marketers to send as many advertisements as possible. After all, they do not spend more for sending one million than for sending one. We need to fix this skewed incentive.

Mr. Speaker, I want to especially thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) for their dedication and hard work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back all the unsolicited invasive pornographic e-mail messages that invade your home and that we are forced to pay for.

THE RISK OF DOING NOTHING TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Governor of Texas came out with a proposal that we have got to do something on Social Security to save it. He suggested that some of the tax that American workers pay in should end up in their own name invested to bring in more returns to Social Security and to those individuals when they retire.

I think that when AL GORE suggests that it is risky to invest any of that money in indexed funds, or in 401(k) type funds or, for government workers, the Thrift Savings Account funds, where their performance has averaged a very high positive return, we should also note that there has never been a 12-year period in the history of this country where indexed stocks did not have a positive return. In fact, according to Mr. Jeremy Siegel, there has been a positive return of at least 1 percent for any 12-year period, even during the worst of times, and over 70 years there has been an average return of 7.5 percent.

Some suggest that it's risky to have real investments.

What is really risky is not doing anything and spending Social Security trust fund money on other government programs.

HEALTH PREMIUMS AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS SHOULD BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE ITEMS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today I plan to introduce a bill to allow health insurance premiums and unreimbursed prescription drug expense to be tax deductible. Under current law, employers can write off the cost of health care coverage purchased for their employees. Why cannot individuals also be allowed the same opportunity to write off premiums and unreimbursed prescription drug expenses?

The current Tax Code sets the threshold at 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income before an individual can write off their medical expenses. This does not seem right to me. Currently in order to claim health care expenses, an individual must file an itemized tax return.

I believe that all taxpayers should be allowed to deduct these out-of-pocket expenses, and we need to include a place where this deduction could be taken on the short form, such as a 1040EZ and 1040A. My bill also applies to the self-employed, because individuals who are self-employed will not be eligible for a 100 percent write-off until the year 2003.

This type of relief is long overdue. Allowing individuals to write off certain costly health care expenses they may incur would be a tremendous benefit to them.

The National Taxpayers Union supports my bill. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

INTERNET ACCESS CHARGE PROHIBITION ACT OF 2000

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1291) to prohibit the imposition of access charges on Internet service providers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1291

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Internet Access Charge Prohibition Act of 2000''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF CHARGES ON PROVIDERS OF INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.

Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) PROHIBITION OF CHARGES ON INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(4) or (d) or any other provision of this title, the Commission shall not impose on any provider of Internet access service (as such term is defined in section 231(e)) any contribution for the support of universal service that is based on a measure of the time that telecommunications services are used in the provision of such Internet access service.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the Commission from imposing access charges on the providers of Internet telephone services, irrespective of the type of customer premises equipment used in connection with such services.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1291.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes in support of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1291, the Internet Access Charge Protection Act of 2000, and I urge my colleagues today to show their support for this important pro-consumer legislation.

A number of Members have made this floor vote possible, and I would like to begin by noting their contributions. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) is the author of this most important legislation. He has identified the significance of this issue and has worked hard with the committee to ensure that the bill is balanced and represents a continued contribution to the public interest.

Let me also commend the leadership of the House, who showed an early and critical interest in bringing this legislation to the floor today. Finally, as always, let me note the work of the bipartisan leadership of our Committee on Commerce, its chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the ranking minority member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), both of whom always contribute to the bipartisan spirit by which we bring legislation important to the Nation on telecommunication matters to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, this bill represents the best interests of this body. No matter how complex an issue is and no matter how controversial it may be, this institution can find a way to craft a balanced bill which serves the interests of consumers and of the technologies.

Over the years, the Committee on Commerce has labored hard to provide for universal access to the Nation's telephone network. While competition and innovation have been the hallmark of telecommunications policy, so too