

help most seniors. So, I will continue to read letters until Congress enacts a real Medicare prescription drug benefit. This week, I will read a letter from Shirley Radcliff of Gladstone, Michigan.

Together, Shirley and her husband spend \$1,042.36 for their prescription drugs. With the Democratic prescription drug plan, they would save \$286.32. Under the Republican plan, their costs would remain the same. In other words, the Republican plan would not help them.

Before I read Shirley's letter, let me share some information with my colleagues. In July, the Kaiser Family Foundation released a Prescription Drug Trends Chart Book that contains important findings.

In 1996, a third of the Medicare population had no drug coverage. This means that one third of those beneficiaries had their access to the prescription drugs they needed limited by their income.

Prices are rising and it is becoming increasingly more difficult for senior to pay for their medications out of their own pockets. In the past 5 years, the increase in prescription drug expenditures have been 2 to 4 times the percent changes in expenditure for most other health care services.

National spending for prescription drugs totaled \$91 billion in 1998, more than double the amount spent in 1990. Prescription drug utilization is the fastest growing component of health care, increasing at double digit rates nearly every year since 1985.

It is critical that Medicare be modernized to include coverage for this important component. I strongly support the Democratic proposal that creates a voluntary, defined benefit.

Text of letter: "Enclosed is a copy of the drugs taken and their prices that my husband and I have taken in 1999 (and are still taking in 2000).

"We are a couple on a fixed income and cannot afford these drugs that continue to escalate. Our income cannot keep up with it.

"Take note: the middle of the first page: 15 pills of Paxil are \$41.99. I cannot afford that and discontinued taking them because of it.

"And, at the top of page three, a two-month supply of Daypro is \$82.53. I no longer take these either, because I cannot afford them.

"Something has to be done! At your level! Someday you will be in my shoes. Pray that you are well and do not need prescription drugs. Sincerely, Shirley M. Radcliff."

HONORING ANN BROWN AS THE  
LONGEST SERVING CHAIRMAN  
OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT  
SAFETY COMMISSION

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ann Brown, the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. She has served as Chairman for more than six and a half years, since March 10, 1994. She is by far the longest serving Chairman of the CPSC. The previous record was four years and three months.

Chairman Brown has compiled an outstanding record at the CPSC. When she came to the Agency, she found it virtually moribund, the staff dispirited, and its vital safety mission fallen far from public view. Ann Brown has revitalized the Commission by inspiring its staff and gaining wide public recognition for its safety message through the publicity she has generated for the Agency in the national media.

Chairman Brown has made the safety of children a personal priority. Through effective regulatory action, encouraging voluntary steps by companies, and creating unique public-private partnerships with industry and other governmental agencies, she has enhanced the safety of every child in America.

Shortly after becoming Chairman, she learned that the strings and cords on children's jackets were becoming caught on playground slides and school bus doors and strangling children. She promptly convened a meeting of representatives of the clothing industry and persuaded them to replace the hazardous strings and cords with snaps and Velcro. When a Commission employee developed the idea of a baby safety shower to provide gifts that would make a child's first years of life safer, Chairman Brown created a partnership with the Gerber Corporation to promote these safety showers across the nation. Working with states and local governments, she launched an annual "recall round-up" to get dangerous consumer products out of consumers' homes. She developed a partnership with the US Postal Service to get posters of the "most wanted" dangerous recalled products displayed in post offices across the nation.

In keeping with her commitment to the safety of children, Chairman Brown has given special emphasis to the prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. On her initiative, the Commission issued warnings to parents to remove soft bedding from the cribs of infants under 12 months to avoid the risk of suffocation. This year, the Commission developed a program with seven major retailers of baby bedding products to inform parents on how to keep their babies safe in their beds.

Under Ann Brown's leadership, the CPSC has been recognized for its innovative and effective programs. In 1998, CPSC won the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award for its Fast-track recall program. The award is given by the Ford Foundation, in cooperation with Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and the Council for Excellence in Government. Under Fast-track, CPSC gets defective products off store shelves more quickly, thereby reducing dangers to American consumers.

Chairman Brown has also been personally recognized for her efforts in support of consumer safety. The National Safe Kids Campaign designated her a "Champion of Safe Kids." The National Association of Government Communicators has given her its award as "Government Communicator of the Year" and on September 20 the American Academy of Pediatrics will present her with its prestigious Excellence in Public Service Award for her contributions to children's safety.

Mr. Speaker, the nation is fortunate to have such outstanding public servants as Ann

Brown. She has made the CPSC a model of effectiveness for other agencies to emulate. Accordingly, it is appropriate today that we recognize and highly commend Ann Brown as the longest serving Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW REPUBLIC NEWSPAPER OF MEYERSDALE, PA

### HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The New Republic newspaper on its 100th anniversary. I am especially proud to pay this tribute, because The New Republic is the newspaper of my hometown, Meyersdale, Pennsylvania.

In 1900, The Meyersdale Republican was founded by Samuel A. Kendall as a contribution to the local community. The newspaper was headed by several capable editors in its early years who focused coverage on local concerns like safe sidewalks. As The New Republic grew, the business was incorporated as the Meyersdale Printing and Publishing Company. Throughout its long history, has consistently provided its loyal subscribers with the local news and events that unite communities.

Growing up in the close-knit town of Meyersdale helped make me the person I am today. I am truly thankful to have grown up in an area that emphasizes the importance of families and of community spirit. It is always heartwarming to return to Meyersdale to visit with good friends and to meet new ones. I am proud to call Meyersdale my home.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to rise and recognize The New Republic and the citizens of Meyersdale on this truly momentous occasion. Their commitment to family and community spirit represent the finest qualities of Pennsylvania.

RESEARCH FOR CHILDHOOD  
CANCER

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the importance of research and outreach in our nation's fight against childhood cancer. Childhood cancer is the No. 1 cause of death by disease among children and adolescents; striking more children than asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, and AIDS combined. Each year more than 12,000 children and teens are diagnosed with cancer and 3,000 die from the disease.

These statistics are disheartening. What is even more frightening though, is how high these statistics would be without the medical advances made in the last few years. Research plays a vital role in the fight against cancer; without it, childhood cancer would be