

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 396

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of House Resolution 396.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Franklin once said that when people "are employed, they are best contented." Unfortunately, our Government right now is denying contentment to millions of seniors who want to work but cannot because of the Social Security earnings limit.

Because of this earnings limit, seniors who work are being stripped of their Social Security benefits, the very Social Security benefits that they have spent their adult life earning and paying for with their own money. They are being penalized \$2 for every \$1 they earn if they choose to keep working. This is nonsense. It is wrong. And it must end.

Fortunately, the Republicans here in the House are supporting a plan that would give relief to the millions of seniors who are burdened by the earnings limit. We understand that senior citizens who choose to work should not have to put their Social Security benefits at risk.

Senior citizens can and do make lasting contributions in the workforce, and they should not be denied that right. The time has come to put an end to the Social Security earnings limit and tell our working citizens that we do not think they should be punished for having a job.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN AMERICA

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the discharge petition drive that is being launched today is strong medicine, and it is the right prescription for American families.

But do not take my word for it. Just ask Sue Darling, who is a constituent of mine in Port Huron, Michigan.

Mrs. Darling suffers from Parkinson's Disease and other illnesses. In fact, before her husband died last year, they spent 60 percent of their income on the medicine that they both needed.

The cost of filling three prescriptions Mrs. Darling needs just for her emphysema alone comes to more than \$300 per month. That is \$300 for three prescriptions.

She has Medigap coverage, but it is exhausted after three months.

Mrs. Darling is at the point now where she would beg her physician for free samples of the inhalers that she needs. That is why we are jump-starting the debate over affordable prescription drugs in this country.

The chance to craft a sensible solution, we are not asking for anything more than that.

Lord knows Americans like Mrs. Darling deserve nothing less.

□ 1030

LET US GIVE SENIORS RELIEF FROM SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Edison once said, there is no substitute for hard work. I think most of us in the chamber could agree with that. There is no substitute for the feeling of satisfaction after a hard day's work. Too often, work is something that many people take for granted. But one group of people who do not take work for granted is our seniors. Because of the Social Security earnings limit, working seniors can literally not afford to take work for granted. Because of the Social Security earnings limit, millions of working seniors are stripped of their Social Security benefits. Their crime is employment. Because they have a job, the government takes away the Social Security benefits that they have spent a lifetime earning.

This is wrong. This is not fair. Last week, the House took the first step in giving relief to married couples who pay tax penalties because they are married. Now it is time to give relief to seniors who are penalized because they work. Let us all join together and give seniors relief from the Social Security earnings limit.

SENIORS DESERVE TO PAY LESS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. CUMMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, we have a health crisis in this Nation. Our seniors are being priced out of the prescription drugs that help keep them alive and allow them to live healthy

lives. I submit that after a lifetime of service to family and community, our seniors deserve to pay less. They deserve to pay less than customers of drug companies who receive discounts because they have market power. But more importantly, they deserve to pay less than that which is paid for drugs used by animals. Today I am releasing a government reform minority study of my district in Maryland which reveals that drug manufacturer prices are twice as high for humans than for animals, and these price differentials cannot be justified by quality differences or research costs. Now is the time to act. I urge my colleagues to end this discrimination by supporting a comprehensive benefit for all Medicare beneficiaries.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. COOK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the University of Utah's 150th anniversary. On February 28, 1850, the Utah State Assembly ordained the University of the State of Deseret, better known today as the University of Utah. Since its creation, the University of Utah has conferred over 180,000 degrees, making it the State's most profuse provider of higher education. In addition to its educational excellence, the university is also a leader in cultural, social, scientific, economic, medical and artistic contributions.

I would like to take this time to honor the faculty, staff, and students of the University of Utah for enriching the great State of Utah and the Nation. Today with undergraduate and graduate enrollment nearing 26,000 and students representing all 29 counties, all 50 States, and 102 foreign countries, I am proud to say that the University of Utah is indeed a diverse population bringing together great ideas. I know this because my wife and I both graduated from The U in 1969. We are proud to be part of the university's educational excellence, and I am honored to speak on its 150th anniversary.

ON INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I begin a series of 1-minutes that recognize the enormous problem this Nation has with children who have been abducted internationally. Last week I met with six parents from across the country whose children have been taken from them and are being held in foreign countries. I had the opportunity to sit down with them, to look