

Secofi) under the Pact For Economic Stability and Growth. Under the Mexican law, manufacturer and the government engage in negotiations to determine the nationwide maximum prices for prescription drugs. Pharmaceutical products are prepackaged and stamped with the maximum sales price, guaranteeing consist prices throughout the country.

This study indicates that the Mexican system produces prescription drug prices that are substantially lower in Mexico than in Rep. Gonzalez's district. Average prices for the top five drugs for seniors were 99% higher in Rep. Gonzalez's district than in Mexico (Table 1.) Prices for all five drugs were higher in Rep. Gonzalez's district. The highest price differential among the top five drugs was 303%, for Prilosec, an ulcer medication manufactured by Astra/Merck.

For other drugs, price differentials were even higher. In the case of Micronase, senior citizen in Texas's 20th Congressional District pay an average price of \$54.81 while consumers in Mexico pay only \$9.48—a price differential of 478%.

In dollar terms, uninsured senior citizens in Rep. Gonzalez's district pay nearly \$100 more than consumers in Mexico for a one month supply of Prilosec—an annual price difference of over \$1,100. Similarly a senior in Rep. Gonzalez's district pays over \$45 more than a senior in Mexico for a two month supply of Zocor, an annual difference of over \$250, and over \$65 more than a senior in Mexico for a 100 day supply of Procardia XL, an annual difference of over \$200.

These findings are consistent with those of other experts. While there have been few direct comparisons of prices in the United States and Mexico, the Congressional Research Service has found that differences in the regulatory systems between the two countries result in the large price differentials. CRS concluded that "of greater importance in explaining price differentials in drug prices in Mexico, and have been for some time."

INTRODUCTION OF STEWARDSHIP, EDUCATION, RECREATION AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (SERVE) ACT OF 1999

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Stewardship, Education, Recreation and Volunteer (SERVE) Act of 1999. This legislation, introduced by my colleague and cousin, Mr. UDALL of Colorado and which I am proud to be a co-sponsor of, will energize and expand existing efforts to enhance the outdoor, education and recreation experiences of the great outdoors for many Americans.

Our Nation's national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas and public lands are enjoyed by nearly two billion visits each year. These wonderful areas provide Americans with sightseeing, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping opportunities, just to name a few. In my District alone, visitors can experience a wide range of education and outdoor recreation opportunities. From the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, which provides Americans a brief glimpse into the daily life of the region's first inhabitants, to the Bureau of Land Manage-

ment's Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness with its dramatic moon like landscape, to the high country mountains and streams of the Santa Fe National Forest that provide excellent hunting, fishing and camping opportunities.

Visitors to our Nation's public lands often don't realize that behind the scenes of these magnificent natural and historical areas that visitors have come to see and learn about, are a cadre of volunteers who have selflessly given their time and expertise to the American people to make their experiences memorable. For without the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of the volunteers, Federal land management agencies would not be able to stay ahead of the maintenance and enhancements our national treasures require.

In the 1980's, a program was established to encourage Americans to become more involved in the management and protection of their lands for current and future generations. By all accounts, this program showed promise. Federal land management agencies such as the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were given a long needed tool to recruit and recognize individuals who donated their energy, time and expertise to enhance our federal and public lands for all Americans to enjoy.

Unfortunately, other priorities and funding issues have placed this program on the back burner. It is now time to revitalize, re-energize and expand our Nation's volunteer and educational outreach program.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would not only restore a past volunteer program, but expand and strengthen it by providing more powerful tools to Federal land managing agencies. This legislation would direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a national stewardship award program to recognize individuals, organizations and communities who have distinguished themselves by volunteering their time, energy and commitment to enhancing the priceless legacy of our Nation's public lands. As a minimum under this legislation, the Secretaries would establish a special pass to all our national parks, forests, refuges and other public lands to recognize volunteers for their exemplary efforts.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would also encourage an attitude of land and resource stewardship, and responsibility towards public lands by promoting the participation of individuals, organizations and communities in developing and fostering a conservation ethic towards the lands, facilities and our natural and cultural resources. Specifically, this legislation would encourage Federal land management agencies to enter into cooperative agreements with academic institutions, State or local government agencies or any partnership organization. In addition, the Secretaries would be enabled to provide matching funds to match non-Federal funds, services or materials donated under these cooperative agreements.

Providing educational opportunities has been one of America's greatest achievements and is one of the greatest gifts one generation can give to the next generation. This legislation encourages each Federal land management agency to play a role in education by cooperating with States, local school districts and other education oriented entities to (1) promote participation by students and others in volunteer programs of the Federal land

management agencies, (2) promote a greater understanding of our Nation's natural and cultural resources, and (3) to provide information and assistance to other agencies and organizations concerned with the wise use and management of our Nation's Great Outdoors and its natural and cultural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that this chamber realizes the importance of this bill in recognizing the invaluable role volunteers play in the stewardship of our Nation's cultural and natural resources. Therefore, I ask immediate consideration and passage of this bill.

EAST GRAND RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL NAMED NEW AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, staff and community that represent East Grand Rapids High School in my congressional district. It is my pleasure to honor all of those in the East Grand Rapids family for their commitment and dedication which resulted in being named a 1999 New American High School by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The award recognizes schools where all students are expected to meet challenging academic standards and acquire the communication, problem solving, computer and technical skills necessary to pursue careers and higher education.

To even be considered as a New American High School there are many hurdles that a school must successfully pass. Applicants must supply members of a steering committee with documentation that they have undertaken standards-based, locally driven reform efforts that positively affect key indicators of school improvement and student success. Among the documentation items they must present are proof of increases in student achievement, increases in student enrollment at postsecondary institutions, increases in student attendance, and reductions in student dropout rates.

East Grand Rapids is a model school when it comes to challenges and performance. High expectations are set for all students because of the high motivation level of the student body. The numbers speak for themselves. Based on statistics from the 1998 school year, approximately 94% of East Grand Rapids students enrolled in colleges or universities. The school registered a dropout rate of less than 1% and an attendance rate of 97%. Academic test scores are also the highest in the state of Michigan in mathematics, reading, and writing.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to take this opportunity to highlight the positive happenings at East Grand Rapids High School under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. James Morse and Principal Patrick Cwayna. It takes a lot of pride, sacrifice, and teamwork to qualify for this prestigious award. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting everyone involved in helping East Grand Rapids achieve this remarkable honor. I also wish continued academic and overall success for everyone associated with this school.