

improve their facilities and educational materials for these students. Further, it will establish a national center to provide support services and best practices to colleges to best serve students with disabilities and their families.

The legislation also responds to the tragedy at Virginia Tech by helping colleges to develop and implement state-of-the-art emergency systems and campus safety plans. Following a recommendation from college campus safety directors, the bill creates a National Center for Campus Safety to work in collaboration with the COPS program.

The bill also contains provisions, which I wrote into the measure, to strengthen our workforce and our Nation's competitiveness.

The bill would implement my initiative to provide loan forgiveness for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math) employees who work in those fields. My initiative also establishes a loan forgiveness program for foreign language specialists who work as teachers or Government employees.

The legislation creates a Deputy Assistant Secretary for International and Foreign Language Education in the Department of Education. Based on legislation that I wrote, the executive-level officer would provide leadership in directing efforts aimed at international and foreign language education.

The measure establishes a program that I championed, the Science and Technology Advanced Foreign Language Grants program, to award funding to institutions of higher education to create programs that encourage students to develop foreign language proficiency as well as science and technological knowledge.

Based on my work, the bill develops the Mathematics & Science Scholars Program to grants and loan forgiveness to math and science students who commit to 5 consecutive years of service in a math or science field after graduation.

Included in the bill is my legislation to establish a National STEM Database to provide students with information on financial assistance for postsecondary and graduate programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This important database will help capable students who are interested in STEM careers find scholarships to support their studies.

I am pleased that the measure includes the "Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners" program to help teacher candidates effectively integrate technology in the classroom. The program, which I advocated for, would work with teaching candidates on how they can bring modern digital tools in the classroom.

Additionally, the bill incorporates my legislation, the Nursing School Capacity Act, which requires the Institute of Medicine to explore the constraints that the Nation's schools of nursing face and propose short and long term solutions to address the nursing crisis.

Finally, based on my efforts the bill improves The "Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools" Program to empower small and community colleges to provide child care to working mothers so they can attend school.

Each of these provisions and the many more contained in the final Act will have positive impacts on our Nation and I am pleased that they soon will be implemented into law.

ENERGY COSTS

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today the House leaves on its 5 week vacation just like we do every year. Generally we are joined by millions of American families as they get out of town before the start of the school year, but this year things are different. While we are still leaving Washington, more of these families than ever before are staying home, prevented from visiting places like the beaches and historic sites in my district because of rising energy costs. But we aren't doing anything about it.

And when school starts up again, students are going to see activities cut back because their school districts are having to move money from these important programs just to keep running their school buses. High energy costs are having a dramatic impact on every part of our society. But Congress is failing to address them.

Today, news came out that American employers shed some 51,000 jobs last month, and for so many companies, the burden of high energy prices are behind so many of these job losses. From steel mills to fertilizer plants and delivery services, I could list countless businesses that use energy not only to keep the lights on but as the fuel for getting their job done. And record high energy prices are fighting their best efforts to grow our economy. But we can't even have a vote on accessing more American energy.

Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to highlight some of these businesses being impacted by today's high energy prices. I represent a coastal district where many of my constituents make their living on the water. The heart of my district are its shrimpers, tour boat operators, recreational and commercial fishermen.

However, many of these hard-working residents of coastal South Carolina cannot even afford to take their boats on the water anymore because of all-time record high prices for fuel. Shrimpers must catch 700 pounds a day just to fuel their boats—I can assure you, this is not a small catch.

Before Speaker PELOSI "saves the planet" here in Washington, DC, perhaps she can come down to Charleston or McClellanville in South Carolina and explain to the these hard-working men and women why she is refusing to schedule a vote to increase domestic energy production and lower the cost of their diesel fuel to allow them to get back on the water. Their struggles are not a hoax.

Madam Speaker, we currently depend on foreign and in many cases unfriendly nations for over 60 percent of our Nation's energy needs. This is a serious national security concern for my constituents in coastal South Carolina that is only getting worse. It is sad to see that every other country in the world views its energy resources as a strategic asset; in the United States we have come to view ours as an environmental liability.

Madam Speaker, this week I was proud to join with a group of Republicans and Democrats to introduce legislation that was written together that would allow us to start domestic energy production while also investing in many

types of renewable energy. When will we get a vote on the bipartisan National Environment, Conservation and Energy Independence Act or any of the other pieces of legislation that offer an "all of the above" solution to our energy crisis?

While we may leave Washington today, we cannot leave our responsibility to address this issue for the American people.

HANNAH WARFIELD AND JENNY BARRINGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two members of one of my Colorado offices, Hannah Warfield and Jenny Barringer.

These two are world-class athletes, from my alma mater, the University of Colorado, who recently competed in the U.S. Olympic track and field trials in Eugene, Oregon.

I want to start off by saying a few words about Hannah, a native of Sydney, Montana who competed in the Women's javelin competition.

Her work ethic is extraordinary.

Despite the rigors of a working a full time job, and recently graduating from the University of Colorado, she maintained a training schedule that would begin at 5 a.m. in the morning and would humble even the most dedicated among us.

This work ethic propelled her to become the 2007 NCAA Women's Big Twelve Champion in the Javelin event.

A distinction not achieved by a University of Colorado athlete in 20 years.

She is one of the most pleasant, organized and courteous individuals I have ever had the opportunity to meet.

Although, Hannah came just short of making it to Beijing, words cannot express the amount of pride and inspiration she brought to our office and our community with her dedication to the pursuit of her dreams.

Hannah's positive attitude and tenacity should serve as inspiration to all of us.

Next, I would like to take a moment to speak about Jenny Barringer, from Oviedo, Florida, who competed in the women's 3,000m steeplechase event.

Jenny is a true pioneer in the sport, which is making its inaugural appearance at the 2008 games.

She recently shattered the American record in the women's steeplechase with a time of 9:22.73.

If that were not enough, she maintains a 3.7 GPA, serves as a sign language interpreter, volunteers with the Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, and the local adopt-a-road program.

I can attest that Coloradans will be watching with immense pride in the coming weeks as Jenny goes for the gold in the Beijing.

What impresses me most about Hannah and Jenny is that for as great as their athletic ability, they're ever better people.

Active in their communities, great students combined with a desire to go above and beyond what is expected, they serve as a positive example of what can be achieved with hard work and a positive attitude.

As a father of three extraordinary women myself, all of whom are athletes, I can attest Hannah and Jenny represent the pride that every parent who drops their kids off at an athletic practice or attends one of their competitions feels.

It is an amazing honor to see two of our own in Colorado rise to this level, especially knowing it could not have happened to two better people.

Hannah Warfield and Jenny Barringer embody the best our country could hope for in the next generation of Americans.

I am privileged for the opportunity to have come to know these two remarkable individuals.

I would like to close by saying go USA, and go Jenny in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN PHIL RUHLE

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sympathies to a wonderful Rhode Island family who has lost a devoted loved one: Captain Phil Ruhle of North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

Captain Ruhle was a life-long professional fisherman and the captain of the *Sea Breeze* that capsized off the coast of New Jersey last Wednesday night. He was the center of 5 generations of fishermen, including his grandfather, his father, his brother, his son, and grandson.

In recent years, Captain Ruhle took an active role in work to improve industry conditions for fishermen. He was even awarded NOAA's Environmental Hero Award in 2003 for his "tireless efforts to preserve and protect our Nation's environment." Captain Ruhle was instrumental in developing the innovative "Eliminator" net, which will benefit fishermen and our environment for generations.

Captain Ruhle was valued as an intelligent and passionate advocate and adviser for fishermen across the country. His presence, especially his familiar voice, will be missed by his fellow fishermen, by Federal fishing regulators and by all who cared about the future of the fishing industry.

I share in the sorrow at the loss of Captain Ruhle with his wife Donna, his mother Gloria, his children Phil, Jr., Roger and Alicia, all his grandchildren and his many friends and colleagues. While this is a sad time for all of us, we take solace in knowing that Captain Ruhle lived his life to the fullest and left behind him a world which, because of his life, was kinder, more passionate and more generous.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: OUR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DESERVE A RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE AND UNIVERSAL RX BENEFIT UNDER MEDICARE!

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, the insurance and pharmaceutical industry-friendly

Medicare Part D drug benefit is, as predicted, costing taxpayers billions of unnecessary dollars, restricting access to needed pharmaceuticals, and providing windfall profits for the pharmaceutical companies. Last week, the Oversight and Government Reform Committee released an analysis that showed that pharmaceuticals covered under Part D cost 30 percent more than pharmaceuticals provided through Medicaid. Medicaid's program is administered by the Federal Government while Medicare Part D uses private insurance companies. As you know, it also provides no authority to negotiate prices, no other meaningful cost mechanisms, and a paltry benefit for far too many enrollees to boot.

A report by the Center for Economic and Policy Research showed that a benefit administered by Medicare would save enough money to fully cover prescription drug costs between 2006 and 2013 and still have \$40 billion left over.

For our seniors and for our children and grandchildren's future security, I urge you to reaffirm your support for one of the most successful social programs in our Nation's history by calling for a comprehensive and meaningful prescription drug benefit under Medicare, and one which addresses the outrageously high prices of prescription drugs paid by American consumers.

I have introduced a bill that will replace the current plan with a benefit that provides seniors and people with disabilities with the drugs they need with no co-pay, no premium and no deductible. Every person would receive the same voluntary benefit, regardless of income or geographical location, just like traditional Medicare.

How can the plan provide such a strong benefit without busting the budget? By including provisions that seriously address the outrageously high prices Americans are forced to pay for prescription drugs.

First, the plan will include strong, loophole-free language to allow American pharmacists, wholesalers and distributors to purchase FDA-approved prescription drugs at lower prices abroad. With strong reimportation language like that included in this plan, all Americans—not just seniors—could save 30–70 percent on the price of prescription drugs without any Government subsidy.

Second, the bill also allows Medicare to negotiate on behalf of all Medicare beneficiaries, something prohibited under the current Republican program, which could achieve discounts comparable to the significant discounts received by the Veterans Administration.

Finally, the plan would ensure that when taxpayers foot the bill for research and development of a prescription drug, the pharmaceutical industry must offer that drug at a fair and reasonable price. Such a requirement has passed the House by a wide bipartisan majority in the past, only to be stripped out by the pharmaceutical industry in conference committee. Today, the taxpayer-funded National Institutes of Health continues to spend tens of billions of dollars a year on research and development of medicines. Most often, this R&D is then handed over to the pharmaceutical industry, whose member companies charge Americans any price they want for the final product. If we change this absurd system, we would ensure that new medicines would be affordable in the years ahead.

As the current crisis makes all too clear, the time has come to support a comprehensive

prescription drug benefit for seniors and people with disabilities that does not coddle the health insurance or pharmaceutical industries.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 556 and 557, I was not present. On 556 I would have voted "no," and on 557, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 557, H.R. 6633, the Employee Verification Amendment Act of 2008, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1338) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a co-sponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Last week, I had the honor of participating in a portrait unveiling ceremony for former New Jersey Representative Mary Norton, who was the chair of the Labor Committee 70 years ago and a tireless advocate for equal pay. Under her leadership Congress passed 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act that established the 40-hour workweek, outlawed child labor and established a minimum wage of 25 cents per hour. I think of her today when I say that while we have made significant progress since the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the fight for equality in the workplace is far from over. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, women still earn only 77 percent as much as men on average. These statistics are worse for women of color; African-American women earn only 71.7 cents and Latinas only 58.5 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts.

Unfortunately, this wage gap only increases over time and has lasting effects on the lives of our working women. While women 1 year out of college earn 80 percent of what their male peers make, by the time women are 10 years out of college they are making only 69 percent of what men do. Furthermore, after a lifetime of receiving lower wages, older women are less likely than older men to receive pension income, and when they do they receive