

to one of the most barbaric acts known to mankind. Amazingly, this barbaric act is perfectly legal in the United States of America. This horrible act of violence is called partial-birth abortion. Actually it is a procedure in which a baby is partially delivered, the doctor actually reaches in and turns the baby for a breech birth, and then is killed in a procedure too horrible to describe.

Congress has voted twice to make it illegal, but the previous President vetoed it both times. Today we have a new President who will do the right thing and make partial-birth abortion illegal, but first we have to send him the bill.

We in the House will have the chance to vote on this bill later this summer, and we will do the right thing. It will be up to the other body to act. No one knows what they will do.

It is time to make partial-birth abortion illegal. It should have been illegal long ago.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I do not know how you measure greatness in the modern world, but if in fact America is the greatest country in the world, then it seems to me we ought to be able to provide prescription drug coverage to our seniors. Unfortunately, the Republican prescription drug plan that is going to be brought to the floor is best symbolized by the hole in the doughnut, too much cost for too little coverage when compared with the Democratic alternative.

Take a look at the premiums: the Democratic alternative, \$25 fixed in statute. The Republican premium, not in statute, fluctuates. It may be \$35. It may be \$85. Probably at least \$50.

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Clearly, the Democrat plan is better.

Deductible: Democrats, \$100 deductible; Republicans, \$200 deductible. Copay: Democrats, 20 percent; Republicans, after the first \$1,000, 50 percent copay. Clearly, too much cost, too little coverage.

Finally, stop loss. Between \$2,000 and \$3,700, and the taxpayer pays the bill. There is no coverage, no protection whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bad plan, and we ought to reject it in the land of the great.

HOOPS FOR HOPE

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

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I started, on September 11 of last year, to come to the floor to make this presentation; and of course, we all know what hap-

pened that morning. This trophy is a result of the benefit basketball game that is played every year for the last 3 years, and this past year on September 10. So although the announcement is a little bit late, it is important for me to note that the Hoops for Hope, a unique contest here, which pits Members of Congress against lobbyists in a benefit basketball game, has raised over \$50,000 in its 3-year history. We are on the road to raising \$75,000 this September; and my duty this morning is to not only present the trophy, but to announce that this past year the lobbyists eked out a 63 to 60 win.

We just wanted everybody to know who participated in the game. We benefit Horton's Kids and Staffers for the Hungry and Homeless. This money goes to a great cause, and we appreciate everybody's cooperation.

GLARING INADEQUACIES IN REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last Friday morning, while most Americans were still asleep, the Republican plan to create a drug benefit was pushed with brute force through the Committee on Energy and Commerce. While the Republican plan has too many flaws to mention in 1 minute, its most glaring inadequacy is that it makes no provision for dealing with the outrageous prices Americans pay for prescription drugs.

Apparently, Republicans and their corporate sponsors in the brand-name drug industry do not believe high prices are a problem. Yet last year, prices for the 50 most prescribed drugs for seniors have risen three times the rate of inflation, and the prices for some popular drugs rose by 10 times the rate of inflation.

Last week I sought to introduce an amendment that would have reduced drug prices for all Americans by reducing patent abuse and enhancing market competition. But the Republican leadership, which loves to champion the virtues of the free market, would not even let the Committee on Commerce consider the amendment.

If we need another reason, another reason to oppose the Republican plan, which was written by and for the big drug companies, let it be known that the Republican plan does absolutely nothing to reduce drug prices.

PASS REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, the House Prescription Drug Action Team and other leaders have been working very hard to provide a plan for a prescription drug benefit to all seniors. We

have had many listening sessions, and we have crafted a meaningful prescription drug benefit. We need to pass this plan now, especially for women and our seniors.

Women make up more of the population over the age 65 because women actually live, on average, 7 years longer than men. If we look at a snapshot of Americans aged 85 and older, nearly three-quarters of these are women. But they are not just living longer; they have smaller incomes and have fewer financial resources to take care of their pharmaceutical needs.

Women are almost twice as likely as men to have incomes below \$10,000, and two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries with annual incomes below the poverty level are women. Fewer financial resources and greater longevity are key reasons why Congress needs to pass this prescription drug plan now.

Under this act, men and women under the age of 65 will benefit from substantial discounts.

Mr. Speaker, we need to pass this plan now for all seniors, but especially for our women.

DEFEAT REPUBLICAN SHAM PRIVATIZATION PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans appear addicted to drug company money. Why else would they try to fool the American people with a plan written with the drug companies that fails to cover over 90 percent of seniors, that insurance companies say they will not participate in because it is good only for the wealthiest seniors with the highest drug costs, that would have seniors pay out of pocket \$3,800 per year, and that does nothing to lower the cost of prescription drugs? In fact, the Republican bill so distrusts the President's Secretary of Health and Human Services that it forbids him to negotiate lower prices for seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican sham bill is just an attempt to privatize prescription drug coverage in the same way they tried to privatize Social Security. It will not help most seniors, and it will not work.

So while Republicans are busy cutting taxes for less than 1 percent of the wealthiest estates in America, they trade off real prescription drug coverage, saying it is too expensive; and they offer a sham bill.

The Democrats have a plan to cover seniors. It is affordable, it is accessible to all seniors, it allows the Secretary to negotiate lower and fairer prices, and it is real.

Mr. Speaker, let us defeat the Republican sham privatization bill and pass the Democrats' real deal for seniors.

DIRECT LINK BETWEEN ENERGY POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1