

197 to H.R. 1. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

Mr. Speaker, due to family reasons, I was unable to vote on Rollcall No. 331: Motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 1. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. Speaker, due to family reasons, I was unable to vote on Rollcall No. 332: Final passage of H.R. 1. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

Mr. Speaker, due to family reasons, I was unable to vote on Rollcall No. 333: On passage of H.R. 2417. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET
ACCESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation because it will provide our seniors and all American consumers the relief they need from skyrocketing drug prices through safe, FDA-approved prescription drugs reimported from Canada and Europe.

And I am pleased that a broad bipartisan coalition has come together to advance this important measure.

Currently, the same exact prescription drugs purchased in Canada and Europe cost only a fraction of the prices charged in the U.S.

This does not make sense when a number of our seniors must choose between spending their limited income on food or taking on their daily dosage of a prescribed medication.

Some have raised concerns about the safety of importing prescription drugs from outside the United States.

As a nurse, I am always concerned about safety and doing no harm.

This bill takes important steps to actually improve the safety of prescription drugs through:

State-of-the-art technology to prevent tampering with the packaging (the same type of technology used by the Dept. of Treasury to secure our currency);

Strict inspections by wholesalers to test each shipment;

And by allowing only FDA-approved drugs from FDA-approved facilities into the country.

Further, the legislation's enforcement authority is clear and very strong—Manufacturers or importers can be heavily fined or even face up to 10 years in prison for failing to comply with safety requirements.

The plain fact is that more than one million Americans already purchase their medicines from outside the American market and there has not been one reported death or illness from Americans taking such products.

Mr. Speaker, reimportation is a common-sense thing to do. It is probusiness, pro-consumer and it's a safe and effective way for Americans to pay less for prescription drugs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" for this legislation, our seniors can't wait.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF DOMINICAN BASEBALL PLAYERS
TO THE ECONOMY OF THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this time to highlight some of the contributions that baseball players of Dominican decent are making not only to America's national pastime, but also to communities in the Dominican Republic.

It isn't long into SportsCenter or any other sports highlight show before one notices that some of the game's greatest contemporary players hail from the DR. Perennial All-Stars like Sammy Sosa, Pedro Martinez, Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez, joined now by youngsters like Odalis Perez, Albert Pujols, Carlos Delgado, Alfonso Soriano and Miguel Tejada, are redefining the game by challenging long-established records and moving the bar of excellence higher than many would have imagined.

Baseball has a long established tradition in the DR, showcasing Negro-League stars like Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson in winter league games at a time when the color-line barred African-Americans from playing with white players in America. And these new stars know that they follow in the footsteps of major league trailblazers like Felipe Alou, Joaquin Andujar, George Bell, Rico Carty, Tony Fernandez, Pedro Guerrero, Juan Marichal, and Jose Rijo.

However, what makes these ballplayers different from athletes of the past is that they can afford not only to be positive role models of behavior, but also economic role models of philanthropy. According to Major League Baseball, the 79 Dominican major league baseball players earn a combined salary of \$210 million. Like many immigrants, they send money directly home to family members. However, they also contribute to the local economy by building homes, investing in business ventures and making contributions to charities based in their hometowns.

Their success in the major leagues has also brought in Major League Baseball as a partner in the island's economic development. According to a recent study, MLB has created 1,200 jobs, with \$14.7 million going directly to the country through the operation of 30 baseball academies that are all looking to find the next diamond in the rough. These are academies that not only provide services, but also buy from local merchants, which has lead to the creation of as many as 900 new jobs.

Success in baseball is not based on the play of one player but on the efforts of the entire team. These Dominican athletes know that the best way that they can truly honor the sacrifices of their family and friends is making sure that they give back with both their hearts and their wallets. Collectively, they and other Dominicans around the world are helping to shatter the myth that some people are forever destined to be the recipients of handouts and hand-me-downs. That with an investment of faith and money, talent can surface to change a game—and the world.

WE MUST WORK TOWARD WINNING
AND SUSTAINING PEACE IN IRAQ
AND AFGHANISTAN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, since President Bush declared an end to major combat operations on May 1, 2003, we continue to have loss of life of our brave service men and women in Iraq at a rate of one per day.

Just look at the figures—491 wounded and 93 killed. We've lost 7 soldiers in the last week alone.

Why? Because the administration failed to adequately plan for post-war peacekeeping in Iraq. And experts are beginning to warn that the window for postwar success is closing.

We need to make a decision—and we need to do it quickly—about increasing the end strength of our military. Two days ago, the Pentagon announced that our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan should expect one-year deployments.

We are walking a very fine line on having enough troops to support our missions around the globe, especially Iraq and Afghanistan.

Asking our troops to stay for longer and longer tours is not the answer. Our troops are stretched thin, and we must start talking about doing everything in our power to win and sustain the peace.

BILL TO REFORM AMERICAN INDIAN TRUST FUND MANAGEMENT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to provide the basis for reforming the way the federal government discharges its responsibilities regarding the assets and funds it holds in trust for federally recognized Indian tribes and individual Indians.

The bill is also sponsored by Representative RAHALL, the Ranking Democratic Member of the Resources Committee, and is identical to a measure being introduced in the Senate by Senators MCCAIN, DASCHLE, and JOHNSON. It is based on a bill (S. 175) they introduced earlier, with revisions that reflect comments and suggestions from a number of tribes and others who have interest and expertise in this subject, including representatives of the Great Plains tribes, the Native American Rights Fund, the National Congress of American Indians, and the InterTribal Monitoring Association.

We are introducing the bill today in the interests of contributing specific legislative proposals for consideration as part of what we hope and expect will be a bipartisan effort to develop legislation to resolve many of the problems in this important part of the duties of the Interior Department.

As we all know, Mr. Speaker, the Interior Department's management of Indian trust funds is the subject of deserved criticism and