

Even when competition cannot fix a dysfunctional market on its own entirely, it will almost always contribute to the solution, by ensuring that market incentives are aligned in a healthy fashion, in the direction of serving consumers rather than taking advantage of them.

Competition advice from the federal antitrust enforcement agencies will not only help ensure that health care and health insurance regulatory policy is appropriately sensitive to competitive conditions and dynamics in the markets involved. By helping place regulatory policy on a sound analytical footing, it will strengthen it against any potential legal challenge by those opposing reform efforts. Moreover, the very fact of antitrust oversight in connection with this advisory analysis will help deter anticompetitive behavior.

To take just one important example, the new law creates health insurance exchanges, to be set up by the States, to help make sure families and small businesses have meaningful choices for health insurance. In order for these exchanges to achieve their purpose, they need to attract not just the insurance companies that are already dominant in their market, but other insurance companies, including new ones eager to establish themselves. Dominant health insurance companies have many ways of protecting their dominance by making it harder for others to make competitive inroads. And they have powerful anticompetitive incentives to do just that.

Accordingly, we can expect the dominant health insurance companies to be offering plenty of their own advice to State legislatures and agencies on how to structure the new exchanges, and we can expect that their advice will be tailored to favor their own interests. Their self-serving advice, if followed, could have the potential to stop competition in its tracks, and deny consumers the benefits of choice, innovation, and affordability that competition brings.

The more the States can keep promotion of competition in their sights as they design and implement the exchanges, the better those exchanges will work to widen the effective choices available for the families and small businesses who need them. And the federal antitrust enforcement agencies can be a valuable source of expertise in ensuring that the exchanges are designed and implemented so as to harness the power of competitive market incentives as fully as possible.

Along with the antitrust savings clause in the text of the health care bill, which ensures that the normal operation of the antitrust laws is in no way altered or disrupted, use of this well-established advisory role will help ensure that the health insurance marketplace is fixed in a manner that makes maximum use of competitive market forces to achieve these important objectives for American families and small businesses.

END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS  
ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 22, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 4810,

“End Veterans Homelessness Act of 2010” introduced by my distinguished colleague from California, Representative FILNER.

H. Res. 4810 will amend Title 38 of the United States Code, in order to make certain improvements in the services rendered to homeless veterans under the laws that are administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Improvements in services rendered to homeless veterans will include increases in the amount authorized to be appropriated for comprehensive programs, adjusted payments for providing various services such as furnishing services to homeless veterans, supported housing program outreach, financial assistance for low-income families, and the promotion of awareness of available Department of Veterans Affairs programs.

Throughout our country's history, our brave men and women in uniform have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom around the world, and I am proud to support legislation that will aid our nation's veterans. I have worked tirelessly to pass legislation that will give our veterans the benefits that they need and deserve. I have supported legislation, such as H. Res. 6081, “The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax of 2008”, H. Res. 1054, “Honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans”, H. Res. 2790, “To establish the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health as amended”, and H. Res. 3480, “Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2008” to support our veterans. My fellow Americans, we must remember that it is because of them that we are able to continue to be a democratic nation. All Americans must realize that we owe our liberty to those veterans who have served their nation 110% without fear. They definitely deserve our assistance and support in every way possible. I have always and will continue to fight for legislation that protects our veterans.

I really find it unacceptable that an estimated 131,000 veterans are homeless on any given night after honorably serving their country. We are doing our veterans a great disservice. We owe our veterans the utmost respect, appreciation, and definitely a home to come home to after serving as a member of our armed forces. In these challenging economic times, we must do more to provide for our veterans' basic needs. H. Res. 4810 shows that all Americans take pride in our veterans' service to this nation, and just as the military doesn't believe in leaving a soldier behind on the battlefield, I believe that I speak for all Americans that we don't believe in leaving our veterans behind . . . we must help them push forward!

Strengthening comprehensive programs by investing in our veterans, requiring housing counselors to grant more housing opportunities at each Veteran Affairs center, and paying attention to homeless women veterans and veterans with children is the right thing to do. I would like to urge my colleagues to support this powerful piece of legislation for our veterans that proudly support our freedoms and defend our U.S. Constitution. Again, I would like to commend all of our soldiers for their unselfish service and devotion to the welfare of others.

HONORING HEALTH4HAITI

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Health4Haiti, an international aid group founded by Pueblo surgeon Dr. James Smith. For many years, Dr. Smith has been traveling to Haiti in the wake of devastating hurricanes to provide crucial surgeries to impoverished people across the country. In November of 2009, Health4Haiti and Dr. Smith were awarded the International Humanitarian Service Award in recognition of their remarkable dedication and service to the Haitian people.

We are all familiar with the incredibly destructive earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010. The images from that terrible series of days will stay with us forever. However, the disaster was also an incredible demonstration of the compassion of the people of Colorado's Third District. When the first reports from Haiti came in, several Pueblo residents immediately mobilized to visit Haiti and offer their assistance. These incredible Pueblans were among the first U.S. Search and Rescue Teams to arrive. All doctors and nurses, they immediately began treating wounded Haitians, saving lives and delivering vital aid and comfort. I would like to commend Dr. James Smith, Dr. Ginger Vaughn, Dr. Benjamin Massey, Debbie Valdez, Eric Miller, and Mary Anne Woods for their generosity and humanity in the face of overwhelming tragedy.

This group of people and Health4Haiti have inspired countless others to serve those less fortunate, and I honor them for their work.

TRIBUTE TO BRYANT  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the fifth grade students at Bryant Elementary School in Boone, Iowa, for their efforts in raising money to help those devastated by the recent earthquake in Haiti.

Students Brady Wright, Isidro Gonzalez and Erica Mehlhaus put their heads and hearts together to come up with a way to raise funds for the American Red Cross' Haitian relief efforts. In addition to accepting local donations, these students developed a fun and competitive project called “Penny Wars” which took place in February for three weeks. This school-wide contest was implemented to see which class could collect the most pennies. Containers, labeled for each classroom, were filled with pennies, and students could add silver coins to the containers of opposing classrooms to reduce that class's penny count. To further entice students to contribute, students were able to chew gum and wear hats in class when they donated quarters. The class with the highest penny credit earned a pizza party.

The collective effort at Bryant Elementary School is a characteristic of what Iowa is all about—citizens motivated and dedicated to