

May 2, 2001

version of the bill we are introducing today has been vetoed over the past several years with the tax writing committees of Congress in the House and Senate, the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Department of Treasury. It addresses the key deficiencies in the current law. I urge that it be included in tax-related legislation considered by the House in this session of the 107th Congress and that our colleagues join the co-sponsors of this bill in supporting this meritorious legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district on Tuesday, May 1, 2001, and I would like the record to indicate how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote No. 90, the resolution recognizing the important of increasing awareness of the autism spectrum disorder, I would have voted "yea."

For rollcall vote No. 91, the resolution supporting a National Charter Schools Week, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING MIKE THIESSEN

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an outstanding young man from my district in California's great Central Valley—Mike Thiessen. I am proud to report he lead the Air Force Academy football team to a 9–3 season including a 41–27 win over Army and 27–13 over Navy to capture the prestigious Commander In Chief's trophy.

The list of accomplishments by this fine young man is impressive.

He was named the Air Force Academy's Player of the Year, the Mountain West Conferences' Offensive Player of the Year, and takes his place among the great option quarterbacks in Air Force Academy history. He was named Colorado's Male Athlete of the Year and was selected for the 2000 Gridiron Classic.

Mike ranked second in the MWC in total offense (218.2 average) and led the MWC in quarterback efficiency (147.0 rating) He led the team in rushing with 713 yards and 10 touchdowns and hit 112–195 passes for 1,687 yards and 13 touchdowns. He ranked 10th nationally in quarterback efficiency.

Prior to the Air Force Academy, Mike led his Johansen High School football team to the Sac-Joaquin Section semi-finals capping a stellar high school career that culminated when he was selected as one of 30 players to represent California in its annual all-star game against Texas' all-stars. Unfortunately, Mike did not get to play in that game because he was already committed to the Air Force Academy and had begun training.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

In addition to being the senior class vice president, he was selected to the All-State football team, named the Outstanding Player of the Central California Conference and was named Most Valuable Player of the Stainlaus County All District football team. The Sportsmen of Stainlaus named him their Outstanding Athlete.

It is pleasure to represent this fine young man and his parents Steven and Barbara Thiessen. I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in honoring Mike Thiessen.

PRICE CONTROL PROGRAMS GOVERNING MEDICINE IN MEXICO AND CANADA

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill that calls for the United States Trade Representative to investigate whether any price control program governing medication in Mexico or Canada violates, or is inconsistent with, any trade agreement, denies benefits to the United States, or discriminates against or restricts United States commerce.

As I travel around the Second Congressional District of Tennessee, one concern I hear about over and over again is the high cost of medications. Many seniors, in particular, often face a choice between things like medicine, food and heat. However, this problem is not isolated only to the elderly. All Americans face these steep prices. For example, single mothers and poor working families also have to buy medications. As a father, I cannot imagine anything worse than not being able to afford medicine for a sick child.

As has been discussed many times, there are a lot of complex reasons that prices are so high, and it goes far beyond greedy manufacturers as some have suggested. Some new drugs can cost more than a billion dollars to bring to market. In exchange, these drugs have a profound impact on the health of Americans and hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Fundamentally, we need to find ways to reduce these development costs, as it is these costs that are passed on to consumers.

Another great inequity in the pricing of these medications is that many countries, such as Canada and Mexico, have outrageous cost control laws. While these reduced costs may be sufficient to pay the price to physically produce a pill or medicine, they rarely take into account the phenomenal expenses that went into the development of the drug. These development costs are then shifted elsewhere to other consumers who end up paying outrageously high prices for the same medications. If manufacturers and researchers were ever completely stripped of the ability to recover these costs, the flow of new drugs would slow dramatically, if not end completely.

Nevertheless, it is wrong that Americans are so often asked to pay the price for drugs that benefit all mankind. It is particularly frustrating to consumers when they see our neighbors to the North and South paying much lower prices for exactly the same drug.

I believe that this situation needs to be examined and addressed and this bill helps begin the necessary steps. The United States can no longer afford to be burdened with research and development costs of drugs that are going into other countries.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and improve healthcare for all American consumers.

IN HONOR OF GENERAL IGNACIO ZARAGOZA SEGUIN, THE HERO OF PUEBLA, AND THE GOLIAD ZARAGOZA SOCIETY

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero who gave his life to free his country from foreign oppression. Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin was born in 1829 at Bahia Del Espiritu Santo, Mexico near what is now Goliad, Texas in my Congressional District. He was the son of a soldier, but was educated as a priest. When the United States invaded Mexico, he tried to enlist but was rejected because of his youth. He was a businessman for a short time, but his passionate support of Mexico's struggle to create a fledgling democracy, made him a soldier. During the years of the War of the Reform in 1857 to 1860, he joined with Benito Juárez and fought in numerous battles including the battle of Calpulalpan, which ended the war.

In April 1861, General Zaragoza was appointed Minister of War and the Navy. When Mexican President Juárez was forced to declare a moratorium on Mexico's European debt in order to salvage the bankrupt economy, Spain sent a fleet and forced the surrender of Veracruz. France and England joined Spain in the invasion of Mexico. General Zaragoza resigned from the ministry to lead the Army of the East. Although the English and Spanish reached an agreement with President Juárez and withdrew, the French landed troops and marched toward Mexico City. They met the Mexican forces at the City of Puebla in a battle that lasted the entire day of May 5, 1862. Under General Zaragoza's leadership that vastly outnumbered Mexican army and Puebla townspeople forced the withdrawal of Napoleon III's Army, the premier army in the world. Napoleon's army suffered heavy losses, but Mexican casualties were few. Although the French ultimately captured Mexico City the next year and put Napoleon's nephew on the throne, the costly delay in Puebla and the subsequent guerrilla war waged by Benito Juárez shortened the French intervention. It also helped preserve the American Union, as it kept the French too occupied to directly aid the Confederacy with troops in the U.S. Civil War, which was being waged at the time.

General Zaragoza received a hero's welcome in Mexico City. While visiting his sick troops, he contracted typhoid and died on September 8, 1862 at the age of 33. He received a state funeral and on September 11, 1862, President Juárez declared May 5, Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday.

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