

Rather than lowering health care premiums for families by up to \$2,500, as the Republican plan would do, this bill does nothing to help contain rising health care costs—the chief health care concern of most Americans. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office reports that the reconciliation bill will have a similar effect on premiums as the Senate bill, which is to increase insurance premiums for families by \$2,100 per year compared to passing no bill at all. Up to 9 million Americans who currently have health insurance coverage from their employer could lose it under this bill.

I am deeply disappointed that this legislation fails to provide robust protection for the unborn and for taxpayers who oppose their dollars going toward abortion.

Over the next 10 years, this legislation will increase the federal government's commitment to health care by \$400 billion. At a time when the federal deficit is \$1.5 trillion and the national debt is projected to triple by 2020, it is completely irresponsible for Congress to add more unsustainable government spending to the tab that our children and grandchildren will have to pick up.

We can make health care more affordable, available and accessible for everyone without nationalizing the system, raising taxes and piling on the debt. We need to sit down, in a bipartisan way, and work on real reform that will help American families. That is what the American people want and what they deserve.

On behalf of the 19th Congressional District, I stand in strong opposition to this legislation. This Congress must do better; the American people demand that we do better. We must reject this bill.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the week of Tuesday, March 9, 2010 through Friday, March 12, 2010.

For Tuesday, March 9, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote No. 92 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3650), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 93 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1069), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 94 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 935).

For Wednesday, March 10, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote No. 95 (on agreeing to H. Res. 1146, which provides for consideration of H. Con. Res. 248), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 96 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1088), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 97 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 4621), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 98 (on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 248), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 99 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 249), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 100 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1144).

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding a provision classified as an earmark in H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, which passed the House on October 23, 2009.

Requesting Member: The Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI

Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Account: No funding, legislative provision in the Coast Guard Authorization Act

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: VCNA Prairie Illinois Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7601 W. 79th Street, Bridgeview, IL 60455

Description of Request: The legislative provision in the Coast Guard authorization bill would restore Coastwise Trading privileges to the barge *St. Marys Cement*. From the time of construction in 1986 to 2000, *St. Marys Cement* was registered under the U.S. flag with Coastwise Trading privileges. In 2000, the *St. Marys Cement* relinquished Coastwise Trading privileges upon being reflagged under the Canadian flag. Operations have since changed and, in order to maximize efficiency of its U.S. operations, *St. Marys Cement* proposes to operate the barge directly between U.S. ports (including several in Wisconsin). On September 9, 2009, *St. Marys Cement* received a Certificate of Documentation, reestablishing the vessel as an American flagged vessel. Since the vessel was once registered outside the U.S., the only way for *St. Marys Cement* to return to operating directly between U.S. ports is to restore its Coastwise Trading privileges legislatively. Allowing the barge to do so would add American maritime jobs and provide Great Lakes-based manufacturing plants additional business opportunities. The cost of transporting raw materials to U.S. manufacturing facilities in Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin would be reduced. This was a joint request with Representative BART STUPAK and Representative STEVE KAGEN, M.D.

IN HONOR OF NAVY SEAL CHIEF  
PETTY OFFICER ADAM BROWN

### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero. On March 18, 2010, our state and nation lost a great patriot when Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown, age 36, died in Afghanistan from injuries sustained during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Chief Brown was raised in Arkansas by his loving parents, Larry and Janice Brown, and graduated from Lake Hamilton High School in Hot Springs. Chief Brown also attended Arkansas Tech University in Russellville where he played football. Although I never had the honor to meet Chief Brown, I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of all Arkansans to

his family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances for this devastating loss.

Chief Brown enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1998 and joined the Navy SEALs in 2001. Since that time, he has been assigned to various East Coast-based SEAL teams where he made several combat deployments in support of the global war on terror, distinguishing himself during numerous combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He carried out his duties with pride in his country and without reservation, and each of us owes him our eternal gratitude for his selfless sacrifice.

Chief Brown was a highly-decorated combat veteran and received numerous awards and citations during his 12-year Navy career, including the Bronze Star with combat "V" distinguishing device; Purple Heart; Joint Service Commendation Medal with combat "V" distinguishing device; Joint Service Achievement Medal; five Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals; three Good Conduct Medals; the National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Marksmanship medals for both rifle and pistol; and a multitude of personal, unit, and campaign decorations.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his loving wife and two children who live in Virginia Beach, Virginia; his parents, and the rest of his family during this extraordinarily difficult time.

Our nation is safer and stronger because of brave heroes like Chief Brown. Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our armed forces who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great country.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 22, 2010*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the Blinded Veterans Association on its 65th anniversary of representing blinded veterans and their families.

On March 28, 1945, 100 blinded members of the Armed Forces who served in World War II formed the Blinded Veterans Association at Avon "Old Farms" Army Convalescent Hospital in Connecticut. The founders of the Blinded Veterans Association were a cross-section of heroes and pioneers who not only shaped the rich history, philosophy, and knowledge of education and rehabilitation of the blind, but also provided insight into current and future challenges facing the blind and engaged in continual advocacy efforts to ensure that services for all blinded persons would be unique and specialized. In 1946, General Omar Bradley, of the Veterans Administration, appointed the Blinded Veterans Association as the first official representative for blinded veterans for the filing of claims and appeals to the Veterans Administration, making the Blinded Veterans Association only the eighth veterans service organization to receive such authorization.

The Blinded Veterans Association was originally incorporated in New York State as a nonprofit association, and then moved to Washington, DC, in 1947. In 1958, the 58th Congress approved the Congressional Charter for the Blinded Veterans Association. From its early beginnings, the Blinded Veterans Association encouraged the blinded veterans it served "to take their rightful place in the community with their fellow men and work with them toward the creation of a peaceful world," and it has continued to advocate for the war-blinded to regain independence, confidence, and self-esteem through rehabilitation and training; and many people of the United States recognize March 28 of each year as Blinded Veterans Day.

On March 28, 2010, the Blinded Veterans Association will mark its 65th anniversary of dedication to blinded members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families. I urge all members of the House of Representatives, and Americans around the country, to join me in honoring these American heroes.

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE  
LATE ROBERT MYERS, CHIEF ACTUARY AT THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, AND  
RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
SERVICE SSA'S ACTUARIES PROVIDE TO CONGRESS, THEIR  
AGENCY, AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC**

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor actuaries in general and two actuaries in particular: the longtime actuary of the Social Security Administration (SSA), the late Robert J. Myers, and the current chief actuary, Stephen C. Goss.

Bob Myers died February 13 of this year at the age of 97, and a memorial service was held for him this past weekend. Mr. Myers had a long, exemplary career with the Social Security Administration, starting in 1934 as a junior actuary with SSA's predecessor, the Committee on Economic Security. He later served for 23 years as the agency's chief actuary and was considered one of our country's foremost experts on Social Security.

Bob played a vital role in developing the special relationship between Congress and the Office of the Actuary. Historically, the actuary has been available to provide Members of Congress and the executive branch with confidential, expert, impartial, and trustworthy analysis of Social Security policy and legislative proposals. The Office of the Chief Actuary has truly an unparalleled record of service in the federal government.

Congress specifically recognized the value and importance of an independent and impartial actuary in the conference report accompanying Social Security's enabling statute, the "Social Security Administrative Reform Act of 1994." This report said that "The Office of the Actuary has a unique role within the agency in that it serves both the Administration and the Congress. . . . Thus, the independence of the Office of the Chief Actuary with respect to providing assistance to the Congress is vital in

maintaining a trusting and useful relationship." (H. Report 103-670, at page 96)

Though Bob left SSA in 1970, the tradition he established lives on in the work of the chief actuaries who came after him. SSA's current chief actuary, Steve Goss, is an outstanding example. Steve has been an actuary with SSA since 1973 and has served as its chief actuary since 2001. To me and many of my colleagues, Steve personifies the meaning of public service.

Steve's contributions have also been recognized by his colleagues and others. He received the Commissioner's Leadership Award in 1999 and was named a Presidential Distinguished Rank Executive in 2002. In 2004, he was the recipient of the very first Robert M. Ball Award for Outstanding Achievements in Social Insurance. Upon announcing their selection, the National Academy of Social Insurance described Steve this way:

He gives tirelessly and selflessly of himself to try to clarify, illuminate, and explain complex Social Security issues and how estimates are made of revenues, expenses, and actuarial projections within that program. He openly and forthrightly invites suggestions and criticism, hoping to improve the quality of his knowledge and the accuracy of estimates put forward by SSA. Steve Goss and the entire Office of the Chief Actuary provide an exemplary model of integrity and transparency, while maintaining a very high level of productivity.

I could not agree more. Steve Goss has ably continued the tradition Bob Myers started that has kept the Office of the Chief Actuary a trustworthy and consistently reliable source for confidential and honest analysis on which Congress relies to make sound policy decisions affecting Social Security programs. I think Bob Myers would be very proud.

I have worked personally with Steve for many years, and I look forward to relying on his expert knowledge and experience even more now that I am the chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security. The Social Security Administration could not have as great a reputation among my colleagues without Steve Goss. I congratulate and thank him for his service.

**RECOGNIZING THE 4TH ANNUAL  
CESAR CHAVEZ MARCH**

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 4th Annual Cesar Chavez March to be held in my hometown of Flint, Michigan on Saturday, March 27th. The March is being sponsored by the Hispanic Latino Collaborative of Genesee County in honor of Cesar Chavez's birthday on March 31.

Cesar Chavez began his fight for the rights of migrant workers after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He labored in the fields and knew firsthand the terrible conditions endured by migrant workers. He chose to lead the fight to bring justice and dignity to farm workers. Through his leadership, the United Farm Workers was able to win the right for farm workers to organize. Through his work, migrant farmers across our Nation have

better working conditions, better pay, better living quarters, and better hours. Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers were instrumental in getting dangerous pesticides banned, improving the safety of both our farm fields and the food on our tables.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Hispanic Latino Collaborative of Genesee County for keeping the memory and legacy of Cesar Chavez alive. His enthusiasm for justice, his work for his fellow humans, his achievements in the face of adversity, has provided an example for future generations to emulate. Cesar Chavez has demonstrated the difference one person can make in the lives of others.

**VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-  
OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF  
2010**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 22, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 4667, "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2010" introduced by my distinguished colleague from Virginia, Representative PERRIELLO.

H. Res. 4667 will increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes. Increases will include wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, clothing allowances, and compensation for the surviving spouse, and for children. The Secretary of Veteran Affairs shall be responsible for publishing in the Federal Register the amounts, as increased, as specified under the Social Security Act. The Secretary of Veteran Affairs shall increase the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2010, for the payment of disability compensation for the rate adjustment that will take effect on December 1, 2010.

It is my distinct honor to stand here today to support a bill that will allow us to show our appreciation to our veterans and honor the service of veterans who have become disabled while serving in the armed forces. These veterans have given great contributions and made incredible personal sacrifices so that all of us in this country might live in a safe and secure nation and world. Providing a cost-of-living increase is only a small step towards repaying the insurmountable debt that all of us owe to all veterans. For, what is the price of freedom?

As President Kennedy once said, "The price of freedom is high, but Americans have always paid it." And no one has paid a higher price than the brave men and women through the years who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. Whether it is the ultimate sacrifice of life or the loss of limb or the loss of time with family and friends, we owe our veterans an enormous outstanding debt of gratitude.

From Bunker Hill to Yorktown, from Washington, DC to the Battle of New Orleans, from Bull Run to Gettysburg and Antietam to Appomattox, brave Americans gave their lives