

need is an illusion of a benefit where we tell private insurance companies to sell a policy they say they can't underwrite and won't sell.

That is not good public policy. Maybe the polls show that Medicare prescription drug coverage is a popular issue, but you do not solve a problem, no matter how popular an issue, by coming up with a solution that does not work.

We need to add a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program in a way that is sensible and thoughtful and workable. And, second, as we do that, we need to put some downward pressure on prescription drug prices.

It is not fair, right, or reasonable that the American consumer ought to pay double the price for the same drug, put in the same bottle, manufactured by the same company. That is not fair. The common medications that senior citizens so often need—to treat their heart problems, diabetes, arthritis, and so many other difficulties—have been increasing in cost at a dramatic rate.

I am not talking about creating price controls, but we need to do something to put some downward pressure on prices. One thing we should do is pass legislation that I have introduced, along with Senator SNOWE, Senator WELLSTONE and others, that will allow American consumers to have access to these drugs from anywhere in the world, as long as they are FDA-approved with safe manufacturing standards. This legislation, the International Prescription Drug Parity Act, will allow Americans to access these drugs from anywhere in the world at a lower price.

If we eliminate the legal obstacles that currently exist and allow pharmacists to purchase these medications from other countries on behalf of their American customers, the pharmaceutical industry will be forced to reprice their drugs in this country.

In short, I wanted to come to the floor to make the point that we must put a prescription drug benefit in the Medicare program, but we must do it in a way that works. We should not do this just so some will be able to go home to their states and say: We passed prescription drug coverage, didn't we? That might provide some self-satisfaction but it does nothing for the millions of Medicare beneficiaries who need prescription drug coverage. And finally, as we develop this legislation, we need to acknowledge that drug pricing is unfair in this country and do something to put some downward pressure on prescription drug prices.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.N. CHARTER

Mr. GRAMS. Madam President, fifty-five years ago, the members of the United Nation's founding delegation met in San Francisco for the signing

ceremony that created the U.N. There was great anticipation and a collective enthusiasm for this new, global institution. Delegates spoke of hope, of expectation, of the promise of peace. President Truman echoed the thoughts of those founding members when he told the delegates they had, "created a great instrument for peace and security and human progress in the world." Fifty-five years later, the United Nations is struggling to meet its potential.

As Chairman of the International Operations Subcommittee which has U.N. oversight responsibilities and having been appointed by the President to serve two terms as a Congressional Delegate to the U.N., I have focused significant attention on the United Nations. On the anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Charter, I think it is appropriate to take time for us all to reflect on that important institution.

The U.N. is making headway in implementing reforms, and I believe that is due in a large part to the efforts of the U.S. Congress. According to GAO, the U.N. has made substantial progress in restructuring its leadership and operations. It has also created a performance-oriented human capital system. Unfortunately, however, there is no system in place within the U.N. to monitor and evaluate program results and impact. In other words, the U.N. undertakes numerous activities on social, economic, and political affairs, but the Secretariat cannot reliably assess whether these activities have made a difference in people's lives and whether they have improved situations in a measurable way. I look forward to working with the U.N. to make sure in the future it will not just believe it is contributing to positive change, it will know it is doing so. As Secretary-General Annan noted, "a reformed United Nations will be a more relevant United Nations in the eyes of the world."

In the area of peacekeeping, the U.N. is clearly in crisis because many countries, including the U.S., keep calling on the U.N. to take on missions it is not capable of fulfilling. The U.N. can play a useful role in building coalitions to address matters of international security, as we saw in the Persian Gulf War. Moreover, the U.N. has the ability to effectively conduct traditional peacekeeping operations, such as those in Cyprus and the Sinai Peninsula. Unlike NATO and other regional military forces, however, the U.N. is only successful when it takes on limited missions where a political settlement has already been reached, hostilities have ceased, and all parties agree to the U.N. peacekeeping role. The U.S. must be careful not to set up the U.N. for failure. We risk ruining the U.N.'s credibility if we insist on a more robust peace making role for U.N. forces. In Sierra Leone, a feel-good U.N. operation with no impact on keeping civil-

ians safe and with "peacekeepers" held as hostages sounds a lot like a replay of U.N. forces in Bosnia. I had hoped the U.N. learned its lessons since that terrible time.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Charter, we should celebrate the success of the U.N. without turning a blind eye to its failings. We should recommit ourselves to making sure the U.N. continues to reform. We should make sure our nation doesn't push the U.N. to do more than it can do effectively. If we do nothing, and in fifty-five more years the United Nations collapses under its own weight, then we will have only ourselves to blame.

#### VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

June 26, 1999:  
Kevin S. Bonner, 28, Chicago, IL;  
Danny R. Davis, 35, Chicago, IL;  
Sharon Duberry, 35, Gary, IN;  
Weldon Ellingson, 79, Cedar Rapids, IA;  
William Ernest, 34, Philadelphia, PA;  
Marilyn Freestone, 57, Cedar Rapids, IA;  
Estella Martinez, 40, San Antonio, TX;  
Willie Palmer, 29, Baltimore, MD;  
Ruben Ruvalcaba, 22, San Antonio, TX;  
Anthony Scott, 22, Bridgeport, CT;  
Carlos Sermiento, 22, Dallas, TX;  
Chau Tran, 17, Lansing, MI;  
Julio A. Vincencio, 18, Chicago, IL;  
Mose Penn Warner, 82, Louisville, KY.

In addition, Mr. President, since the Senate was not in session on June 24 and June 25, I ask unanimous consent that the names be printed in the RECORD of some of those who were killed by gunfire last year on June 24th and June 25.

June 24: James Bailey, 21, Kansas City, MO; Kurt Chappell, 38, Cincinnati, OH; Philemon Epepa, 48, Houston, TX; Dana Fowlkes, 28, Baltimore, MD; Deslond Glenn, 17, Forth Worth, TX; Antonio Hernandez, 32, Houston, TX; John Kerr, 28, Memphis, TN; Max James Langley, 74, Mesquite, TX; Angelo Lard, 32, Detroit, MI; Mary Jane Noonan, 37, New Orleans, LA; Tull Rea,