

President Bush has already admitted that his prescription drug plan is complicated and confusing, and yet the President refuses to give seniors more time to sign up for a drug plan without facing a penalty. If the President refuses to act, Congress must step in.

Congressional Democrats want to extend the deadline until the end of the year, giving seniors 7 additional months to navigate the complexities of the plan.

As we mark off another day on the calendar, Mr. Speaker, time is running out for congressional Republicans to join us in supporting this extension. America's seniors cannot afford a Bush prescription drug tax.

TRIBUTE TO BUCK, SCOUT WAR DOG

(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, during the President's State of the Union address, a military working dog was among the honored guests, sharing box seats with First Lady Laura Bush.

While serving alongside a soldier in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, this dog searched for explosives and saved the lives of many American soldiers. Since World War II, dogs have served and protected our troops on nearly every battlefield, and today they help detect terrorists in the global war on terrorism.

For many years, Johnny Mayo and his dog, Buck, of Lexington, South Carolina, worked tirelessly to promote the dedication of America's military war dogs.

An inspiration for the book, "Buck's Heroes," Buck, a 15-year-old Siberian Husky, touched the lives of many people throughout our Nation. Last Thursday, Buck passed away at home. Today I am honored to recognize his unique service for all American military dogs, which is especially needed in the war on terrorism.

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

IMMIGRATION AND THE LOS ANGELES RALLY

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, as a proud daughter of immigrants, I rise today to echo the message of immigrant families across America in support of comprehensive immigration reform.

This past weekend, I took part in the largest demonstration that has ever taken place in California, in the area of Los Angeles, since the Vietnam War. Half a million people, if not a million, marched peacefully to let the Senate know that an enforcement-only border protection approach will not solve our broken immigration system. Nearly

40,000 students across Southern California and some from my district even marched to defend human rights and immigration reform.

I urge them to return to their classrooms and empower themselves through education to make a difference in their future. President Bush said, "Immigration is an important topic. We need to maintain our perspective. At its core immigration is a sign of a confident and successful Nation."

Our Nation needs laws that protect our borders, embrace our families, and provide earned legalization for law-abiding immigrants. Immigrant families are an important part of our social fabric and economy. Our Nation should not turn its back and ignore their needs.

THE NEW YORK TIMES GOT IT RIGHT

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I never thought I would stand on our House floor and say the words I am about to say, but here goes: the New York Times got it right.

Yes, you heard me correctly. Over the weekend, the New York Times ran an article touting the success of the new Medicare prescription drug program with the headlines: "For some who solve the puzzle, Medicare drug plan pays off."

It is about time that the mainstream media started reporting on the success of the Medicare program. For months Republicans have been holding town halls and coming to this floor to discuss how this historic program is helping America's seniors save money on their prescription drugs.

But the media and Democrats have turned a blind eye. They have ignored folks such as Virginia Shores who thought she heard her pharmacist wrong when he told her that with her new Medicare prescription drug card the cost of her prescriptions was only \$50, down from \$250.

Well, I suppose every once in a blue moon the mainstream media gets something right. Perhaps now is the time for Democrats to take time off from their demagoguery and actually listen to seniors.

It is amazing what you can learn. Just look at the New York Times.

THE SENATE NEEDS TO PASS THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my thoughts on our Nation's need for passing the comprehensive Water Resources Development Act by this Congress.

On July 14 of last year, H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act, passed here in this House by a resounding 406-14. The measures authorized major flood control, navigation, environmental restoration, and other water resource projects.

Yet once again, similar to years past, this vital legislation has become bogged down by our colleagues in the other body. It is critical that we return to a 2-year cycle to provide continuity for vital water-related infrastructure. Infrastructure investment has been and will continue to be the bedrock foundation of our economic growth and public safety.

A water resource bill is critical to the protection of our environment and the public safety, and the Nation needs this one right now.

MEDICARE PART D IS WORKING

(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, today I rise to talk about the good news that is spreading across the country. Medicare part D is working. Seniors are signing up for a drug benefit through Medicare for the very first time.

According to recent studies, seniors could save as much as \$1,100 annually. This is real savings for our senior population. Over 27 million Medicare-eligible beneficiaries now have drug coverage, a 25 percent increase from February, a 25 percent increase in 1 month.

Medicare's initial goal for the first year of enrollment was between 28 and 30 million beneficiaries, and they are well on their way there. In my home State of West Virginia, over 226,000 beneficiaries now have coverage, a 6 percent increase just in the month of February.

72,000 of those live in my district. This is real success. I sat next to John the other day at a dinner. He informed me with his new Medicare prescription drug coverage he is going to save \$4,000 this year.

This is good news. There is much more work to be done. We must pull together to work with our constituents to find the best plans for their individual situations.

A TALE OF TWO YALE SPIES

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Yale University proudly boasts it has among its students a so-called former Taliban leader. The Taliban promotes treating women like property, intolerance for religious diversity, hate for freedom, and death to America.

Has Yale let a Taliban spy into its midst? Has elitist Yale University lost its way? But Yale did have a spy graduate from its university over 200 years ago. He was a 21-year-old. His name

was Nathan Hale. He was a schoolmaster, a volunteer in the Continental Army, and a spy for George Washington.

While Hale was gathering intelligence on the British in 1776, he was betrayed by Tories in New York City, captured and hung by British General Howe without a trial.

Though Hale is rarely mentioned in U.S. history books any more, his last words before being hung were: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Yale University would do well to recruit and honor students like Hale, instead of Taliban radicals who are villains to freedom. And, Mr. Speaker, that is just the way it is.

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RECOGNIZING ARIELLE CHIKOVSKY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to an extraordinary young woman from South Florida, Arielle Chikovsky.

As a young girl, Arielle learned that she suffered from Ushers Syndrome, a genetic disease which causes the hearing-impaired to lose their eyesight. Yet Arielle has not let her condition detract her from her daily life. Remarkably, last year, at the age of 22, Arielle graduated from law school.

Arielle is a finalist in the American Eagle Live Your Life Essay Contest. If named the winner, she plans to donate the \$25,000 reward to Hope for Vision. Hope for Vision is a nonprofit organization dedicated to discovering treatments and cures for retinal degenerative diseases.

I congratulate Arielle, who sets an example for everyone she encounters, and I support Hope for Vision and its leader, Isaac Lidsky, for their efforts to find a cure for this disease.

60 MINUTES AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the first amendment guarantees freedom of the press, and with that freedom comes responsibility. But we all remember the 60 Minutes II report during the last campaign which used partisan sources and forged documents to assert that the President of the United States had not fulfilled his duty in the National Guard, a report that was proven to be false.

Well, here we go again. Recently I saw a 60 Minutes segment in which a scientist claimed that his views on global warming were being censored by the administration. Of course, they did not report that this man had received a

\$250,000 grant from the foundation controlled by Theresa Heinz Kerry. They did not report that this man had endorsed John Kerry. They did not report that he has served as a consultant for Al Gore nor that he had made similar claims against President Bush's father in 1989.

The first amendment gives freedom of the press, but the truth is the foundation for credibility.

60 Minutes should tell both sides of the story in a fair and balanced way, or they should simply air this disclaimer: "60 Minutes brought to you by the National Democratic Committee."

MEDICARE PART D

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was pleased to join with Representative JAN SCHAKOWSKY, Representative DAN LIPINSKI, a grass-roots community group known as Citizens Action, a large number of senior citizens, as well as a group of retired workers, calling for the redesign and redevelopment of part D of the Medicare program.

As a matter of fact, the seniors who were there all condemned everything that they had come into contact with relative to the terrible frustration. I hope that Americans all across the country would join with us to revise Medicare part D.

MEDICARE PART D SUCCESS STORY

(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, every day we are hearing success stories from seniors who are saving money with Medicare part D. Two of these seniors are Mary and Jerry O'Brien of Cobb County, Georgia.

I want to share with you a letter Jerry O'Brien wrote to my office. He said, "I went to medicare.gov and I found a comparison of various programs. I chose one for my wife for \$70 a month, which has no deductible. We had no prescription insurance before and find Medicare part D to be very effective. We saved enough, in fact, on the first prescriptions to pay for 2 months' worth of premiums. I realize the program got off to a shaky start, but as far as I am concerned, it is now working well."

Mr. Speaker, Mary O'Brien saved enough money for 1 month of prescriptions to pay for 2 months of premiums. For the O'Briens, Medicare part D is literally paying for itself.

I hope seniors will hear the O'Brien story and go to www.medicare.gov and find out how much money they could save with a Medicare part D plan. The initial enrollment period ends May 15,

so I want to encourage all seniors to sign up now and start their savings immediately.

GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the benefits of having a physical or virtual fence along the 2,000-mile Mexican-U.S. border to crack down on illegal immigration.

I recently returned from a week-long trip to the Mexican-California border, and I am convinced of one thing. Good fences make good neighbors. First, we need to complete construction of the double fence for 700 miles along the border near highly populated urban areas.

For example, San Diego saw a steep reduction in crossings from 500,000, now down to 130,000, when the double fence was completed there. Second, for the remaining 1,300 miles along the border, where mountains and rugged terrain make completion of a double fence impossible, we need to have a virtual fence which consists of infrared cameras that allow our Border Patrol agents to see the entire border.

Mr. Speaker, the House recently passed a tough border security bill that authorized the appropriate border security fence, but the Senate yesterday cleared a bill out of the Judiciary Committee that did absolutely nothing to build this border security fence. It is now time for the full Senate to get serious about border security.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY ON ITS APPEAR- ANCE IN THE FINAL FOUR

(Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, George Mason University hosts two Nobel Prize winners, a top 25 law school and the most ethically diverse student body in the world. But today, Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor the George Mason University men's basketball team for overcoming incredible odds to make it to the 2006 NCAA Division I Final Four.

George Mason is only the second team with a double-digit seed to advance to the Final Four and the first to do so since 1986. George Mason is also the first team in Colonial Athletic Association history to advance this far in the tournament. Under the guidance of Coach Jim Larranaga and assistants Chris Caputo, Scott Cherry and James Johnson, the Patriots have shown America that with hard work, dedication and, most importantly, teamwork, any goal, no matter how far-fetched it may seem, can be reached.

They provided several heart-stopping moments throughout the tournament