

been teaching at the Little Red Schoolhouse kindergarten since 1963, and has personally taught around 1,500 students in the community of Lexington, South Carolina. Maro and her husband, Hugh Rogers, a former mayor of Lexington, built the schoolhouse in their own back yard where it stands today.

Maro has taught the essentials of learning to three generations of children. Students learned their ABCs, sang songs, listened to Mrs. Rogers read stories, and took field trips throughout the midlands of South Carolina for first-hand education.

Maro Rogers, a native of Baghdad, Iraq, of Armenian heritage, stands as a shining example of how one dedicated teacher can make a dramatic impact in the lives of our children. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Maro Rogers for her service to South Carolina's youngest students.

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

REFORM HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, like the economy the war and the United States' credibility around the world, health care is another casualty of the Bush administration.

Today, nearly 44 million Americans are without health insurance. The vast majority of those people live in households where someone is working full time. The cost to cover the uninsured is about 5 months' worth of the war in Iraq. Meanwhile, Americans who have health insurance are being forced to pay more than ever before. And the administration wants to shift even more of the burden to every American under the guise of reform.

A new study by researchers at Oregon Health and Science University put it bluntly, "We spend much more than any other industrialized country in the world on a per capita basis and we get much less in return."

Health care is a crisis that demands real leadership and real solutions. So health care will remain a crisis as long as the administration remains in office. The 2nd of November cannot come soon enough for Americans without health insurance.

BE HONEST TO OUR SENIORS

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

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, it has been 6 months since President Bush signed the historic Medicare prescription drug bill into law, and although the ink is hardly dry, there has been a steady campaign of misinformation by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

They say that these cards will not work, that they are too confusing, that they will not actually save seniors money. Mr. Speaker, the verdict is in. Medicare's new drug discount cards will save seniors money. In many instances, seniors will save hundreds, if not thousands of dollars.

For example, a senior living in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, my district, who takes three commonly prescribed drugs for seniors, Zocor, Nexium, and Fosamax, can save \$1,365 per year on their prescription drugs. I have done the math. That is money you can take to the bank, pay the rent or give to the grandkids.

The false accusations and scare tactics used by the political opponents of the prescription drug cards reminds me of something my mother used to say, "If ifs and buts were candy and nuts, we would all have a merry Christmas."

Well, Mr. Speaker, these seniors do not deserve to be lied to. They deserve the truth and they deserve a prescription drug card that will save them money.

LOAD THE WAGON

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

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, as I listen to the retorts from the other side, I think they must have adopted that great Republican philosophy that has kind of come back here recently, "Do not worry about the mule going blind, just load the wagon." And that sure is what we are doing right now: loading the wagon for our children and grandchildren.

I hear them talking about drug cards. You just call that 800 number and see what happens. Nothing. It is just like the drug card. You get nothing. It is another way to trick people.

We are going to be asked this week to raise the debt ceiling again, by \$700 billion, and to put our children again deeper and deeper and deeper in debt. It is insane to continue to do this to the next generations. If we are doing so frazzling good, then how come we are broke? I just do not understand that.

I hear them get up here every day and talk about how good things are. It is time to do the right thing.

MEDICARE CARD PROVIDES GREAT SAVINGS

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, seniors throughout West Virginia are learning about potential savings on their prescriptions because of recent reforms to Medicare. No matter what critics may say, it is very easy to find out information about the new prescription drug card. Just ask Ann Brown, one of my constituents.

I worked with Ann. We went on line together. And she was able to see very easily what her savings would be by going onto the Medicare.gov website.

But Ann is not alone. A senior living in Charleston, West Virginia in a 25304 zip code who takes Fosamax for osteoporosis, Zocor for cholesterol, and Nexium for acid reflux can save \$170 a month by using a Medicare-endorsed card, which is a savings of over \$2,000 a year. That is a real savings.

Why are they saving? Because the competition and buying power of over 40 million seniors across the country is driving down the cost of prescriptions.

Beginning on June 1, seniors will begin to realize these significant savings, and through the Medicare-endorsed prescription drug card, they will see that this benefit is significant, meaningful and hits the bottom line.

WE NEED A POLICY CHANGE

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, when the national Republican Party took us to war in Iraq, the average price of gasoline across the country was \$1.40 cents a gallon, and we were told that the cost of the war in Iraq would be negligible because it would be paid for by the oil in Iraq.

Now, 14 months later, the price of gasoline in America is more than \$2 a gallon and the war in Iraq is costing us \$200 billion. The Republican energy plan is to increase our dependence on foreign oil. Their plan for Iraq is more of the same.

With, now, almost 800 American servicemen and -women dead, 4,000 injured, it is quite obvious we need a different policy and a different leadership. It is time for a change.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG CARD A BENEFIT

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. On May 3, 2004, constituents of the First Congressional District of South Carolina began signing up for their new Medicare discount card. The enrollment fee for the discount card will range from zero to \$30 per eligible person.

The discount card will save the seniors and disabled Medicare beneficiaries of my district between 10 and 25 percent off the retail price of most drugs. In addition to the discounts, seniors whose income is below \$12,569 for individuals and \$16,862 for married couples may qualify for an additional \$600 credit to cover the full cost of their prescription.

Military retirees can now enroll in Medicare Part B without a late enrollment penalty through December 31, 2004.

Many seniors and disabled Medicare recipients have been waiting a long time for Medicare prescription drug coverage. I am proud that this Congress has answered their call.

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This discount card is just the beginning of more health care options and a greater quality of life for our seniors.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SHOULD HOLD HIMSELF ACCOUNTABLE

(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, this morning one of the military personnel whose actions were considered part of the horrific acts in the Iraqi prison stands for his court-martial. The words offered were a deep apology as members of his community indicated his service to his community, the kind of human being he was and to them still remains.

The reason why I rise is because his indictment and court-martial today does not in any way take away the ultimate responsibility all the way to the Secretary of Defense. Nothing I have heard from the Secretary of Defense commends me to believe that he should not go, and he frankly should hold himself accountable for the lack of procedures and lack of training and the lack of training given to these enlisted National Guard and others who came there without training, without resources, despite the fact that we all should know right from wrong.

Today, with the Defense authorization bill, nothing in the bill speaks to this issue; and this bill is wracked with problems because it does not address the tragedy in Iraq.

WE ARE BETTER OFF NOW THAN FOUR YEARS AGO

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it really is a very good question posed frequently on the House floor today, Are we better off today than we were 4 years ago? Let us think.

Four years ago, we had a morally disgraced President in the United States of America in the Oval Office. Today we have a man of integrity, of virtue, of principle, of purpose.

Four years ago, the terrorists planned their attacks against America and our allies. Today, America attacks the terrorists while they cower in the mountains of Pakistan.

Four years ago, Saddam Hussein amassed weapons of mass destruction, the Taliban was in power, and Libya had a WMD program. Today, the Taliban is gone. Saddam Hussein is in a cell. We have found pieces of his WMDs, and Libya has ended its program.

Four years ago, the Clinton recession took hold. Today, last month, 300,000 new jobs.

Four years ago, partial birth abortion was legal in America. Today, that moral horror has ended.

We are better off today than we were 4 years ago.

PEOPLE IN THE 32ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ARE NOT BETTER OFF THAN FOUR YEARS AGO

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask, Are we better off now than we were 4 years ago? Unfortunately, for people that I represent in the 32nd Congressional District, including the San Gabriel Valley in East Los Angeles, it is a resounding "no."

Nearly 20,000 people have lost jobs in my district. Unemployment has hovered from 9 to 10 percent for 3 chronic years. Thirty-three percent of the people I represent have no health insurance, and a good number of those people are young children under the age of six.

Yet the House Republican leadership continues to push for wealthy families' tax breaks.

This week, the House will vote on a bill that would provide new tax breaks to rich families earning over \$309,000 a year. Most of the people in my district do not make that much. They actually make anywhere around 20 and \$10,000 a year. People making \$10,000 a year would get nothing in this tax break, \$150 at the most, compared to those at the very wealthy end who will get more money.

We need to do better, and our folks are not better off now. Four years ago they were.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ACT TO STAMP OUT PEER-TO-PEER CHILD PORN

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday several Federal agencies announced a national law enforcement initiative aimed at combating the growing volume of illegal child pornography distributed through peer-to-peer file trading networks.

Since last fall, the effort has resulted in hundreds of searches nationwide, the identification of thousands of computers used to traffic in child pornography, and the arrest of more than 65 individuals.

This action should be commended and further action encouraged, but Friday's announcement is a disturbing confirmation that peer-to-peer programs are being manipulated. They are becoming an ever-more dangerous platform used by child predators, some

convicted child molesters, to attack kids.

Parents need the ability to protect their kids before they are harmed by cyberpredators using peer-to-peer software. H.R. 2885 would give parents the tools and help parents prevent this from happening in the first place. I urge support.

DISCOUNT DRUG CARD IS A FARCE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I listened to my colleagues on the Republican side talk about the discount drug card, so-called, that goes into effect June 1. It is such a farce.

First of all, there is no drug benefit. We all know that. They have postponed that to sometime 2 years from now, in 2006, when you will actually have to put out more money than the benefit you would get, so nobody would sign up for it anyway. But what a farce these cards are.

In my district in New Jersey, you can already get most of these cards. You do not even need to go through the Federal Government.

In addition to that, if you look on this Web site and it shows you that there is a lower price, well, if you look and compare with other Internet sites, the prices are usually lower in other Internet sites. You do not even need the drug card.

In addition to that, the price can change. Whatever price is on that Web site, a week later they can change the price and simply raise it.

In addition, my constituents have been complaining about how they go to a particular pharmacy, they will not even take the card.

I have never seen so much chaos. Seniors are disgusted by this proposal. It is just a bureaucratic nightmare. It gives them no discount whatsoever and no benefit.

REGULATORY BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, as a former small businessman, I rise today in support of Republican efforts this week to reduce the regulatory burden on small businesses, the job engine of this country.

I know firsthand that the Federal regulatory burden strangles small business in America and keeps American-owned businesses from creating more jobs. In the year 2000, the estimated total regulatory burden in America was a job-crushing \$843 billion. Along with high rates of taxation, which Democrats want to raise even further, nothing stifles job creation in America like the heavy hand of bureaucratic regulation.