

undiagnosed because the quality of their care is sub par.

We cannot stand by while the pharmaceutical and private insurance industries profit off of our communities.

We cannot stand by while rates of prostate and breast cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure disproportionately take the lives of people of color around this country.

We cannot stand by while this Republican led Congress privatizes Medicare and cushions the pockets of their industry donors with the prescription drug bill, H.R. 1.

And finally, we cannot allow the Congress to pass any more health related legislation that doesn't have at heart the interests of the African American, Latino, Native American, or our Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

We will win the battle against ethnic and racial health disparities, because we are united.

I thank the leadership of all the caucuses who worked so diligently on this bill and I thank the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for designating this hour to talk about this progressive and comprehensive bill.

#### SUPPORT A BIPARTISAN MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together in support of the bipartisan Medicare prescription drug plan. The AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons, the largest senior organization in the Nation, has endorsed the plan which will bring relief to 40 million seniors.

Immediately, right away, seniors will be able to save up to 25 percent through a prescription discount card. This is a savings never seen before by America's seniors.

The plan goes a long way in assisting seniors with low incomes and those who pay a large amount of money for their prescription drugs.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has the support of Members of both parties. It has the support of the leading advocate for seniors in the Nation, and will have my support when it passes this body. I urge my colleagues to join me so that we can give our seniors the modern Medicare benefit they deserve.

#### GOLDEN HARVEST FOOD BANK OF AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, we are quickly approaching a season known for giving thanks and goodwill. Next week is Thanksgiving. Far too often, we fail to recognize those who work year-round to improve the lives of the less fortunate.

This Friday, the Golden Harvest Food Bank in Augusta, Georgia, will celebrate the successful conclusion of its \$2 million "Feed the People" capital campaign. Through business and community generosity, Golden Harvest Food Bank will be able to reach nearly 71,000 families every year in its 25-county service area in both Georgia and South Carolina.

In this Nation of abundance, some still go without the basics that others of us take for granted. I am thankful that we have individuals who give time, service, and donations to see that these basic needs are met.

Mr. Speaker, in this time of giving thanks, let us remember those who worked tirelessly throughout the year to help the less fortunate.

#### CONSIDERING THE WORDS OF EDMUND BURKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the current issue of the American Conservative Magazine has an article by Owen Harries that says, quote: "In the 1770s, when Britain had recently added North America and India to its Empire, when its economy was the strongest in the world, when it ruled the seas, it occupied a position not too different from the one occupied by the United States today."

Then the great statesman, Edmund Burke, godfather of conservatism, issued this warning: "Among precautions against ambition, it may not be amiss to take precautions against our own. I must fairly say, I dread our own power and our own ambition. I dread our being too much dreaded. We must say that we shall not abuse this astonishing and hitherto unheard of power." Edmund Burke continued, "But every other nation will think we shall abuse it. It is impossible but that sooner or later this state of things must produce a combination against us which may end in our ruin."

Mr. Speaker, we should consider these words of Edmund Burke today.

#### REPUBLICANS' MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG "HOAX"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized during morning hour debates.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this should be a historic week in the life of our Nation. Instead, it is a tragic week. We should be celebrating Congress' keeping its promise to seniors and disabled Americans to provide a real guaranteed defined prescription drug benefit under Medicare. Instead, we are witnessing another Republican empty promise. Nothing short of a historic hoax on 40 million seniors and disabled Americans.

Mr. Speaker, America's seniors and disabled citizens have looked to Congress for help. Instead, Republicans have perpetrated, as I said, this cruel hoax on seniors, proposing an Alice in Wonderland bill in which logic is turned on its head and everything means the opposite.

A real, guaranteed, defined prescription drug benefit under Medicare could have been the product of bipartisan debate and discussion. Instead, this Republican hoax is a partisan scheme rammed through the Congress and negotiated in back rooms.

Republicans locked House Democrats out of negotiations, or better yet their "deal-making," and in so doing they locked out the 130 million Americans we represent. Seniors, veterans, disabled Americans, rural Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, America's seniors deserve better.

A real guaranteed prescription drug benefit under Medicare would put seniors and the disabled first. Instead, this Republican hoax subverts the public interest for the special interests, putting seniors at the mercy of the HMOs, creating a giant slush fund for HMOs, and creating windfall profits for the big pharmaceutical companies.

Mr. Speaker, America's seniors deserve better. A real guaranteed defined prescription drug benefit under Medicare would reduce costs to seniors and taxpayers. Instead, this Republican hoax increases drug costs, actually prohibiting the government from negotiating lower costs. Imagine that, this bill prohibits the government from negotiating for lower costs.

Republicans have instituted means testing for the first time, forcing millions of seniors to pay more for benefits they already have. Make no mistake, under this scheme, millions of Medicare beneficiaries will pay more, not less.

America's seniors deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, a real guaranteed benefit under Medicare would include all seniors and disabled Americans. Instead, this Republican hoax leaves most seniors and disabled worse off than before. According to the Congressional Budget Office, millions of retirees who get their benefits from their employers will lose their coverage. Let me repeat that. According to the Congressional Budget Office, millions of retirees who get their benefits from their employers will lose their benefits.

Nearly half of all Medicare beneficiaries, almost 20 million seniors and disabled Americans, will fall into the coverage gap, meaning they will pay premiums every month but receive no benefits in the final months of every year, a monthly premium without monthly benefits.

America's seniors deserve better.

Finally, a real guaranteed prescription drug benefit under Medicare would be just that under Medicare, which seniors have known and trusted for 40 years. Instead, this Republican hoax tries to dismantle and unravel Medicare with a voucher program that