

who have not enrolled will be charged an extra 1 percent of the payment of any plan they eventually do choose, for the rest of their lives.

This new tax on prescription drugs is yet another example of how this Republican plan was written to benefit large drug companies, not the Medicare recipients who need the help.

Democrats are fighting to extend this deadline. Our seniors should not be penalized with a lifetime surcharge for doing their research on these plans.

IS THIS THE DEMOCRATS' AGENDA?

(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, this week a resolution was introduced in the United States Senate that would censure President Bush over the National Security Agency's surveillance program. We have seen the Democrats launch political stunts before, but this one certainly takes the cake.

They have determined, on their own, that President Bush has broken the law by authorizing surveillance of al Qaeda communications. They are so intent on opposing everything that President Bush is for that they don't seem to realize or even care about the message this sends to the rest of the world as we fight the war on terror.

The fact is, this is a necessary tool in the war on terror, and it is working. As General Michael Hayden, the principle Deputy Director of National Intelligence stated, "We have learned information from this program that would not otherwise have been available. This information has helped detect and prevent terrorist attacks in the United States and abroad."

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have put off releasing their agenda for months now. I guess I can see why, since it includes stripping away important tools to fight the war on terror. Perhaps the Democrats should go back to having no agenda.

□ 1015

WE NEED TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR MEDICARE PART D SIGN-UP

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, President Bush went to New York yesterday to tout his confusing and failing prescription drug plan for seniors.

The Bush administration has botched this plan since day one. For one, Medicare itself put out all kinds of wrong information that increased confusion among already frustrated seniors. Second, low-income seniors that were promised an easy transition from State programs to Federal programs ran into

huge problems, leaving some seniors no choice but to go without their drugs. Third, States were forced to step in and pick up the tab for the Federal Government's incompetence. It is no wonder that only about five million seniors have willingly signed up for the plan.

Seniors should not be penalized for the Bush administration's incompetence. Unfortunately, that is exactly what will happen if President Bush does not extend the deadline for seniors to sign up for the plan.

Two months from today, May 15, is the deadline for seniors to sign up for a plan; and if they do not, the administration will permanently increase their premium with a 1 percent penalty for every month they wait to sign up.

Democrats want this deadline extended, and we want to fix the drug plan so it works for seniors and the disabled and not just the drug and insurance companies.

EXTEND THE DRUG BENEFIT DEADLINE

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare drug program is off to a rocky start, as President Bush put it yesterday.

Following a dozen town hall meetings I have held in my district on the part D benefit, my constituents remain confused and doubtful that the drug plan will work for them. As a result, many seniors on Long Island have not yet signed up. Many of those who have chosen a plan are encountering delays in their applications and will not receive their drug cards until after the May 15 sign-up deadline.

Adding insult to injury, seniors will be penalized with a 1 percent premium increase for every month after the deadline passes. This Bush Medicare penalty should not be piled on top of the already overwhelming burden of understanding the drug benefit.

Mr. Speaker, America's seniors deserve real help keeping up with soaring prescription drug costs. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support a 6-month extension of the sign-up deadline so that seniors are not punished and they receive the affordable life-saving drugs they deserve.

DEFINING DEVIANCY DOWN

(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, the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan described the process by which perverse behavior slowly becomes accepted by society over time. He called it "defining deviancy down."

A recent newswire story illustrates his point. The story reports that Germany's sex industry is gearing up to handle a record demand for prostitu-

tion during the 2006 World Cup soccer tournament.

One man involved in the criminal underworld of German prostitution told the reporter, "Football and prostitution are a great match. What else could you hope for?"

What else could you hope for? Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the evils of prostitution and human trafficking be condemned by society, not flaunted. I would hope for an end to sexual exploitation of women and children. I would hope for some sanity to prevail in the civilized country of Germany.

The story also reports that there are an estimated 15,000 victims of sex trafficking in Germany at any given time. That, Mr. Speaker, is the real cost of defining deviancy down.

MILITARY RECRUITERS AT COLLEGES

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Supreme Court for upholding the Solomon amendment, which permits the withholding of Federal funds from colleges that close their doors to military recruiters.

This case is a glaring indictment of our liberal influence within our colleges and institutions of higher learning, these spineless liberals who speak of the concept of allowing differing points of view, but in reality they oppose it.

Look no further than one of our Nation's most liberal colleges, Yale University. Last year, it admitted a Taliban spokesman as a special student, even as Yale Law School was suing in Federal Court to ban U.S. military recruiters from its campus.

As Americans, we should be appalled with this seditious behavior and hold these liberals accountable for their actions. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court's verdict last week is a victory for common sense and for the protection of our country against liberal lunacy.

POLL BRINGS POSITIVE NEWS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, a poll was released today which reaffirms what many on this side of the aisle, Republicans, are telling seniors at our town hall meetings: The Medicare prescription drug program is working.

In a poll conducted last week by Ayres, McHenry & Associates, 6 out of 10 seniors who voluntarily enrolled in the Medicare Part D program reported that they are saving money in the program.

A second survey by the same group found that 9 out of 10 seniors eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, dual eligibles, stated that they were having no

problems using the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. Eighty percent said the program covered the prescription drugs that they need.

Now, you are not going to hear this good news from the Democrats on that side of the aisle. Seniors are saving money and now have more choices than they ever have had.

Mr. Speaker, this is good news from these polls. The Medicare prescription drug program is presently working for America's seniors, and Democrats need to accept that.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 725 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 725

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. When the reading for amendment reaches title II, such title shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) is recognized for 1 hour.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to insert tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, on March 14 the Rules Committee met and granted an open rule on House Resolution 725, with 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

The bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule and waives all points of order against the bill. Additionally, when the reading for the amendment reaches title II, such title shall be considered as read. This rule accords priority of recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to be able to manage this rule. The rule provides for an emergency supplemental funding package to sustain our troops in the ongoing war on terror and to assist in providing emergency relief for those affected in the Gulf States by last year's tremendous hurricanes.

However, Mr. Speaker, the fact that this bill is being brought to the floor under an open rule should not be overlooked. This means that anyone in the majority or the minority may bring to the floor any amendment that is germane to this legislation.

As one of the most important bills that will be brought to the House floor this year, we should all be able to agree that an open rule is the right thing to do and will allow the House to work its will.

The supplemental appropriations package is the sixth supplemental since September 11 that focuses on meeting the challenges imposed on us by the global war on terrorism. Specifically, this supplemental provides for replenishing of those accounts that the military has exhausted during sustained operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas of the world. Additionally, it provides important funding to assist in our efforts to address the disastrous results of the hurricanes in the gulf coast communities. Finally, these are important measures dedicated to improving the benefits due our soldiers and their families who have often been asked to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Among the important provisions in this bill is a \$2 billion effort at the suppression of technology for so-called IEDs, improvised explosive devices, in Iraq and other areas. IEDs, rather than direct engagement with enemy combatants, have caused over half the casualties our forces have sustained in Iraq. Additionally, the supplemental fully funds the enhanced \$400,000 Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance benefits and the \$100,000 death gratuity benefit for combat-related fatalities.

Mr. Speaker, the Appropriations Committee also addressed several other issues inside the supplemental that are essential to successfully continue to prosecute our global war on terror.

Important obligations are met in the underlying legislation. In particular, this legislation earmarked \$850 million over the President's request to ensure that the National Guard receives upgraded Bradleys and Abrams when deploying. Additionally, the bill earmarked another \$480 million for new advances in safer up-armoring for Humvees.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4939 takes a number of important steps forward in addressing the needs of our military. Today we are likely to debate several amendments that would have a large impact on the effect of the underlying legislation. I would strongly urge Members to closely examine such amendments and reject any not pertaining to the subject matter at hand. The bill we have before us today is an excellent and timely piece of legislation that deserves strong bipartisan support. The underlying legislation is ultimately really about supporting our troops in the field and moving forward in assisting our own citizens drastically affected by the hurricanes.

With respect to Katrina, the underlying legislation provides \$9.9 billion to the Department of Homeland Security, primarily intended for FEMA, and major additional funding for flood control and coastal emergencies. Additionally, the Department of Defense would receive \$1.8 billion and the Army Corps of Engineers would receive \$1.5 billion, mostly for procurement and construction for flood control and coastal emergencies.

□ 1030

\$1.3 billion would be set aside for loans to home owners and small businesses to be administered through the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third supplemental appropriations request sent to Congress that addresses the fallout from the hurricanes. I am sure we will deal with this issue in the future as needs are defined. It is truly a testament to this Nation that we are able to break through the political logjam and deal with these issues of an emergency nature when this situation demands.

Mr. Speaker, judging from the debate in the Rules Committee yesterday, I suspect Members from both sides of the aisle may mention or attempt to interject into our discussions motions or amendments that are not germane to the underlying legislation. A number of measures are things that I personally support. However, the Rules Committee decided, appropriately in my opinion, that these matters should be dealt with separately and under regular order.

My good friends on both sides of the aisle have often expressed their desire to have major legislation dealt with