

pharmacy in our home State in Coos Bay or Beaverton or Pendleton or some part of our home State, ends up, in effect, paying a premium because the big buyers are able to negotiate discounts.

It is critical that seniors be in a position to get more affordable private insurance for their prescription medicine.

Under the Snowe-Wyden legislation for seniors on a modest income, other than a copayment or deductible, the legislation would pick up the entire part of that senior's insurance premium that covers prescription drugs.

That is something that will help that frail older person. It is not going to be the Internet that is going to be a panacea for that older person but legislation that helps that elderly widow or retired gentleman afford private insurance coverage is something that will be of help to them. That is what the Snowe-Wyden legislation is all about.

Tonight, I want to read from a few letters I have received in the last couple of days. And I will continue in the days ahead as the Senate wraps up—we hope it won't be too many more days ahead—to bring these kinds of cases to the floor of the Senate in an effort to try to see the Senate come together in a bipartisan way and provide some relief for older people.

One elderly couple, for example, wrote me about their medical situation, reporting that both had recently had heart surgery and one of them, in addition, had a stroke. They are taking blood-thinner drugs. They are taking important cholesterol-lowering drugs—Lipitor—and drugs for lowering blood pressure. They are breaking that particular medicine in half because they cannot afford their prescriptions, and then they are taking a drug which serves as an antidepressant.

This couple has a combined income of around \$1,500 a month. For the month of October alone, they spent \$888 on just the drugs I mentioned. Over half of their monthly income is going for prescription medicine.

I don't believe there is going to be relief for that elderly couple over the Internet. They are not going to be able to deal with that financial predicament where they spend over half of their monthly income on prescription medicine through some "www" opportunity on the Internet. They are going to need decent insurance coverage.

That is what the bipartisan Snowe-Wyden legislation tries to provide.

The second case I would like to touch on tonight comes from our home State. An elderly woman wrote me to report that in recent days she spent more than \$800 on her prescription medicine. She writes: "I'm on a fixed income. It's just getting harder and harder. Medicare help with prescriptions is a real need."

Finally, a third letter that I think sums up the kind of predicament that a lot of seniors in our State are facing comes from Beaverton where an elderly couple is trying to make ends meet es-

entially with just Social Security and a little bit of help from family.

When they are finished paying for their prescription drugs—this is an elderly couple in Beaverton, OR, in our home State—they have \$107.40 left over to live for the month.

Just think about that. It is not an isolated kind of case. Think about what it has to be like for an older couple to have \$107 left over for living after they have paid for their prescription medicine.

In the last sentence, this particular elderly woman just asked a question: "Can you help?"

I think that really sums it up.

I think the American people want to see if the Senate, instead of the usual tired routine of bickering and arguing and inaction, will produce a bipartisan plan to provide real relief.

What I find so striking, and why I am so proud to have teamed up with the Republican Senator from Maine on this bipartisan issue, is that when I am asked at home—I had a town meeting a couple of days ago on the Oregon coast. And the President often has the same kind of community session. I was asked about whether the Nation can afford to cover prescription medicine.

My answer is, if you are reading these bills, that America cannot afford not to cover prescription medicine because these drugs, as in the case I described initially, are drugs that keep people well. They help people deal with blood pressure. They help people deal with cholesterol. These are drugs to help keep people healthy. If you keep them healthy, they don't land in the hospital where they rack up those huge charges for Part A of Medicare. I cited repeatedly these anticoagulant medicines.

Evidence shows that for perhaps \$1,000 a year, seniors could get a comprehensive program of anticoagulant medicines that can help prevent strokes. We have seen again and again that if you can't get this kind of preventive medical help and you incur a stroke, it costs more than \$100,000 to pick up the cost.

That is really the choice, it seems to me, for the Senate. I think the Presiding Officer of the Senate and I have shown in our home States that it is possible on a whole host of issues, frankly, issues that a lot of people think are more divisive than even prescription medicine, to come together in a bipartisan way. I am hopeful the Senate can show that as well. We have seen one poll after another demonstrating that the American people want Congress to provide real relief.

In the last couple of weeks, I have seen several polls which indicate that helping frail and vulnerable seniors with prescription drug coverage through Medicare is one of the top two or three concerns for this country.

Instead of these articles that we are seeing coming out of Time magazine and New York Times and others saying we probably won't be finished, and

there won't be an effective answer, I would like to see the Senate show we can really follow through and produce for the older people of this country.

In the days left of this session—we all hope there won't be many more—until we get comprehensive bipartisan legislation that provides the elderly real relief, I intend to keep coming to the floor of the Senate to talk about this issue.

I hope folks who are listening tonight will send in copies of their prescription drug bills.

This poster says it all: "Send in your prescription drug bills." Send them to each of us in the Senate in Washington D.C.

I can tell you the bills that are coming into my office—they are really coming in now as a result of our taking the opportunity to discuss this issue on the floor of the Senate—say that this is an urgent need.

There are people who write who are conservative. There are people who write who are liberals, Democrats, Republicans, and independents, and all across the political spectrum who say: Get the job done. We are not interested in the traditional bickering and fighting about who gets credit, whose turf is being invaded, and which particular parochial kind of issue is being placed ahead of the national wellbeing.

This Nation's seniors and this Nation's families want us to come together and deal with this issue.

I intend to come back on the floor of the Senate again and again until the Senate does.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO KJAM IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 40TH YEAR OF BROADCASTING

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the 40th year of broadcasting for radio station KJAM-FM, serving Madison, South Dakota and area communities. KJAM Radio first aired on December 3rd, 1959, and this December 3rd, the staff and friends of the radio station will be celebrating this remarkable feat in radio broadcasting with a well-deserved anniversary party.

Small town, locally owned radio stations like KJAM are one of rural America's unique cultural contributions to our nation. They mirror the strong values of the small towns they serve. KJAM has served Madison well, and I would like to commend the employees

and supporters of KJAM for their dedication over these 40 years in bringing to the area local and regional news, weather, and broadcasts of events for Dakota State University and area high schools.

Beginning in January, KJAM will be managed by Three Eagles Communications, which I am sure will continue to enrich the lives of area residents with quality radio broadcasting.

I know my colleagues will join me in honoring John and JoLynn Goeman, the owners of KJAM, who have given so much to the Madison community. John Goeman is the only employee who has been with the station since its inception, and I know his listeners will be sad to hear his last greeting to radio listeners with the "First Edition" of the day's news. We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Goemans and KJAM for making such an invaluable contribution to Madison and the entire state of South Dakota.

SENATE QUARTERLY MAIL COSTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in accordance with section 318 of Public Law 101-520 as amended by Public Law 103-283, I am submitting the frank mail allocations made to each Senator from the appropriation for official mail expenses and a summary tabulation of Senate mass mail costs for the third and fourth quarter of FY99 and ask unanimous consent it be printed in the RECORD. The first and second quarters of FY99 cover the periods of April 1, 1999, through June 30, 1999, and July 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999. The official mail allocations are available for franked mail costs, as stipulated in Public Law 105-275, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 1999.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Senators	FY 99 official mail allocation	Total pieces	Pieces per capita	Total cost	Cost per capita
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SENATE QUARTERLY MASS MAIL VOLUMES AND COSTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 1999					
Abraham	\$11,746	0	0	0.00	0
Akaka	34,648	0	0	0.00	0
Allard	63,266	0	0	0.00	0
Ashcroft	77,190	0	0	0.00	0
Baucus	33,857	700	0.00088	\$942.35	\$0.00118
Bayh	60,223	0	0	0.00	0
Bennett	40,959	0	0	0.00	0
Biden	31,559	0	0	0.00	0
Bingaman	41,646	0	0	0.00	0
Bond	77,190	0	0	0.00	0
Boxer	301,322	0	0	0.00	0
Breaux	66,514	0	0	0.00	0
Brownback	49,687	0	0	0.00	0
Bryan	41,258	0	0	0.00	0
Bumpers	13,218	0	0	0.00	0
Bunning	46,853	0	0	0.00	0
Burns	33,857	8,250	0.01033	6,859.62	0.00859
Byrd	43,560	0	0	0.00	0
Campbell	63,266	0	0	0.00	0
Chafee	34,037	0	0	0.00	0
Cleland	95,484	0	0	0.00	0
Coats	21,139	0	0	0.00	0
Cochran	50,337	0	0	0.00	0
Collins	37,775	0	0	0.00	0
Conrad	31,000	0	0	0.00	0
Coverdell	95,484	0	0	0.00	0
Craig	35,841	0	0	0.00	0
Crapo	27,070	0	0	0.00	0
D'Amato	183,036	0	0	0.00	0
Daschle	31,638	0	0	0.00	0
DeWine	132,302	0	0	0.00	0
Dodd	56,116	0	0	0.00	0
Domenici	41,646	0	0	0.00	0

Senators	FY 99 official mail allocation	Total pieces	Pieces per capita	Total cost	Cost per capita
Dorgan	31,000	1,480	0.00232	217.74	0.00034
Durbin	128,275	0	0	0.00	0
Edwards	76,489	0	0	0.00	0
Enzi	29,891	0	0	0.00	0
Faircloth	29,275	0	0	0.00	0
Feingold	72,089	0	0	0.00	0
Feinstein	301,322	0	0	0.00	0
Fitzgerald	97,925	1,500	0.00013	513.31	0.00005
Ford	16,343	0	0	0.00	0
Frist	76,208	0	0	0.00	0
Glenn	35,757	0	0	0.00	0
Gorton	78,087	0	0	0.00	0
Graham	182,107	2,134	0.00017	827.99	0.00006
Gramm	204,461	0	0	0.00	0
Grassley	67,542	953	0.00022	777.11	0.00018
Gregg	52,115	0	0	0.00	0
Hagel	40,350	0	0	0.00	0
Harkin	52,115	0	0	0.00	0
Hatch	40,959	0	0	0.00	0
Helms	100,311	0	0	0.00	0
Hollings	61,281	0	0	0.00	0
Hutchinson	50,285	0	0	0.00	0
Hutchison	204,461	0	0	0.00	0
Inhofe	58,788	0	0	0.00	0
Inouye	34,648	0	0	0.00	0
Jeffords	30,740	3,985	0.00708	2,040.32	0.00363
Johnson	31,638	36,973	0.05312	15,214.26	0.02186
Kempthorne	9,246	0	0	0.00	0
Kennedy	82,469	2,020	0.00034	471.62	0.00008
Kerrey	40,350	0	0	0.00	0
Kerry	82,469	1,052	0.00018	392.39	0.00007
Kohl	72,089	0	0	0.00	0
Kyl	68,434	0	0	0.00	0
Landrieu	66,514	0	0	0.00	0
Lautenberg	97,304	0	0	0.00	0
Leahy	30,740	3,858	0.00686	3,043.36	0.00541
Levin	111,476	5,267	0.00057	4,771.94	0.00051
Lieberman	56,116	0	0	0.00	0
Lincoln	38,142	220	0.00009	73.92	0.0003
Lott	50,337	0	0	0.00	0
Lugar	79,091	0	0	0.00	0
Mack	182,107	0	0	0.00	0
McCain	68,434	22,000	0.00600	16,742.24	0.00457
McConnell	61,650	0	0	0.00	0
Mikulski	71,555	0	0	0.00	0
Moseley-Braun	128,275	0	0	0.00	0
Moseley-Braun	183,036	0	0	0.00	0
Murkowski	30,905	0	0	0.00	0
Murray	78,087	2,350	0.00048	525.66	0.00011
Nickles	58,788	0	0	0.00	0
Reed	34,037	0	0	0.00	0
Reid	41,258	0	0	0.00	0
Robb	87,385	0	0	0.00	0
Roberts	49,687	197,500	0.07972	25,398.47	0.01025
Rockefeller	43,560	0	0	0.00	0
Roth	31,559	0	0	0.00	0
Santorum	138,265	0	0	0.00	0
Sarbanes	71,555	0	0	0.00	0
Schumer	139,902	5,333	0.00030	4,587.20	0.00026
Sessions	67,265	0	0	0.00	0
Shelby	67,265	0	0	0.00	0
Smith, Gordon	56,383	0	0	0.00	0
Smith, Robert	35,947	0	0	0.00	0
Snowe	37,755	930	0.00076	855.21	0.00070
Specter	138,265	0	0	0.00	0
Stevens	30,905	0	0	0.00	0
Thomas	29,891	676	0.00149	599.57	0.00132
Thompson	76,208	0	0	0.00	0
Thurmond	61,281	0	0	0.00	0
Torricelli	97,304	1,260	0.00016	1,174.32	0.00015
voivovich	101,012	0	0	0.00	0
Warner	87,385	0	0	0.00	0
Wellstone	67,542	0	0	0.00	0
Wyden	56,383	0	0	0.00	0

SENATE QUARTERLY MASS MAIL VOLUMES AND COSTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPT. 30, 1999					
Abraham	111,746	0	0	0.00	0
Akaka	34,648	0	0	0.00	0
Allard	63,266	0	0	0.00	0
Ashcroft	77,190	0	0	0.00	0
Baucus	33,857	0	0	0.00	0
Bayh	60,223	0	0	0.00	0
Bennett	40,959	0	0	0.00	0
Biden	31,559	0	0	0.00	0
Bingaman	41,646	0	0	0.00	0
Bond	77,190	0	0	0.00	0
Boxer	301,322	353,000	0.01185	50,824.78	0.00171
Breaux	66,514	0	0	0.00	0
Brownback	49,687	0	0	0.00	0
Bryan	41,258	22,500	0.01872	4,664.01	0.00388
Bumpers	13,218	0	0	0.00	0
Bunning	46,853	0	0	0.00	0
Burns	33,857	11,296	0.01414	8,929.76	0.01118
Byrd	43,560	0	0	0.00	0
Campbell	63,266	0	0	0.00	0
Chafee	34,037	0	0	0.00	0
Cleland	95,484	0	0	0.00	0
Coats	21,139	0	0	0.00	0
Cochran	50,337	0	0	0.00	0
Collins	37,775	0	0	0.00	0
Conrad	31,000	0	0	0.00	0
Coverdell	95,484	0	0	0.00	0
Craig	35,841	0	0	0.00	0
Crapo	27,070	0	0	0.00	0
D'Amato	183,036	0	0	0.00	0
Daschle	31,638	0	0	0.00	0
DeWine	132,302	0	0	0.00	0
Dodd	56,116	0	0	0.00	0
Domenici	41,646	0	0	0.00	0
Dorgan	31,000	4,571	0.00716	3,971.14	0.00622

Senators	FY 99 official mail allocation	Total pieces	Pieces per capita	Total cost	Cost per capita
Durbin	128,275	1,300	0.00011	1,043.44	0.00009
Edwards	76,489	6,806	0.00103	7,217.31	0.00109
Enzi	29,891	0	0	0.00	0
Faircloth	29,275	0	0	0.00	0
Feingold	72,089	0	0	0.00	0
Feinstein	301,322	0	0	0.00	0
Fitzgerald	97,925	0	0	0.00	0
Ford	16,343	0	0	0.00	0
Frist	76,208	0	0	0.00	0
Glenn	35,757	0	0	0.00	0
Gorton	78,087	320,000	0.06575	57,244.02	0.01176
Graham	182,107	0	0	0.00	0
Gramm	204,461	1,425	0.00008	315.15	0.00002
Grassley	67,542	52,315	0.01196	43,346.34	0.00991
Gregg	52,115	270,000	0.09723	53,876.10	0.01940
Hagel	40,350	0	0	0.00	0
Harkin	52,115	0	0	0.00	0
Hatch	40,959	0	0	0.00	0
Helms	100,311	0	0	0.00	0
Hollings	61,281	0	0	0.00	0
Hutchinson	50,285	0	0	0.00	0
Hutchison	204,461	0	0	0.00	0
Inhofe	58,788	0	0	0.00	0
Inouye	34,648	0	0	0.00	0
Jeffords	30,740	66,450	0.11808	10,678.95	0.01898
Johnson	31,638	264,900	0.38060	78,299.58	0.11250
Kempthorne	9,246	0	0	0.00	0
Kennedy	82,469	1,222	0.00020	420.50	0.00007
Kerrey	40,350	0	0	0.00	0
Kerry	82,469	712	0.00012	622.27	0.00010
Kohl	72,089	0	0	0.00	0
Kyl	68,434	0	0	0.00	0
Landrieu	66,514	0	0	0.00	0
Lautenberg	97,304	0	0	0.00	0
Leahy	30,740	5,500	0.00977	1,503.55	0.00267
Levin	111,476	2,000	0.00022	1,522.41	0.00016
Lieberman	56,116	0	0	0.00	0
Lincoln	38,142	0	0	0.00	0
Lott	50,337	0	0	0.00	0
Lugar	79,091	0	0	0.00	0
Mack	182,107	0	0	0.00	0
McCain	68,434	0	0	0.00	0
McConnell	61,650	0	0	0.00	0
Mikulski	71,555	0	0	0.00	0
Moseley-Braun	128,275	0	0	0.00	0
Moynihn	183,036	294,000	0.01634	57,400.05	0.00319
Murkowski	30,905	0	0	0.00	0
Murray	78,087	42,150	0.00866	7,361.16	0.00151
Nickles	58,788	1,833	0.00058	1,445.23	0.00046
Reed	34,037	1,150	0.00115	332.67	0.00033
Reid	41,258	22,500	0.01872	4,818.46	0.00401
Robb	87,385	0	0	0.00	0
Roberts	49,687	200,000	0.08072	27,570.98	0.01113
Rockefeller	43,560	122,500	0.06830	20,402.30	0.01138
Roth	31,559	0	0	0.00	0
Santorum	138,265	0	0	0.00	0
Sarbanes	71,555	0	0	0.00	0
Schumer	139,902	5,333	0.00030	4,587.20	0.00026
Sessions	67,265	0	0	0.00	0
Shelby	67,265	0	0	0.00	0
Smith, Gordon	56,383	0	0	0.00	0
Smith, Robert	35,947	0	0	0.00	0
Snowe	37,755	930	0.00076	855.21	0.0007