

Some will argue that generic biologics cannot be manufactured, but unless we try to invent a fast track approval process for biologics, I do not see how we will ever know how to overcome the technical obstacles.

It seems to me that one of the highest priorities of the next Commissioner of Food and Drugs will be to make certain that the leadership of FDA's Center for Biologics is committed, in partnership with the private sector and academic researchers, to identifying the issues and attempting to find solutions to the many issues that need to be resolved in order to make generic biologics.

I want to acknowledge that Senator ROCKEFELLER has introduced a legislative proposal in this area although I have problems with his study and automatic pilot features.

The last overarching issue that I will raise today is how the structure and strength of the research-based segment of the American pharmaceutical industry has changed since 1984.

On the one hand, we have seen substantial growth in the biotechnology industry. There are now some 1,400 U.S. biotech firms, although only 41 of these biotech companies have any revenues from FDA-approved products.

On the other hand, I think that Congress should consider whether there are any appropriate actions we can, or should, take today to make sure that America retains a vibrant research-based large-firm pharmaceutical sector. I have nothing against the several new consolidated multinational drug firms but we must never allow our national leadership in biomedical research to erode. I suggest my colleagues review the transcript of the March Commerce Committee hearing on the McCain-Schumer legislation and examine the thoughts of Senator WYDEN related to the financial health and status of the product pipeline of the large drug firms.

Senator WYDEN, with his long ties to consumer groups like the Gray Panthers, is certainly no patsy of the drug industry. But the Senator from Oregon clearly understands that while we politicians always want to focus on how to help distribute the golden eggs—the new medicines—to our constituents, we also need to pay attention to the health of the goose. It is true that the pharmaceutical industry has had a great run of success since about 1994 when the Clinton health care plan was rejected. But today's dry pipelines presage problems tomorrow.

The fact is that the drug discovery business is a high risk, high reward endeavor and Congress can do real, and perhaps irreversible harm, to some firms if we choose the wrong intellectual property policies. We need to discuss if there are appropriate ways to increase our nation's biomedical research capacity, such as the set of proposals set forth in the Lieberman bill.

We should not be so quick to vilify the research-based pharmaceutical in-

dustry as was done repeatedly for the last three weeks. We know what happened. Political and tactical considerations led some to believe there needed to be a villain in this Medicare debate. In a sense, history repeated itself as some took a page right out of the Clinton Administration play book.

Here is how the book, *The System*, authored by David Broder and Haynes Johnson, two highly respected journalists, described the tactics of the Clinton White House in trying to pass its too grand health care reform plan in 1993 and 1994:

... Clinton's political advisers focused mainly on the message that for "the plain folks it's greed—greedy hospitals, greedy doctors, greedy insurance companies. It was an us-versus-them-issue, which Clinton was extremely good at exploiting."

Clinton's political consultants—Carville, Begala, Grunwald, Greenberg—all thought "there had to be villains" . . . at that point, the insurance companies and the pharmaceutical companies became the enemy.

Unfortunately, that strategy reappeared over the last few weeks and we lost an opportunity to debate in a more reasoned fashion the complex set of issues and delicate balance required in pioneer-generic issues that I have just described. Nor did we do any great justice in delving beyond the surface and into the substance of the issues addressed in S. 812.

I have made it clear that my vision and preference for Waxman-Hatch reform is to help facilitate a constructive dialogue among interested parties. We all could benefit by a fair exchange of viewpoints on a broad range of innovator/generic firm issues, including the matters I have just outlined.

The issues that are addressed in the HELP Committee Substitute to S. 812 are important issues. So are the notice provisions contained in Senator LEAHY's bill, S. 754.

Unfortunately, the politics of Medicare prevented the debate over S. 812 from unfolding in a manner that encouraged a thoughtful discussion of even these narrower set of issues, let alone the initiation of a public dialogue of the broader—and perhaps more significant in the long run—Hatch-Waxman reform issues that I have just described.

I wanted to take this opportunity to set forth these ideas for the future consideration of my colleagues and other interested parties.

I look forward to debating these issues in the future and to working with the House and other interested parties to further perfect the Senate-passed version of S. 812.

#### THE EFFORTS OF STUDENTS AT MONTELLO MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize a group of students from Montello, WI, who have reached out to show their support and appreciation for the U.S. Navy sailors on duty in the North Ara-

bian Sea. In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, 168 students from the Montello Middle School and High School have dedicated tremendous time and effort to showing their support for our sailors on board the USS *Seattle* and the USS *Detroit*. Their appreciation for the work our sailors and military personnel are doing overseas should be an inspiration to every American.

This group of students, led by their teacher Catherine Ellenbecker, sent 35 boxes of snacks and cookies to the crew aboard these ships. They also collected 18,892 golf balls for the sailors and were given a donation of 100 golf clubs by B&G Golf in Appleton, WI.

By sending these gifts, the students greatly improved the morale of those on board. As one Navy Captain wrote, "Your gifts and many good wishes have helped to bring home a little closer today." A total of 116 students continue to correspond with the USS *Detroit* and 52 other students have pen pals on the USS *Seattle* through both emails and letters.

I applaud these students for their thoughtfulness, their diligence, and above all for their support of our men and women in uniform. These students recognize that we are safe here at home thanks to the hardworking men and women of the U.S. military. It gives me great pride to know that students from my home state of Wisconsin have done so much to support these sailors. I commend the students from Montello Middle School and High School for their efforts.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN MEMORIAM: MARI-RAE SOPPER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to share with the Senate the memory of one of my constituents, Mari-Rae Sopper, who lost her life on September 11, 2001. Ms. Sopper was a 35-year-old lawyer and gymnastics coach when the flight she was on, American Airlines Flight 77, was hijacked by terrorists. As we all know, that plane crashed into the Pentagon, killing everyone on board.

Ms. Sopper was a native of Inverness, Illinois and attended William Fremd High School in Palatine, Illinois. At the age of 15 she set the goal of becoming a champion gymnast. She succeeded, becoming all-American in four events, the school's Athlete of the Year and the State's Outstanding Senior Gymnast of the Year.

Larry Petrillo, her high school gymnastics coach, remembers her as brash and committed. "One thing she taught me is, you never settle for less than you are capable of. We should never accept limits. We should always fight the good fight. She was a staunch supporter of gymnastics and what's right," he recalls.

Upon graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in exercise science, Ms. Sopper earned a master's degree in athletics administration