

banks and credit unions to increase their lending to small businesses.

I appreciate how the Small Business Financing and Investment Act assists high-tech businesses and entrepreneurs. Beginning in the last quarter of 2008, investments in early-stage businesses, such as these, plunged 26 percent. To address this shortage, the bill would establish a new Early-Stage Investment Program at SBA, which would pair SBA grants with private venture capital in order to target investment dollars to promising technology small business startups. The legislation makes improvements to the Renewable Energy Capital Investment program in order to increase investment in small business that are researching alternative and renewable energy technologies to meet our future energy needs.

I am pleased that H.R. 3854 helps veterans interested in starting their own businesses. Our Nation was built by citizen-soldiers, yet too often, our veterans have difficulty finding well-paid, rewarding work in the Nation they served and protected. We need to do more to help our youngest veterans find gainful employment. According to the Department of Labor, veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 had an unemployment rate of 14.1 percent; nearly double the rate of those between the ages of 25 to 34, 7.3 percent. It is unacceptable that hundreds of thousands of veterans who have risked their own lives to defend our country can't find jobs, and many endure homelessness and lives of poverty after they return home. Our brave men and women in uniform have given so much for this country; it is right that the Congress help ensure that our returning soldiers have jobs when they come home. The legislation helps veterans by offering higher guarantees and lower cost loans, so they can access more affordable capital.

The Small Business Financing and Investment Act builds on the investments that this Congress made through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This bill would provide further aid to our small business and continues our efforts to put the economy back on the track to recovery.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill to support our Nation's small businesses.

MEDIA SLIGHT CONSERVATIVE PROTESTS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the national media give Americans a tale of two protests.

On the one hand, you have liberal protests, to which the media give extensive and positive coverage. On the other hand, you have conservative protests. The media downplay these demonstrations and demonize the protestors.

On Thursday, thousands of people from around the country gathered in front of the Capitol to voice their opposition to a Government takeover of health care. The New York Times buried its coverage of the protest on page A15.

A couple of months ago, the Times buried its coverage of the conservative September 12 protests on page A37.

In contrast, the Times has given much better coverage to protests regarding amnesty, gay rights, and other liberal causes.

The New York Times and the national media should give fair coverage to protests on both sides, not just the ones they agree with.

PROMOTING INNOVATION AND ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING MEDICINE ACT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I and others have spoken at length on the ways that this bill improves and will improve health care for all of our constituents. Another significant benefit of this legislation which has not received as much attention will be the creation of new high-paying jobs in this country. Let me repeat that for some of my friends on the other side of the aisle, this bill will create high-paying, high-quality jobs in healthcare delivery, technology, and research in the United States.

First, this bill will create enormous demand for healthcare workers, especially in the area of primary care. Insuring the millions of Americans in this country who currently have no insurance will allow them to see primary care providers and receive the wellness and preventive care they have been denied for too long. This influx of new patients will need doctors, nurses and technicians for their care, while reducing overall healthcare costs because they will not need much more expensive hospitalizations. I support channeling resources that for too long have been used to treat people once they become sick into jobs and services that will prevent people from getting sick in the first place.

Second, this bill will continue the efforts we began in the stimulus package to deploy new health information technologies that better manage both the quality of care people receive and the cost at which they receive it. New health care exchanges and new demands on the health system to provide high-quality and cost-effective health care will create new opportunities and markets for our brightest technology minds. They will be incentivized to create and develop products that will be a win/win for Americans: high quality health care at an affordable price.

Third, this bill will create high quality research opportunities in this country. The Energy and Commerce Committee enacted a framework for allowing biosimilar competition in this country. This new class of medicines will help lower costs and bring competition to one area that is key to the future of our healthcare system. Biotechnology is on the cutting edge of efforts to reducing costly invasive procedures and allowing our constituents to live healthier and more productive lives. The creation of this new class of medicines comes with requirements for new clinical research and testing, especially in the area of whether a new biosimilar can be interchangeable with an innovator's product. This research will create high quality and high paying jobs and it is imperative that we keep this research and these jobs in this country. We cannot allow these research opportunities to leave

this country, and I intend to work with the Secretary of HHS and the Commissioner of the FDA to ensure they stay in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I do not look at this bill as one of cost or drain on the economy of our country like so many of its opponents on the other side of the aisle. I see this bill as an exciting opportunity to create the kind of jobs we so desperately need in this country while at the same time improving the lives of all Americans. This bill will improve health care, create jobs and grow our economy.

NATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H. Res. 700, designating the week of November 9 as National School Psychology Week to draw attention to the threat to liberty posed by proposals that school physiologists perform mandatory mental evaluations of all school children without parental consent.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the federal and state governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental-health screening for all Americans. The commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental-health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental-health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental-health screening. Federally funded universal or mandatory mental-health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to Medco Health Solutions, more than 2.2 million children are receiving more than one psychotropic drug at one time. In fact, according to Medco Trends, in 2003, total spending on psychiatric drugs for children exceeded spending on antibiotics or asthma medication.

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children. Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a federally funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental-health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental-health diagnosis manuals admit that mental-health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too