now created a horrible precedent of requiring an offset for disaster payments. And, where did the Administration go for this offset? The farm bill which was just passed nine months ago. And, more importantly, what did the Administration attack first—the conservation title.

During the farm bill, the CSP was scored by CBO for $2 billion, but as the popularity and producer support and excitement for this program grew, CBO rescored this program for significantly more. In fact, the most recent score for CSP is $6.8 billion. Instead of seeing a wonderful vehicle to accomplish conservation on the ground, the Bush Administration viewed CSP as a cash cow—one to attack to pay for disaster payments. So, without any ability for debate, in the quiet of the night behind closed doors the Administration undermined the most important conservation program ever authorized—a conservation program open to all producers and capped the CSP. This cap fundamentally changes the CSP.

No longer can all producers have the security of knowing they can participate in a conservation program, no longer can the promised environmental benefits of the conservation title of the farm bill guaranteed. By capping this program—unintended restrictions on participation will follow and the baseline we worked so hard to develop and so carefully negotiated in the farm bill is gone. And, we have greatly hindered the most promising program we had for meeting our WTO obligations in the future.

It is clear today that the Administration is bent on undermining conservation practices and the CSP. It is clear that its words of praise for conservation cannot be reconciled with its destructive measures.

The colloquy between Senator STEVENS, Senator COCHRAN, Senator DASCHLE, Senator FRIST and me entered into on passage of the Omnibus Appropriations bill on February 13, will hopefully lead to correcting this mistake on the next supplemental appropriations bill.

I ask unanimous consent that a statement by Congressman GOODLATTE be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the House Agriculture Committee, Feb. 13, 2003]

CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE'S STATEMENT CONCERNING THE FINAL OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL AND THE DROUGHT ASSISTANCE PROVISION

''We are pleased that the final drought assistance provision provides targeted disaster relief to those farmers who need it the most. It is my hope that this approach will help countless American farmers avoid devastating financial circumstances. I am pleased that it is paid for.

''However, the Committee is greatly concerned that it is paid for out of a carefully negotiated Farm Bill, and would have preferred that the funds had been found elsewhere. Breaking open the Farm Bill, before it has even been implemented, is a very serious matter. This is a dangerous precedent, which we strongly opposed throughout the course of these negotiations.

''This is a warning to farm legislators and the farm community at large to be vigilant. It will be a constant effort to ensure that the Farm Bill remains a valuable asset to America's farmers and ranchers. While this legislation will help farmers who are hurting right now, we must make certain that in providing this assistance, we don't harm American agriculture in the long term.''

UNINSURED AMERICANS

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, as I rise today to speak before my colleagues in the 108th session of the US Congress, I have a sense of deja vu. While I have only been a member of the Senate since 1997, I have already seen the issues of prescription drugs for seniors and health care for the uninsured come and go—unresolved—a number of times. And while we continue to discuss the issues to death, people are dying.

According to a recent report by the Institute of Medicine, an estimated 18,000 people die every year because they don't have health insurance, and don't get the care they need in a timely fashion. Eighteen thousand deaths a year. And millions more people suffer unnecessarily due to delays in care, or lack of access to care. We need to do something substantial, and we need to do it now.

We have all heard the numbers, but they are so staggering that I have to mention them again. Today—right now as I speak—41 million Americans are living, working, and going to school without health insurance. That's one in every six Americans or 17 percent of our hard-working citizens who do not have health insurance. They are our friends, our neighbors, our children, our parents.

Many—more than 35 million of these uninsured Americans –are in low-income working families. Many people who work in small businesses are not offered health insurance, and those who are often cannot afford the skyrocketing premiums. My family owns a business, and I know what small businesses go through.

We want to provide health care to our hard working employees as much as they want us to offer it, but it is becoming so expensive and so bureaucratic, it grows more difficult every year. This Congress has its work cut out—strengthening the economy, fighting a war, creating a prescription drug benefit for our Nation's seniors. These are just a few of the important pieces of business before us this year. But the problem of the uninsured will not go away—to the contrary, the ranks of the uninsured are growing by millions every year.

A crisis of this magnitude is going to require fundamental change, either through a series of incremental steps, such as helping lower income Americans buy insurance or by spreading insurance risk, or by adopting a bold new approach, such as that advocated by Senator BREAUX.

We in Congress should consider it a moral imperative to help everyone get access to affordable health coverage.

The number of uninsured people in America is an outrage, and every unnecessary death is a tragedy. If 18,000 Americans died in terrorist incidents each year, there would be widespread outrage.

Yet tens of thousands of uninsured Americans are at risk of dying each year from cancers diagnosed too late, or stroke from uncontrolled high blood pressure. These can be slow, painful deaths.

They are preventable deaths. We can help prevent these deaths. We should help prevent these deaths. With the help of my colleagues, we will help prevent these deaths by committing ourselves to substantial reform this congress.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HISTORIC DEERFIELD CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, 2002 marked the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of Historic Deerfield. Founded in 1952 by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Needham Flynt of Greenwich, Crt, the western Massachusetts museum complex is located within the 330-year-old village of Deerfield, called ''the gem of rural New England'' by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Cited often as the best documented small community in America, Deerfield attracts scholars, curators, and students to study the history of New England using the village's rich manuscript an research holdings. And, tourists and travelers from throughout the world encounter the story of early America in the parlors and kitchens of Deer Field's old houses and along its mile-long thoroughfare simply called, ''The Street.''

Surrounded by more than 1,000 acres of actively farmed meadows, Historic Deer Field's museum houses and decorative art galleries are filed with more than 30,000 objects made or used in America between 1650 and 1850. This carefully preserved community of 18th and 19th century houses and the renowned collections of antiques within them are framed by working farms in a quintessential New England village that travelers are delighted to discover.

In 1936 Henry and Helen Flynt enrolled their son at Deerfield Academy, a college preparatory school founded in 1797. The couple was amazed at the remarkable but fragile state of preservation of the village's houses and buildings dating back to the early 18th century. Many were ghosts of their former selves, but still lived in by descendants of the proud families that had survived the infamous Deerfield Massacre of 1704. In those years preceding World