

Mayor and Councilman. He was responsible for developing the Amanda Acres senior-citizen facility and the village municipal building. He also assisted in developing the town's infrastructure from his position on the Public Works District Integrating Committee.

Robert W. Groh is the heart and soul of Amelia and has made this town a wonderful place in which to live and work. He has unselfishly given his time and energy to the community and to our country. Robert Groh is a special man to Amelia and its citizens and he will always be a valued member of the community. I am proud to know Mayor Groh, have him as a constituent, and call him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the House of Representatives, please join me in saluting Robert W. Groh for his many years of service and wishing him the best for many years to come.

IN SUPPORT OF FDA LEGISLATION

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] legislation introduced today by Congressman BURR, which would provide some regulatory relief for health professionals. The legislation would allow the holder of an approved new drug application to provide health professionals a reprint of a medical journal article which includes information about the drug that is not in the FDA-approved package insert.

While I certainly support the basic health and safety mission of the FDA, I have heard numerous concerns from my constituents about the FDA approved process and the frustrations they have in dealing with the Federal bureaucracy in general. As a representative of a rural district, I am very aware of the feeling of isolation that rural providers experience. Many times, rural providers find themselves with limited access to information they are unable to find someone to cover their practices so that they can attend conferences or meetings at which new medical technology is discussed. I believe Representative BURR's legislation is a good first step in addressing some of my constituents' frustrations.

Current law allows doctors to prescribe drugs for the users they feel most appropriately meet their patients' needs. For instance, if a doctor reads a journal article showing the effectiveness of a particular drug treating an illness for which it was not originally approved, the doctor is not prohibited from prescribing the drug for that use.

However, current FDA regulations prohibit drug manufacturers from providing doctors with information about any use of the drug that has not been previously approved by the FDA. Therefore, while studies might have shown the safety and effectiveness of the drug for additional uses, manufacturers are not allowed to share this information with doctors. Representative BURR's legislation attempts to address this issue in a fair way that will maintain the FDA's mission of protecting consumers from unsafe, ineffective drugs.

I believe it is important for the committees of jurisdiction to consider this legislation and all of its ramifications, particularly with regard to consumer safety. I feel very confident that liability responsibilities shouldered by physicians more than adequately ensure that they will not carelessly prescribe inadequately proven drugs.

Many agree that the FDA approval process, while attempting to ensure consumers have safe and efficient drugs, may actually delay the availability of some breakthrough drugs. This bill may not contain all of the answers, but it is a productive first step and it should receive a hearing in the regular committee process, so that interests on all sides of the issue can be heard and considered. It is important that we reform the FDA with an awareness of the agency's responsibility, which is to see that the medicines we use are safe and effective.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER G. TORKILDSEN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I requested and was granted on January 23, 1996, leave of absence for that day, the 23d, as well as the 24th and 25th, as I was on my honeymoon.

However, I would like to enter in the RECORD how I would have voted on the three suspension votes had I been here.

On rollcall vote No. 13—H.R. 2657, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 14—S. 1341, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 15—H.R. 2726, I would have voted "yes."

Additionally, I would also like it to be noted that on rollcall vote No. 16—S. 1124 a non-suspension vote, I would also have voted "yes."

BURDENSARING LEGISLATION

HON. JIM CHAPMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. CHAPMAN. Mr. Speaker, this summer the world celebrated the 50th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II. For thousands of veterans who fought to defend democracy in Europe, North Africa and the Pacific, it recalled a proud moment in American history.

For America's veterans and the widows of America's fallen heroes, the observance of this anniversary was laced with poignant irony. Those who made the sacrifices 50 years ago are being asked by some in our Government to make sacrifices again.

Since the United States won victories in Europe and Japan more than 50 years ago, and in Korea more than 40 years ago, we have continued our military presence in those nations. At a vast cost to the American taxpayer,

we have preserved the peace, assured victory over global communism and allowed war-ravaged economies to prosper and grow.

America did the right thing in building world stability, freedom and hope. But America can no longer afford to bear the financial burden imposed on our people by protecting Europe, Japan and Korea.

I am introducing legislation today to require the host nations of NATO, Japan and Korea to share the burden of the direct costs of the United States military presence in those nations. My legislation also provides that the revenues resulting from those burdensharing agreements be deposited in the Medicare trust fund. The revenue generated by my bill will guarantee the solvency of the Medicare trust fund through 2007, eliminating the need for the huge cuts in Medicare services that have been approved by the Republican Congress and vetoed by President Clinton.

It is not fair that the United States continues to pay for the defense costs of these countries while they continue to pour billions into subsidizing industries that compete with American jobs, and provide social services to their citizens that the American taxpayer cannot afford for our own. It is not fair to the American taxpayer or the American worker.

It is not fair that the United States continues to pay the defense costs of these countries while our Nation cuts billions from services provided to the people who won World War II on the front lines and the homefront. The soldiers who fought at Iwo Jima and the Battle of the Bulge and Inchon now receive Medicare benefits. The future of that program has been jeopardized by huge reductions in services approved by the House but vetoed by the President. My legislation guarantees the solvency of Medicare by generating up to \$90 billion in revenue from burdensharing agreements.

My bill gives the administration a hammer to force the host nations to share this burden by requiring the withdrawal of our troops if agreements are not reached by the end of 1997. I do not expect one company of troops, one wing of aircraft or a single tank to be withdrawn as a result of this legislation. The host nations involved want the American military presence in their countries. We have failed in the past to achieve adequate burden-sharing agreements because there was no credible incentive to force them to the table. My bill gives the host nations every possible motivation to bargain in good faith because a failure in negotiations delivers results unacceptable to them. If I am wrong about the wishes of the host nations, my bill will still protect Medicare by investing the savings that result from a troop withdrawal into the Medicare trust fund.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, that those who won World War II and contained communism at the 38th Parallel stop paying the price for our victory through unacceptable cuts in health care. It is time that the United States force the host nations of NATO, Japan, and Korea to pay the bills for their own protection. It is time that the U.S. taxpayer stop subsidizing foreign industries that compete with American jobs. It is time that the U.S. taxpayer stop subsidizing better health care and social security for our allies than American can afford for our own. It is time, Mr. Speaker.