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ELECTION OF MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 590) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 590

Resolved, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Mr. Chandler (to rank immediately after Mr. Marshall).

(2) COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Mr. Chandler.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALLOWING REIMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MEANS LOWER PRICES FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, before the House voted on the Medicare bill, the public was told it would cost \$400 billion. Later, we found out that the administration knew all along it would cost \$550 billion.

Congress was misled by an administration that hid the numbers from the public and Members of Congress because of the perceived political benefits of the new law, saying that the end would justify the means.

But according to today's Chicago Tribune, "Instead of a political bonanza, the Medicare drug benefit is fast becoming an albatross around the administration's neck. Not a single new benefit has gone to a senior citizen, and the taxpayers got stuck with another \$150 billion bill."

Now the administration wants to talk about the benefit that comes with a discount card. With the way prescription drug costs have skyrocketed over the past several years, this discount card will not accomplish anything. It is like a sale at Nieman Marcus. They jack up the prices right before the sale.

In 2001, drug costs increased by 16.9 percent; in 2002, 18.4 percent; in 2003, a projected 19.5 percent, and going on to another 15 percent.

Instead of depending on a flawed Medicare bill, we must literally drive prices down by allowing reimportation, allowing us to get our drugs in Canada and in Europe where prices are cheaper.

MANUFACTURING JOBS

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the current status of manufacturing jobs in this country.

Last week, there was an article in the Boston Globe entitled, "What the Jobless Statistics Do Not Reveal," written by Paul E. Harrington and Andrew Sum. The article focused on the debate of when job creation will begin and why there is a huge difference in the report of job growth between two surveys, the payroll survey and the household survey.

The payroll survey is the corporate survey, which indicates a decreased loss of 620,000 jobs. However, the household survey says there is a 2.3 million increase in employment during this same period of time. Why the disparity?

Well, the household survey counts self-employed and contractors. If you are self-employed like a farmer in my district, you are not counted as being an employee under the payroll survey reports. The authors point out that the disparity is due to the fact that it has become so expensive to add new workers to payroll due to high cost of health insurance, unemployment insurance, worker compensation, payroll taxes, and it is easier and cheaper to hire and pay overtime.

If we want to stem the loss of manufacturing in the corporate sector, our legislative response is clear. We are going to have to address these issues of high cost.

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REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this House over the next 2 days is going to be debating the single most important environmental and jobs bill of the session, the reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act. It is unfortunate that we are not going to have the opportunity to deal with a bill that is right-sized for America's needs.

The administration's own Department of Transportation has concluded that we need \$375 billion to meet America's needs over the next 6 years; yet the administration has threatened to use its first veto of any bill if we have the temerity to approve anything over \$256 billion, which will be a 10 percent cut in transportation funding over the next 6 years.

Nobody in this Chamber feels that we should be cutting our investment in the future. It is time for Members on both sides of the aisle to support the bipartisan committee leadership to at least approve the \$275 billion bill, keep the basic structure in place, and make sure that we are giving America the transportation infrastructure it needs for the future.

MEDICARE DISCOUNT DRUG CARDS

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, during the next 3 months, Medicare beneficiaries will begin to see real savings on the cost of their prescription drugs with the help of voluntary Medicare-approved discount drug cards.

Starting in April, Medicare beneficiaries will be notified by mail of their discount card eligibility, discount card offerings, and enrollment procedures. By June, all Medicare beneficiaries, except those who already have Medicaid drug coverage, will be able to buy a card for about \$30 and take it to their local pharmacy and receive 10 to 25 percent off of the regular cost of their drugs.

People with incomes below 135 percent of poverty who sign up for the card will be eligible for an additional \$600 of additional assistance per year to help further reduce the cost of their prescription drugs in 2004 and 2005. This low-income assistance will benefit over 12,000 Indiana Hoosiers in my district, the second district of Indiana, and almost 200,000 Hoosiers statewide.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues who voted to support the bipartisan Medicare bill and the creation of a discount drug card program that will reduce the cost of prescriptions for our seniors and provide additional relief to low-income Medicare beneficiaries.

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ'S BIRTHDAY

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today on his birthday, we recognize the courageous leadership of Cesar Chavez, a man who inspired hope, pride, and strength and provided a voice for thousands of farm workers across California and the entire country.

My district encompasses San Jose, home to Cesar Chavez for many years. It is in San Jose that Chavez began to fulfill his dream of empowering farm workers to demand basic human rights and protections from the abuses of farm owners.

Chavez experienced employer abuses firsthand and saw it happen to thousands of farm workers from childhood through his adult years. And it was he who courageously organized his fellow workers to believe in their own dignity and power to gain equal rights, fair pay, and decent working conditions.

So on this day, I honor the memory of Cesar Chavez. I congratulate his wonderful family who still lives in San Jose. We all know that he is the symbol of inspiration to many, especially the children. May the legacy of this great leader, Cesar Chavez, live on; and may we always remember his phrase to all of us, "Si se puede."

WELCOMING BULGARIA INTO NATO

(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, on Monday there was a historic ceremony at the White House where President George W. Bush welcomed Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, and Latvia into NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I am particularly pleased of Bulgaria's entry as they are rapidly rising from decades of communist totalitarianism, which I have seen firsthand since my first visit to Sofia in June 1990. Bulgaria has been one of America's most courageous allies in the war on terrorism, providing troops for the liberation campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I want to personally thank the visionary Bulgarian patriots who have worked so hard to make today possible, including Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha, President Georgi Parvanov, Ambassador Elena Poptodorova, Foreign Minister Solomon Pasi, Defense Minister Nikolai Svinarov, Speaker Ognian Gerdjikov, Deputy Chief of Mission Emil Yalnazov, Ambassador Stefan Stoyanov, and Congressional Liaison Officer Zlatin Krastev.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CESAR CHAVEZ

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to take a moment to commemorate and celebrate the life of Cesar Chavez, a life that was a life with inspiration to all of us in this country because it meant the very best for all of us.

Cesar Chavez had a vision for this country, and his legacy is a living legacy because of that vision; and the realization of that vision continues to be a work in progress and a work that we must all undertake. His vision was about inclusion, that all of us in this country deserve a place at the table and deserve to be treated with respect and with the humanity we all deserve. His vision was about fairness.

This country is about all people regardless of who they are, where they came from, what they look like, what language they speak, that we all be treated fairly and equally. And his vision was the dignity of each person, that we are all entitled, all born with a dignity and a self-respect that merits the rest of us living to that legacy.

And that is the living legacy of Cesar Chavez, and we commemorate his life today as a legacy that we must all con-

tinue to strive for and to make a reality in this country.

ADDRESSING OUR OUTDATED IMMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank President Bush for recognizing the need to address our outdated immigration laws and policies, as well as to urge Congress to make this issue a top priority.

First, let me start by making it clear that I believe America should always honor its immigration tradition and legally admit a reasonable number of new immigrants every year. But the tragic events of September 11 awakened most Americans to the fact that our immigration system is not only seriously flawed; it also poses a danger to our national security.

The SAFER Act would strengthen our borders with increased screening and tracking of aliens, enhanced enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act, expedited removal proceedings, and reduced excessive immigration.

I also support H.R. 775, the bill of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), which would end the visa lottery system.

Our Nation is out of control. Immigration policies expose us to an increased risk of another terrorist attack, something I cannot sit back and allow to happen. It is time for Congress to act now to protect America's interests.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on postponed questions will be taken later in the day.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4062) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through June 4, 2004, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4062

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

The authorization for any program, authority, or provision, including any pilot program, that was extended through April 2, 2004, by section 1 of Public Law 108-205 is further extended through June 4, 2004, under the same terms and conditions.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN FEE AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 503(f) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697 (f)), as amended by section 2 of Public Law 108-205, is further amended by striking "May 21, 2004" and inserting "October 1, 2004".

SEC. 3. FISCAL YEAR 2004 PURCHASE AND GUARANTEE AUTHORITY UNDER TITLE III OF SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(j) FISCAL YEAR 2004 PURCHASE AND GUARANTEE AUTHORITY UNDER TITLE III OF SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.—For fiscal year 2004, for the programs authorized by title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.), the Administration is authorized to make—

"(1) \$4,000,000,000 in purchases of participating securities; and

"(2) \$3,000,000,000 in guarantees of debentures."

SEC. 4. COMBINATION FINANCING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this section and ending on September 30, 2004, subsection (a) of section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) shall be applied as if the paragraph set forth in subsection (b) were added at the end of that subsection (a).

(b) PARAGRAPH SPECIFIED.—The paragraph referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

"(31) COMBINATION FINANCING.—

"(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

"(i) the term 'combination financing' means financing comprised of a loan guaranteed under this subsection and a commercial loan; and

"(ii) the term 'commercial loan' means a loan which is part of a combination financing and no portion of which is guaranteed by the Federal Government.

"(B) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph applies to a loan guarantee obtained by a small business concern under this subsection, if the small business concern also obtains a commercial loan.

"(C) COMMERCIAL LOAN AMOUNT.—In the case of any combination financing, the amount of the commercial loan which is part of such financing shall not exceed the gross amount of the loan guaranteed under this subsection which is part of such financing.

"(D) COMMERCIAL LOAN PROVISIONS.—The commercial loan obtained by the small business concern—

"(i) may be made by the participating lender that is providing financing under this subsection or by a different lender;

"(ii) may be secured by a senior lien; and

"(iii) may be made by a lender in the Preferred Lenders Program, if applicable.

"(E) COMMERCIAL LOAN FEE.—A one-time fee in an amount equal to 0.7 percent of the amount of the commercial loan shall be paid by the lender to the Administration if the commercial loan has a senior credit position to that of the loan guaranteed under this subsection. Paragraph (23)(B) shall apply to the fee established by this paragraph.

"(F) DEFERRED PARTICIPATION LOAN SECURITY.—A loan guaranteed under this subsection may be secured by a subordinated lien.