hope, freedom, and the opportunity of a better life.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO STEVE REED

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an accomplished Kentuckian, Mr. Steve Reed. A native of Hart County, KY, Steve is a respected attorney, inspiring mentor, and loving husband and father of three.

In 2000 Steve became Kentucky's first African-American U.S. attorney. Some of his most significant work as U.S. attorney included fighting the methamphetamine problem in western Kentucky. Steve quickly recognized the problem and requested Federal funds to open an office in western Kentucky to combat meth production. With the new funding, he directed a program that more than doubled the number of labs raided from the previous year. Through Steve's efforts and the cooperation of

local law enforcement agencies, Kentucky's young people are better protected and more criminals are being prosecuted.

In addition to serving as U.S. attorney, Steve has supported higher education as a member of the University of Kentucky board of trustees since 1994. In September 2002, Steve became the board's first African-American chairman. He is dedicated to increasing the stature of academics throughout the university and Commonwealth. He is working to create stronger ties between private business and the university's research programs, and Steve has pushed for more minority and financial aid scholarships. Because of UK's prominence, Steve's efforts have not just affected the school but also have had a positive impact throughout the rest of Kentucky's educational system.

Steve grew up in poverty as one of seven children raised by his single mother. His maternal grandmother, Mama Verda, expected greatness from Steve, and emphasized the importance of always doing the right thing. He excelled in high school and moved on to Western Kentucky University where he tutored a fellow student. After earning a psychology degree, he attended UK Law School. Through his hard work and discipline, it is no surprise that Steve has achieved such success.

We are indebted to Steve for his service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in fighting drugs and supporting education. He stands as a model of hard work and discipline. I ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in honoring Steve Reed for his dedicated service.●

FRANKLIN HOTEL CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate the Franklin Hotel in Deadwood, SD, which celebrated its 100th anniversary of service on June 4, 2003.

The Franklin Hotel has been a welcome destination for visitors to the Black Hills region and has catered to guests since its doors opened in 1903. For locals and tourists alike, the past several years have seen a resurgence and interest in history, and the setting the Franklin provides to learn more about Black Hills history continues strong to this day. Whether the visitor was a well-known actor from Hollywood taking a break from daily shooting, noted public servants and athletes visiting the area on business or personal time, or the visiting family from Anywhere, USA or the world, experiencing the professional and welcoming, friendly attitudes of the Franklin Hotel staff is just another reason of making a Black Hills visit one to remember.

In many respects, board of directors president Bill Walsh is as much of an institution in South Dakota as the Franklin Hotel. The two are inseparable when it comes to colorful personalities and both are foundations in the

promotion and advocacy of South Dakota and Black Hills tourism. It would be all too easy for Bill to be just concerned about the promotion of the Franklin Hotel. Instead, he has been a stalwart advocate for projects impacting and benefiting Deadwood, the entire Black Hills, and South Dakota. One of Bill's highest priorities is making sure as many people as possible put Deadwood, the Black Hills, and South Dakota on their travel itinerary.

Over the years, I have appreciated Bill's valuable insight on politics, current affairs, tourism, and the economy. I have always appreciated his wit, his hospitality and, most of all, his friendship. Many who gathered for the centennial anniversary celebration have special memories of Bill and the Franklin Hotel. Many local residents will probably never forget that as the Grizzly Gulch fire tickled the edges of Deadwood and as people streamed out of town under evacuation orders last summer, the doors of the Franklin stayed open with a confident Bill Walsh sitting on the porch of the Franklin with a freshly-lit stogie in hand.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Bill and other members of the board of directors, Jo Roebuck-Pearson, Mike Trucano, French Bryan, and Taffy Tucker. I also want to congratulate MacKenzie Roebuck-Walsh, who co-owns the hotel along with her parents, Bill and Jo. Finally, I want to acknowledge the Franklin Hotel staff and the community of Deadwood on the centennial anniversary of the hotel. This event is but another chapter in the living legacy of one of South Dakota's cherished destinations.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor Bill Walsh and the Franklin Hotel for its 100 years of outstanding service. It is an honor for me to share with my colleagues the strong commitment to history the Franklin Hotel has provided. I strongly commend the staff and board of directors for their years of hard work and dedication, and I am very pleased that their substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Prince William, VA. On November 1, 2001, a 26-year-old and his 25-year-old friend were charged with a hate crime after assaulting a 46-year-old Pakistani taxi driver. The driver had picked up the pair and, during the ride to a nearby motel, the two