

legacy was much more than that. During his three terms as Mayor, Maynard oversaw construction of the midfield terminal at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport, established a cultural affairs department, brought the Olympics to Atlanta, and all the while gave a voice to the city's in town neighborhoods.

Perhaps one of the most significant accomplishments of Maynard Jackson's tenure was his early support and leadership on affirmative action. During his first term, Maynard instituted a groundbreaking affirmative action program that elevated the percentage of city contracts awarded to minorities in Atlanta from less than 1 percent in 1973 to 38.6 percent five years later.

One of the great success stories of Maynard's affirmative action program was the creation of a "joint venture" between white and minority-owned businesses during the construction of the Atlanta airport. Working from a vision of inclusion, Maynard was able to unite various groups and interests in building one of the most complex airport terminals in the world ahead of schedule and within budget.

It is particularly ironic then that Maynard passed away on the day before the Supreme Court issued its landmark ruling. In two successive votes, the Justices recognized that the most effective way to cure society of exclusionary practices is to make special efforts at inclusion, which is exactly what affirmative action does.

The actual phrase "affirmative action" was first used in President Lyndon Johnson's 1965 Executive Order. In 1967, Johnson expanded the Executive Order to include affirmative action requirements to benefit women. The policy was significantly expanded in 1969 by President Richard Nixon and then Secretary of Labor George Schultz. In 1973, Maynard Jackson began his leadership in implementing these policies, which enabled Atlanta to become a world-class city.

There has always been affirmative action in public policy—but for many years it operated to exclude, rather than include, people of color. Affirmative action was put in place to not only encourage diversity, but to be a minor step in the direction of justice after hundreds of years of institutional and social discrimination against women and people of color in the United States.

Much of the opposition to affirmative action is framed on the grounds of so-called "reverse discrimination and unwarranted preferences." In fact, less than 2 percent of the 91,000 employment discrimination cases pending before the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission are reverse discrimination cases. Under the law as written in Executive Orders and interpreted by the courts, anyone benefitting from affirmative action must have relevant and valid job or educational qualifications.

Opponents of affirmative action also claim it is discriminatory. The problem with this myth is that it uses the same word—discrimination—to describe two very different things. Job discrimination is grounded in prejudice and exclusion, whereas affirmative action is an effort to overcome prejudicial treatment through inclusion. The most effective way to cure society of exclusionary practices is to make special efforts at inclusion, which is exactly what affirmative action does. When thinking about affirmative action policy, it is important to keep this principle in mind.

In fact, despite the progress that has been made, the playing field today is still far from level. Women continue to earn 76 cents for every dollar earned by a male. Black people continue to have twice the unemployment rate of white people, and graduate from college at half the rate of white people. In fact, without affirmative action the percentage of Black students at many selective schools would drop to only 2 percent of the total student body.

While I applaud the Court's decision today, our society still suffers from racial discrimination. It is unfortunate that after all these years we are still fighting an uphill battle for full inclusion into our Nation's society.

However, we are fortunate to have had the civil rights movement and leaders like Maynard Jackson. In remembering Maynard, we must carry on his legacy and his commitment to never waver from equality for all.

#### MAKING MEDICARE BETTER FOR ALL SENIORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be here tonight to talk about a very important issue that is resonating across the country, and just recently on my return back from my district, more importantly, the issue of Medicare and prescription drug reform which is impacting largely low-income working families and especially many of the families that I represent in my district in California, Latino working families.

The facts are clear, 87 percent of uninsured Latinos come from working taxpaying families. However, nearly 60 percent of Latinos live in families with incomes below 200 percent of the poverty level. Many of these families, 37 percent, in fact, lack basic access to quality care. Low-income elderly Latinos face incomparable barriers to health care at just about every corner of their lives. Linguistic, cultural, financial burdens continually impede their health access that would otherwise be available to every American.

When President Johnson signed the Medicare bill back in 1965 he said, and I quote: "No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine."

Medicare was not created to exclude the elderly in exchange to enrich private insurance companies. The Republican proposal as I see it undermines the universal character of Medicare that ensures quality for all seniors. Instead, it provides different benefits to different seniors depending on your income. Figures estimate that the Medicare beneficiaries who spend \$4,000 or more out of pocket on drugs are not individuals making less than 100 percent of poverty, not those between 100 and 200 percent of poverty, but those individuals who live with incomes greater than 200 percent of poverty. These are the people we are asking to pay the most for their prescription drugs.

The House Republican bill increases costs for seniors by \$8 billion and does not offer meaningful benefits, nor does it make drugs affordable for our seniors. How can we even realistically say we are attempting to improve the lives of all Americans when the Latinos and low-income elderly population are the most susceptible for falling between the privatized cracks?

There are more than 214,000 Latino Medicare beneficiaries currently residing in the State where I come from, in California, and over 55 percent of those seniors report having little or no information. They do not even know about the bilingual toll-free Medicare phone number. Some do not even have telephones in their homes. Who will care for those beneficiaries when the Republicans impose unaffordable premiums, requiring spending up to \$250 before they can receive any help at all? This even prohibits the HHS Secretary from negotiating better prices. I thought he was supposed to be working on our side on behalf of our consumers and our seniors.

With private and for-profit managed care plans competing to entice healthy seniors to enroll, traditional Medicare will be forced to raise out-of-pocket costs astronomically for the sickest and most disabled beneficiaries. The holes in the cracks are visible. We are just seeing what has occurred in the State of California where many beneficiaries were dumped and they were left without care.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to think of the future of these populations, the low-income, taxpaying. Whether they are Latino or not, let us help all the elderly who deserve accessible and meaningful Medicare plans. Let us protect our Nation by caring for all American seniors, and let us begin by working with the program that we know works, that will make a difference for all of us.

#### HONORING MAYNARD JACKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to join my colleagues, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), as well as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) who was on the floor earlier, and I know the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MAJETTE), I do not know if she has been here yet, and many other Members, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) who was a very close friend of Maynard Jackson. I am saddened to add my personal thoughts and prayers to their wonderful comments about Maynard Jackson.

America has lost a great statesman today, and our hearts are saddened for his family and thousands of his colleagues and friends who loved him and worked with him on so many issues.

For his many friends at the United States Conference of Mayors where he