WHEREAS, peer-reviewed research has demonstrated that discount programs have been proven not to be effective; and

WHEREAS, The Program is not insurance coverage nor will it provide drug coverage to those millions of seniors who cannot currently afford even inexpensive prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, The Program promotes the underutilization of generic drugs, heavy use of mail order, and limits senior citizens to the option of only one drug per therapeutic class;

Therefore be it resolved, that the National Pharmaceutical Association representing all of America’s minority pharmacists at its House of Delegates assembly during the 54th Annual Meeting July 20–24, 2001 in Cleveland, Ohio joins other national pharmacy associations in opposing the Prescription Drug Discount Card program as presently composed and urges the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Administrator of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately revisit this flawed and potentially unconstitutional Program; and

Be it further resolved, that the Secretary of HHS appoint a blue ribbon committee consisting of all facets of the national pharmacy community to study this issue and make recommendations to solve America’s pressing issue of prescription drug coverage for those Americans over the age of 65; and finally

Be it resolved that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the President, Secretary of HHS, Administrator of CMS, and all the national pharmacy organizations.

THE BUDGET

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN
OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my frustration with the state of the budget.

As we all know, during August recess, the Congressional Budget Office announced that the federal government will tap $29 billion from the Medicare Trust Fund and $9 billion from the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for government operations in this year alone, and another $30 billion from Social Security and $170 billion from Medicare over the next five years. This grim scenario will occur without a single dime of additional spending, despite the ever-increasing need to fund critical priorities like defense and education. Nor will we be able to deliver on our promise of a comprehensive prescription drug benefit for Medicare without dipping into Social Security and Medicare. And perhaps worst of all, the long-awaited only way to pay down our national debt has been squandered.

The CBO estimates represent the most objective and accurate budget projections available. Today, these projections show that the Bush tax cut, which disproportionately favors the most fortunate, combined with the slowing economy have eliminated virtually the entire surplus—the surplus that at one point offered us the rare chance to tackle major initiatives like improving education, making prescription drugs affordable for our nation’s elderly and paying down the national debt. By enacting an irresponsible $1.7 trillion tax cut we have ensured that CEOs get a tax break while their employees get pink slips, students are forced to learn in crumbling schools, seniors face skyrocketing drug prices, and the current workforce is left to wonder whether Social Security will be there for them when they retire.

When I was elected to Congress, I promised my constituents that I would protect the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. And I was not alone. Over one hundred of my colleagues have co-sponsored legislation that would prevent Congress from spending the Social Security and Medicare surpluses, and this chamber has voted seven times in the past three years to establish lockboxes for these funds.

Past and present adi-ninistrations made the very same pledge to not touch these vital trust funds. We must honor our promises by acknowledging that the economy is slowing and working together to find a solution to the budget crisis that is fair, and based on an honest, realistic budget. It has become clear that reliance on the exclusion of all other priorities is not the answer. Let us find a better way before it is too late.

APPROVING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCERS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

SPEECH OF
HON. MIKE ROSS
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, the catfish industry is an important part of the economy of my congressional district that covers all of south Arkansas. Thirty-six states either produce or process farm-raised catfish, with Arkansas being the third largest in the nation. The catfish farmers in my district and across America are being hurt by the unfair practice of “so-called” catfish from Vietnam being dumped into our markets and sold as “farm-raised” catfish.

Last year, imports of Vietnamese catfish totaled 7 million pounds, more than triple the 2 million pounds imported in 1999 and more than 12 times the 575,000 pounds imported in 1998. In Vietnam, these so-called catfish, also known as “basa,” can be produced at a much lower cost due to cheap labor and less stringent environmental regulations. In fact, many of these fish are grown in floating cages in the Mekong River, exposing the fish to pollutants and other conditions. They are then dumped into American markets and often marketed as farm-raised catfish.

Vietnam says they are taking the necessary steps to fix the problem of mislabling and dumping. However, this problem is not new and has been discussed with Vietnam for several years. We have yet to see any results to show that they are truly addressing this issue.

America is a country founded on the principles of fairness and good faith, but Vietnam must still prove that their actions are, indeed, in good faith. They must stop the dumping of this so-called catfish into America’s markets and allow our catfish farmers to have the level playing field that they deserve. Therefore, I do not support extending trade relations to Vietnam at this time.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH HOFFMAN

HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elizabeth Hoffman, President of the University of Colorado. As Betsy enters her second year on the job, I can proudly say that CU is well on its way to fulfilling her vision of becoming one of the top three public research universities in the country.

During her first year in office, CU has set records in private gift giving, federal research income and state capitol construction funding. One of these gifts, a $250 million donation, is the largest gift ever to a public university. This donation allowed for the creation of a CU institute that will help twenty million Americans with cognitive disabilities.

In addition to her drive to make CU a world class university, Betsy Hoffman knows that the University of Colorado is also a school for the people of Colorado. She travels tirelessly around the state to “bring CU back to the people of Colorado.” She has quickly gained the support of the people of our state in her endeavors. Governor Owens says, “She’s been very good at representing the university around the state. I give her an A plus.” She is also supported by state legislators on both sides of the aisle and by members of the Colorado congressional delegation.

Under Betsy’s leadership, I have no doubt that CU will become the world class university she is steering it toward. I am including an article about her that was recently published in the Denver Post. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues to join me in praising the work of a visionary and an educator.

[From the Denver Post, September 2, 2001]

CU CHIEF EARS FANS, HIGH MARKS

Hoffman’s first year brings record fundraising. lofty goals

(By Dave Curlin)
The glow of a 10-inch TV illuminates the darkened office of University of Colorado President Betsy Hoffman at 8:15 on a rainy Thursday morning. She’s trying to decide which of four infomercials she likes best to tout CU before 35 million football viewers.

As Hoffman enters her second year as CU’s president, she’s looking for a commercial that sets the tone for the CU she dreams of—a school that is among the top three public universities in the nation.

Hoffman’s first year was record-setting for CU in private gift-giving, federal research income and state capital construction funding. She’s worked to improve faculty salaries. She’s received bipartisan support in the legislature—a feat skeptics said a rookie president would struggle mightily to accomplish.

“There’s no way I could have ended up in a better place than here,” she says. “This is