

tax it. For a worker making \$27,000 a year, that means \$200 in higher taxes, just because their employer provides them with a computer. Think about that. The janitor, the assembly line worker, the laborer, their children having Internet access and a computer at home to do their school work.

Mr. Speaker, it is good policy; and I am glad to see the private sector stepping forward.

That is why I want to ask my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring the DDATA Act, legislation that clarifies that employer-provided computers and Internet access are tax free, treated the same way as an employer-provided pension or health care benefit.

The DDATA Act is pro worker, pro education, and pro technology. Let us stop the IRS from taxing these kinds of employer benefits.

#### IMMIGRANTS IN HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY PROVIDE ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think it is possible for this great body to address the concerns of many, if there is an effort to deliberate and concentrate and generate a solution.

This week, we may have the opportunity to look closely at the needs of our high-tech industry with respect to additional personnel. It is called the H1-B nonimmigrant visas. As many of us have heard and as the country has heard, this high-tech industry has been an anchor of our economic boom.

However, at the same time, there are serious humanitarian issues that I believe warrant our consideration. One of them deals with the providing of late amnesty options for thousands upon thousands of immigrants who have been living in this country and paying taxes, buying homes and raising their children, but because of an INS mistake, were not able to apply for late amnesty. Then we have the parity that needs to occur for Central America similar to that given to any Nicaraguans and Cubans so that the fairness will allow families to remain united.

Then, as we look at the non-immigrant visas, it is important to protect American workers and to provide opportunities for employment in the high-tech industry for African Americans and Hispanics. We can do good if we put our minds to it.

#### PRESIDENT CALLS FOR MORE TAX COLLECTORS AT IRS

(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, it astounds me and most of my fellow Nevadans as well when we hear that the Clinton-Gore administration intends to veto the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, a bill which this Chamber passed just last week; veto it simply because the bill does not give enough money to the IRS.

The IRS is demanding \$224 million more than their current \$8.6 billion budget to pay for 5,000 more tax collectors.

Mr. Speaker, what the American people need is not more tax collectors; what the American people need is a tax break. The overwhelming tax burden currently placed on the American families is simply unconscionable and by vetoing the Treasury-Postal bill President Clinton also vetoes the repeal of the telephone excise tax, a tax passed over 100 years ago to fund the Spanish American war.

Not one single Nevadan has ever asked me to fight for more IRS tax collectors. Americans do not want the bloated bureaucracy of the IRS to expand; they want and deserve a tax break.

#### AMERICA SHOULD BE STRONG PARTICIPANT IN UNITED NATIONS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to talk for 1 minute about today being United Nations Day. It is also the beginning of the decade of peace in the world. They are trying to begin to emphasize how to bring peace in a variety of different places across the globe.

It is important for us in this body to recognize the important part we play, not only by our contributions to the U.N. in which we have lagged seriously behind, but in our support for what goes on.

The United States has, from time to time, supported the U.N. when it has been in our interests and at other times we walk away from them. But as we look across the globe with all of the places, Sierra Leone or Liberia or Somalia, when we look, we see always that the U.N. sometimes has our support and sometimes does not.

Now, if we are going to be the leader of the world, we certainly are economically, but if we are politically going to be leaders of the world, we must participate in the United Nations in a very strong way. That means paying our dues.

#### GENERICS ARE CRITICAL IN ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE COST ESCALATION

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I do not have to tell Members of this body that health care inflation is out of control. Our constituents are telling us that every day.

They are feeling the effects of medical costs that increased over 10 percent in 1999 alone. The latest projections are that health care inflation will outpace overall inflation for many years to come. This poses a significant threat to American families, government programs, and employers who are shouldering a growing burden of the U.S. health care costs.

One solution to this problem is to increase the availability of generic drugs. Generic drugs deliver the same health results as brand drugs, but generics cost 70 percent less on average than the brands they replace. The savings are significant.

A new report released by Sanford University in Alabama shows that for every 1 percent increase in generic drug utilization, consumers, taxpayers and employers save over \$1 billion in prescription drug costs. It is clear that the greater use of generic drugs must be a part of the plan to cure the Nation's ailing health care system.

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#### GENERIC DRUGS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, most Americans know that the cost of pharmaceutical drugs is at a record high. Prescription drug costs rose 85 percent between 1993 and 1998, and prescription drugs represent the highest out-of-pocket expense for three out of four senior citizens.

Generic drugs are FDA approved to be safe and to be secure, but they cost 70 percent less than brand name drugs. The fact of the matter is, there are loopholes in today's laws that block entry to these affordable generic drugs.

This Congress needs to reform the Hatch-Waxman Act to improve competition and make our markets more accessible and fair. Let us end the brand drug monopoly that stifles competition, restricts our consumers' choice, and raises consumer drug prices.

#### CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the month of September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and I am proud