

the world community. It violated the U.S. Constitution, it violated the U.N. charter, it violated the Geneva Convention; and it continues to cost, because we are now losing our men and women in combat on a regular basis. We continue to lose them. It has cost the lives of countless innocent Iraqis. It has cost the taxpayers of this Nation over \$100 billion, and it has cost tens of billions of dollars in damage to Iraq. It has strengthened religious fundamentalists in Iraq who now threaten the freedom of women in Iraq's society.

This manufactured catastrophe called "foreign policy" represents not only a failure of truth, a great credibility gap, but, more than that, America faces a crisis of legitimacy of this administration itself, which lied to the American people to get approval for a war.

ENSURE QUALITY OF CARE AND SOLVENCY OF MEDICARE

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, while the House is in the midst of debate that will improve Medicare for millions of seniors, we must ensure both the quality of care and the solvency of the Medicare system for all of our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the prescription drug benefit we institute must be coupled with meaningful reforms within Medicare. We must provide meaningful prescription drug coverage and reforms to Medicare for seniors, both today and tomorrow.

APPLAUDING THE SUPREME COURT ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION RULINGS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Supreme Court on its rulings on the University of Michigan affirmative action cases. The rulings indicate to the entire Nation that the Supreme Court believes in the basic premise behind affirmative action: to create opportunities for minorities and to eliminate discrimination.

Affirmative action programs have been successful in increasing the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of many educational and workplace settings throughout the United States. Affirmative action has also been shown to provide a boost to the Nation's economy.

A recent study by the Educational Testing Service argued that diversity was one of the engines that drove the United States' economy. It showed that if African American and Hispanic workers were represented at colleges and universities in the same proportions as other 18- to 24-year-olds, the

United States' wealth would increase by \$231 billion a year, and annual tax revenues would increase by \$80 billion. Why? Because it gives hope to blighted and forgotten areas of our Nation, and it improves trade and commerce worldwide.

This goes to show that by promoting adequate funding for kindergarten through twelfth grade education in underserved areas and promoting diversity in higher education in the workplace, our economy will improve.

TRIBUTE TO BOB STUMP

(Mr. SHADEGG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the Nation lost a distinguished public servant. Bob Stump humbly and admirably served his country and represented Arizona for nearly 60 years.

His service began as a Navy medic during World War II and continued in Arizona in the State legislature and then here in the United States House of Representatives. From his Stetson hat down to his dusty leather boots, Bob personified the independence and western congeniality of Arizona. The soft-spoken conservative was true to his beliefs and always represented his constituents with integrity and determination.

Like so many courageous young men of his time, Bob enlisted in the Navy at the age of 16, too young to legally do so, in the midst of the second world war. He was elected to Congress in 1976 and, drawing on his military experience, Bob established himself as the preeminent champion for active military personnel and veterans.

His insight and knowledge on issues landed him the chairmanship of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs in 1995, and then in 2000, the chairmanship of the House Committee on Armed Services. Even still, he never let the power go to his head. He was one of the few Congressmen, indeed probably the only committee chairman, to personally answer his office telephone.

I looked to Bob Stump on so many issues. His advice was always thoughtful, solid, and consistent. He was the dean of our delegation, and I will sorely miss his leadership and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 25 years, he served this body with dignity and earned the admiration of not only myself, but of every Member of this House. He possessed the unwavering reliability and good judgment not commonly found in the politics of today.

Bob remains with us in spirit as a model of devoted service to Arizona and the Nation. He is and always will be missed.

HOUSE TO SPEND \$400 BILLION FOR FLAWED PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, how can you spend \$400 billion and not provide a decent Medicare prescription drug benefit? Well, it is an excellent question, but the Republicans have come up with a formula.

First, you underwrite the profits of the private insurance industry. Yes, there will be subsidies to the private insurance industry in this bill, trying to drive people out of Medicare; and you do that because they lost a bunch of money on crummy investments, and we have to help out their bottom line. Well, we can understand that; they are big campaign contributors.

Secondly, how else? Well, overall, number one, do nothing about the extortion it costs to prescription drugs in the United States. Do not allow the imports or the reimportation of American-manufactured drugs. Do not allow the people on Medicare to be organized into a group to drive down the price of these prescription drugs. No. Because actually, the pharmaceutical industry are bigger campaign contributors to the Republicans than the insurance industry. So we are going to spend \$400 billion to provide a benefit nobody understands that is going to be pretty parsimonious.

We could do better. We could take on the pharmaceutical industry, and we can forget about giving a subsidy to the private insurance industry; and for \$400 billion, we could provide a meaningful prescription drug benefit that seniors would enjoy and it would help with their health. But that is not where the majority is going in this House of Representatives.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN BURDENS FUTURE GENERATIONS

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, adding prescription drugs to Medicare is one of the most unfair burdens that Congress and the President have placed on future generations in a long, long time.

I have 10 grandkids and now, for a Medicare program that is already broke, insolvent Congress is adding benefits. We are reaching into the general fund to pay for Medicare. Medicare and Social Security are going to be insolvent within the next 10 to 14 years.

Yet we are adding a new prescription drug burden to Medicare, moving into socialized medicine, and making my kids and 10 grandkids and everybody else's responsible to pay for seniors' drug prescriptions.

Actually, today's retiring seniors are probably the most wealthy and better off than any generation of Americans. Yet we are placing a burden on our kids, and young workers who are trying to save money to send their kids to college. We are placing a huge burden on my grandkids to pay off the debt. We are actually borrowing the money,