

medication. She can't let her child participate in after-school sports because of the additional costs entailed. She writes that where she and her family once felt pride in their sense of independence and self-sufficiency, today they feel only shame at having to rely on loans and supplemental income payments to get by.

These stories are not unusual. In many rural areas, they are becoming the norm. We cannot afford to let our farmers continue suffering like this. They can't wait another year for us to pass a farm bill. Their problems are here today.

Our bill will address their problems. Our bill will restore to them a better economic future. Our bill will restore to them their hope, so that they can build a better future for their children.

I am proud to be a coauthor of this bill, and I am proud to say that I will take my stand to fight for its passage.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred March 29, 1997 in Huntington Beach, CA. Michael Reign Caywood, 21, allegedly beat and robbed a gay man in his home. The assailant, who allegedly has ties to white supremacist groups, was charged with assault and residential robbery in connection with a hate crime.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, more than at any other time in my career we are a nation that is unified. We are a nation that, recognizing a common goal, is rallying with a knowledge that we will achieve a remarkable thing. It is extraordinary to witness.

One of the things that has always made this nation great, is that when we witness that which is extraordinary, we try to emulate it. You see it one thousand times a day, from the magnitude of contributions that have flooded to relieve every heroic firefighter's family, to the full sized flags flying from the back of Topeka pickup trucks, to the once rare act offering a smile and a bid of good morning to a stranger on the street.

And these acts of unity have not been the lot of individuals alone, nor have they been reserved to a response to the tragedy of September 11. It is one of these acts of unity—one of these recognitions of a common goal—that brings me to the floor today.

Last week the Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation announced their new CareCard drug discount program to aid the needy elderly who lack prescription drug coverage. This new program will translate to a savings of 30 to 40 percent off of retail pharmaceutical prices for the seniors with the greatest need. For this remarkable thing, Novartis deserves our thanks.

Over the past several years, the issue of the increasing cost of prescription drugs for seniors has remained a dominant story. Nearly every American has read of seniors forced to choose between the food to sustain them, the rent to shelter them or the medicine to keep them well. Because our antiquated Medicare system includes only very limited prescription drug coverage, the neediest senior have to figure out a way to pay for their medication.

In the absence of Congressional action to fundamentally reform and modernized the Medicare system in a way that would include prescription drug coverage, companies, like Novartis, have acted. In the case of the CareCard program. Novartis is offering seniors age 65 or older, with an annual income of less than 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level who do not currently have prescription drug coverage substantial discounts on their products. This program could translate to \$10 million Americans who may now be able to afford the medicine they need.

All of this said, Mr. President, that we congratulate Novartis for stepping up and making these discounts available to seniors, should not serve as an excuse for Congress to continue not to act. That Novartis has done the right thing, is not reason for us to do nothing. Medicare is a 36 year old program that has not kept up with our health care economy. We must modernize Medicare. We must reform Medicare. We must make prescription drug coverage available for all seniors; and we must act soon.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2330) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

At 2:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, an-

nounced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 400. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2541. An act to enhance the authorities of special agents and provide limited authorities to uniformed officers responsible for the protection of domestic Department of State occupied facilities.

H.R. 2546. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit States from requiring a license or fee on account of the fact that a motor vehicle is providing interstate pre-arranged ground transportation service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2776. An act to designate buildings 315, 318, and 319 located at the Federal Aviation Administration's William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey, as the "Frank R. Lautenberg Aviation Security Complex."

H.R. 2828. An act to authorize payments to certain Klamath Project water distribution entities for amounts assessed by the entities for operation and maintenance of the Project's transferred works for 2001, to authorize refunds to such entities of amounts collected by the Bureau of Reclamation for reserved works for 2001, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2841. An act to designate the building located at 1 Federal Plaza in New York, New York, as the "James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building."

H.R. 2873. An act to extend and amend the program entitled Promoting Safe and Stable Families under title IV-B, subpart 2 of the Social Security Act, and to provide new authority to support programs for mentoring children of incarcerated parents; to amend the Foster Care Independent Living program under title IV-E of that Act to provide for educational and training vouchers for youths aging out of foster care, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2976. An act to provide for the issuance of a special entrance pass for free admission to any federally owned area which is operated and maintained by a Federal agency and used for outdoor recreation purposes to the survivors, victims' immediate families, and police, fire, rescue, recovery, and medical personnel directly affected by the September 11, 2001, terrorist hijackings and the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2985. An act to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to increase civil penalties for violations involving certain proscribed acts or practices that exploit popular reaction to an emergency or major disaster declared by the President, and to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to seek civil penalties for such violations in actions brought under section 13 of that Act.

H.R. 3060. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to augment the emergency authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

H.R. 3240. An act to amend 38, United States Code, to restore certain education benefits of individuals being ordered to active duty as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should issue a proclamation to recognize the contribution of the Lao-Hmong in defending freedom and democracy and supporting the goals of Lao-Hmong Recognition Day.