

in Valparaiso, Indiana after earning a worthy reputation during Prohibition. Bill tended bar and learned many life lessons from his father and their patrons. In fact, his book's title, "It's Made to Sell—Not to Drink!" is in reference to the libations served at "The Club." As a young man, Bill joined the United States Marine Corps, where he served during World War II. Both his Hoosier boyhood and military exploits are featured prominently in his autobiography as important formative influences on his life.

Fortunately, Bill's strong Hoosier roots brought him back, where his career has flourished in the hospitality industry. After World War II, Bill set his sights on the Valparaiso area, where he helped establish The Corral bar in 1948 and Wellman's Restaurant in 1958, to which he later added a bowling alley. Subsequently, his stewardship over the Holiday Inn in Valparaiso led to an expansion that included a restaurant and outdoor theater, which came to be known as the Bridge VU. Here, Bill hosted such stars as Dolly Parton, The Oak Ridge Boys, Victor Borge, Duke Ellington, and many others. It was this venture that inspired his signature project, the 3,400 seat Star Plaza Theater, which remains today as a prominent entertainment complex and tourist attraction in Merrillville, Indiana.

While Bill's numerous business ventures have provided quality entertainment, award-winning food, and many jobs for those in Northwest Indiana, he has gone further than most to make the region a more attractive destination. Bill is one of the original founders and a Past President of the Northwest Indiana Tourism Council, and is a Past President of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau. In 1986, he was named the Indiana Ambassador of Tourism, and for many years he served as President of the Indiana Travel and Tourism Association. It is through Bill's service to these and other organizations that Northwest Indiana truly benefits from his wealth of knowledge.

At age 82, Bill maintains a busy schedule, giving back to his community through various local organizations and holding a demanding post as Senior Vice President of Communications for Whiteco Industries, where he has worked since 1976. In fact, his early years at Whiteco were devoted to design and development of the Star Plaza Theater, which his firm now owns and manages. A testament to his work ethic and passion, Bill has shrugged off retirement and relishes each day at work. However, Bill's most enjoyable time is spent with his wife, three children, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Wellman's eye for entertainment has added a spark to the lives of thousands of Hoosiers and visitors from around the United States. His commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of the First Congressional District of Indiana should be recognized and celebrated. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending my friend, Bill Wellman, for his lifetime of enthusiastic service to Northwest Indiana.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH CARE PRICE TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we currently have a health care system that is badly in need of reform. However, in the tangled mess of medical bureaucracy, no one has a clear picture of the problem. Physicians and other providers don't get paid enough, patients pay too much, many people don't get any care at all, and everyone claims that someone else needs to change. Before we start changing things, though, it seems prudent to understand the problem fully. Today, I have introduced legislation with that goal in mind. This is a first step toward true price transparency in the health care market.

The Health Care Price Transparency Act of 2006 is a long-term solution to runaway medical costs. This bill calls upon the States to establish and maintain laws requiring disclosure of information on hospital charges, to make such information available to the public, and to provide individuals with information about estimated out-of-pocket costs for health care services. This means that State law will require health insurance providers to give patients an actual dollar estimate of what the patient must pay for health care items and services within a specified period of time.

Additionally, the bill calls for research on: (1) The types of cost information that individuals find useful in making decisions regarding healthcare; (2) how this useful information varies according to an individual's health insurance coverage, and if so, by what type of coverage they have; and (3) ways that this information may be distributed in a timely and simple manner.

These are simple but important provisions. The current health insurance system has insulated people from the actual cost of the medical care they receive. By pulling back the curtain on opaque areas of the health care market, over time, this legislation will lead to the development of a more rational pricing structure from the consumer's perspective. Once we understand the actual cost, then we can begin to make effective changes leading to fair physician reimbursement, appropriate patient billing, and better medical services.

In August, President Bush issued an executive order calling for increased transparency within the Federal Government's health care agencies. This legislation is an extension of that executive order, giving States the tools to become part of a necessary solution for health care consumers.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 2965

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of floor consideration of H.R. 2965, the "Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2006," the Committee on

the Judiciary sets forth, with respect to the bill H.R. 2965, the following estimate and comparison prepared by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. This cost estimate is in addition to the one set forth by the Committee in H. Rept. 109–591.

H.R. 2965—Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2006

Summary: H.R. 2965 would amend the laws that authorize the Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a government-owned corporation that produces goods and services for the federal government with prison labor. Under current law, most federal agencies are required to award purchase contracts to FPI on a non-competitive basis if FPI has products available to meet the agencies' needs and the cost would not exceed current market prices. Such products include office furniture, textiles, vehicle tags, and fiber optics. Under H.R. 2965, this requirement to award non-competitive purchase contracts to FPI would be phased out over the 2007–2012 period.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$357 million over the 2007–2011 period for new FPI programs. In addition, CBO expects that additional amounts would be needed to pay for security costs at federal prisons. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2965 would cost \$445 million over the 2007–2011 period. Federal agencies might be able to purchase some goods and services less expensively because of the added contracting flexibility the bill would provide, but CBO has no basis for estimating such savings. The bill would have no significant effect on net direct spending by FPI, CBO estimates.

H.R. 2965 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), but CBO estimates that the cost to state, local, and tribal governments for complying with this mandate would be insignificant and well below the threshold established in the act (\$64 million in 2006, adjusted for inflation). The bill contains no new private-sector mandates.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2965 is shown in the following table. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Enhanced Vocational Assessment and Training:					
Authorization Level	0	75	75	75	75
Estimated Outlays	0	66	75	75	75
FPI Public Service and Donation Programs:					
Authorization Level	0	12	12	12	12
Estimated Outlays	0	12	12	12	12
Cognitive Abilities Assessment Demonstration Program:					
Authorization Level	0	3	3	3	0
Estimated Outlays	0	2	3	3	1
Additional Security Costs:					
Estimated Authorization Level ...	4	5	21	32	38
Estimated Outlays	4	5	20	31	37
Total Changes:					
Estimated Authorization Level ...	4	95	111	122	125
Estimated Outlays	4	85	110	121	125

Basis of estimate: CBO assumes that the proposed legislation will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2007 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year. We estimate that implementing the programs specifically authorized by H.R. 2965 would cost \$348 million over the 2007–2011 period. In addition, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2965 would cost the Bureau of Prisons \$4 million in 2007 and nearly \$100 million over the 2007–2011 period for additional security officers to supervise inmates

who would no longer be working as a result of implementing this legislation.

Enhanced in-prison vocational assessment and training

The bill would authorize the Attorney General to establish a Federal Enhanced In-Prison Vocational Assessment and Training Program in federal institutions and would authorize the appropriation of \$75 million a year beginning in fiscal year 2008 for this program. Assuming the appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that the enhanced program would cost \$291 million over the 2007–2011 period.

FPI public service and donation programs

The legislation would authorize the Attorney General to establish a new FPI program in federal prisons that, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts, would produce goods to be donated to nonprofit organizations instead of being offered for purchase to the federal government. In addition, FPI would be authorized to contract with nonprofit organizations and certain public entities for the use of inmate labor to provide charitable services. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$12 million for fiscal year 2008 and \$48 million over the 2008–2011 period for these programs.

Cognitive Abilities Assessment Demonstration program

Section 10 would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million for each of the fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 for the Bureau of Prisons to establish a Cognitive Abilities Assessment Demonstration Program in 12 federal institutions. The project would assess inmates' cognitive abilities and perceptual skills to determine what rehabilitative activities would be most successful. CBO estimates that this provision would cost \$9 million over the 2007–2011 period, assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Additional security costs

H.R. 2965 would phase out the requirement for federal agencies to purchase products and services from FPI. During the next five years, CBO expects that FPI's total sales to the federal government would decrease by about 25 percent, assuming that FPI would succeed in selling some products and services under competitive bidding procurements.

The bill would limit FPI's sales to federal agencies to 20 percent of the governmentwide purchases of the kinds of products FPI produces and 5 percent of the kinds of services it provides—regardless of whether the government purchase contracts are awarded on a noncompetitive or competitive basis. The legislation, however, would authorize FPI's board of directors to allow FPI a greater market share if an agency has requested additional products or services or if necessary to sustain inmates' work levels. CBO expects that few inmates would lose work over the next five years as a result of this restriction on FPI's market share because we expect that the board would try to maintain the number of inmates working for FPI.

Because of the reduction in federal sales, CBO expects that there would be a corresponding reduction in the number of inmates employed by FPI. Currently, no funds appropriated to the Bureau of Prisons are used to provide security to prisoners participating in FPI programs during work hours because this security is provided by FPI. Based on information from the Department of Justice about the number of prison security personnel needed to guard the prison population, CBO estimates that an additional 50 security officers would be needed in fiscal year 2007 to secure prisoners no longer working for FPI; that number would grow to more than 400 by 2011. CBO estimates that providing additional security officers would

cost \$4 million in 2007 and nearly \$100 million over the five-year period.

Changes in FPI's direct spending

CBO estimates that, under the bill, total receipts collected by FPI would decrease over the 5-year period as agencies procure fewer FPI products. But that reduction in collections would be offset by a reduction in the cost to produce such products. Therefore, CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would result in no significant net change in direct spending for each year.

Impact on other Federal agencies

The bill would phase out current requirements that federal agencies purchase certain products and services from FPI on a non-competitive basis. That change might enable agencies to acquire some products or services less expensively through a competitive procurement process. In recent years, agencies have purchased \$800 million to \$900 million worth of goods and services from FPI. CBO has no basis for estimating the savings that might result, but they would likely be a small percentage of the total sales.

Estimated impact on State, local, and Tribal Governments: H.R. 2095 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in UMRA because it would require most work programs in state and local prisons that provide services in interstate commerce to obtain federal certification in order to continue operating after September 2010 or after the end of their current contract. CBO estimates that the administrative cost to obtain this certification would be insignificant and well below the threshold established in UMRA (\$64 million in 2007, adjusted annually for inflation). This bill would impose no other significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated impact on the private sector: This bill contains no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Daniel Hoople and Gregory Waring; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell; and Impact on the Private Sector: Paige Piper/Bach.

Estimate approved by: Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY CARMEN
DECARLO

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send birthday wishes from the Congress to Carmen deCarlo on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Daughter of Italian immigrants Angelo and Delores, wife of her childhood sweetheart Mario, mother to Mark and Manon and adored grandmother of Alex, Jessica and Nicky, Carmen was born in New York City 90 years ago.

Her parents worked tirelessly in their grocery business to bring up Carmen with good values and in a loving environment. Carmen and her husband were always very much dedicated to making the plight of the less fortunate and disenfranchised better. She championed the rights of the poor and strove to create an even playing field.

As President of the PTA, Carmen started the first "free milk program" for the children of families that could not afford to provide this very basic necessity of life. Carmen has volunteered at the local schools and considers her-

self a surrogate grandmother to her little first and second grade students. Carmen has exemplified a love for her family and friends and must be commended for her life-long dedication to helping others.

I offer my best wishes for continued good health and good fortune for Carmen and her family and for many more gatherings such as the one to celebrate her birthday at the gazebo on Moosehead Lake.

THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is critical that we bring the President's so-called Terrorist Surveillance Program within legal boundaries set by Congress.

In the House, a number of bills have been introduced, including H.R. 5371, the LISTEN Act.

Today, I am introducing the companion bill to S. 3877, sponsored by my Senator, DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California, and Senate Judiciary Chairman ARLEN SPECTER of Pennsylvania.

Their bill is pending on the Senate floor and I believe it is important for our colleagues to be able to study it.

Like H.R. 5371, the Feinstein-Specter bill reaffirms the exclusivity of FISA and provides additional resources to obtain emergency FISA warrants for tracking terror suspects. But their bill also amends FISA to lengthen the period for securing emergency warrants and to designate additional officials to approve surveillance for a short period in advance of the issuance of a warrant.

These are dangerous times but security and liberty are not a zero-sum game. We will be measured in part by whether we uphold the core values that keep our Nation strong.

HONORING CORPORAL DAVID
GARDNER WEIMORTZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a true American Hero. On August 26, 2006, Corporal David Gardner Weimortz died fighting for our country in Iraq. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, David Weimortz enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. In the Corps, Corporal Weimortz proudly served America and ultimately made the greatest sacrifice.

Corporal Weimortz is survived by his mother, Fran A. Fellers of Irmo; father, Joseph T. Weimortz of Crestview, Fla.; sister, Kelly A. Weimortz of Columbia; grandmother, Helen F. Asbill of Aiken; aunt and uncle, Pam and Clint Parker of Greenville; and great-aunt, Alice Lee Foster of Aiken.

Corporal Weimortz was lovingly eulogized in the September 7, 2006, issue of The New Irma News by Deloris Mungo. The text of her article follows: