

Act. This legislation includes provisions that community pharmacists from across my State have been tirelessly advocating for and that are important to keeping them in business.

The Congressional Community Pharmacy Caucus worked hard to get these necessary fixes included in this legislation, and I am gratified that they were included in H.R. 6331. These provisions are included in bills that I have sponsored, and they include prompt pay. The bill requires pharmacies to be reimbursed within 14 days if clean claims are submitted electronically and 30 days if submitted in other ways.

The AMP delay, this is the average manufacturer's price, the bill delays the implementation of the provisions creating the average manufactured price that was developed by CMS and which in my opinion is a terribly flawed system. The bill delays the implementation of the AMP system until after September 30, 2009.

Finally, the bill suspends the competitive bidding requirements in the durable medical equipment program for 1 year as well, as well as exempting diabetes test supplies from being subjected to the competitive bidding process.

It is important to the health of Americans and certainly to the health of rural Kansans that the Senate promptly adopt this legislation.

Also this week, it was my pleasure to participate in a ceremonial signing of the Kansas legislation that will allocate \$20 million in funding to help the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy increase the school's ability to conduct more pharmaceutical research and expand the size of the entering class at the school. Under this proposal, nearly 200 students would be able to enter the program through a satellite campus in Wichita in a new building being built on the main campus in Lawrence.

The University of Kansas has a strong reputation for retaining graduates within our State. Sixty-three percent of KU pharmacy graduates live and work in Kansas. Increasing the educational capacity will give students an opportunity to learn, and will help address pharmaceutical shortages in our State.

I would like to commend the leadership of the university, especially the dean of the School of Pharmacy, Ken Andus; Executive Vice Chancellor Barbara Atkinson; Provost Richard Lavalare; and Chancellor Robert Hemenway. I would also like to thank the legislature of our State for seeing the importance of this expansion.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to commend the investment in this worthwhile project, and I ask that Congress continue to do its part to see that pharmacies remain an important component of delivering health care across America.

□ 1830

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Johns Hopkins University located in the Seventh Congressional District in the great State of Maryland for its continued commitment to excellence and its monumental contributions to the advancement of our society and to the health and wellbeing of people throughout the world.

Johns Hopkins is a stalwart not only in my hometown of Baltimore City but the entire State of Maryland and this Nation. The university currently supports more than 85,000 Maryland jobs. More than 3 percent of the people receiving paychecks in Maryland either work for Johns Hopkins or have a job because of the money.

Additionally, the institution adds at least \$7 billion a year of income to the Maryland economy. However, the University's groundbreaking research and contributions that can be felt throughout the entire world. The advancements that have been made in research and technology since the University's establishment in 1876 have been critical in keeping our Nation on the cutting edge.

The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine is one of the best in the world, receiving more research grants from the National Institutes of Health than any other medical school. The Bloomberg School of Public Health, renowned for contributions worldwide to preventative medicine and the health of large populations, ranks first among public health schools in Federal research support.

Madam Speaker, the medical breakthroughs made possible through Johns Hopkins research are saving lives every single day, and the University continues to make great strides in helping men, women, and children who suffer from illness. Just the other day in the Baltimore Sun, for instance, there was an article reporting new, unprecedented success by Johns Hopkins researchers in the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

MS is a chronic and often disabling, degenerative condition in which the body's immune system attacks the central nervous system. Symptoms of this disease range from numbness in the limbs to paralysis or blindness, and the

programs and severity of this disease is unpredictable.

According to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, approximately 40,000 Americans are currently suffering from MS and an additional 200 people are being diagnosed each week. Although there are apparently a variety of treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration that can lessen the frequency and severity of MS attacks, there is not yet a cure for this debilitating disease.

However, this new research from Johns Hopkins offers a giant leap forward in the search for a cure. In a small college study, nine people were chosen to receive a single infusion of cyclophosphamide over 4 days and were followed for 4 years. Madam Speaker, these nine patients have experienced the most severe symptoms of MS, and most of them had failed to respond to other treatments.

At the completion of the 2-year period, researchers found that the treatment not only slowed the progression of MS, but it also restored neurological function that had previously been lost to the disease. Seven of the nine patients showed a decrease in the number of brain lesions in MRIs, and some even began walking, controlling bladder function, and returning to work for the first time in many years.

One of the patients in the treatment program, 30-year-old Richard Bauer, summed up succinctly what this research has the potential to offer those who are suffering from MS. And he said, "I was falling apart . . . trapped in my own body," and he continued, "I'm a regular person again. I've gotten my life back."

Madam Speaker, there are countless other patients who have benefited tremendously from Johns Hopkins research and who credit this great university for giving them back their lives. I am proud to applaud the work of this great institution and to recognize its contributions to the State of Maryland, to our Nation, and indeed the world.

DO NOT BELIEVE THE U.S. FEAR FACTOR PROPAGANDA AS IT RELATES TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today we saw some financial fireworks on the markets. The Dow Jones average was down 350-some points, gold was up \$32, oil was up another \$5, and there's a lot of chaos out there; and everyone is worried about \$4-a-gallon gasoline. I don't think there is a clear understanding exactly why that has occurred.

We do know that there is a supply and demand, there's a lot of demand for

oil. The supplies may be dwindling. But there are other reasons for high costs of energy. One is inflation. For instance, to pay for the war that has been going on and the domestic spending, we have been spending a lot more money than we have. So what do we do? We send the bills over to the Federal Reserve to create new money. In the last 3 years, our government, through the Federal Reserve and our banking system, created \$4 trillion of new money. That is one of the main reasons why we have this high cost of energy in \$4 gallon gasoline.

But there is another factor that I want to talk about tonight. And that is not only the fear of inflation and future inflation, but the fear factor dealing with our foreign policy.

And in the last several weeks, if not for months now, we have heard a lot of talk about the potentiality of Israel and/or the United States bombing Iran. And it is in the marketplace, and it's being bid up. The energy crisis is being bid up because of this fear. It's been predicted if bombs start dropping, that you're going to see energy prices double or triple. It's just the thought of it right now that helps to push these prices, the price of energy, up. And that is a very real thing going on right now. But to me, it's almost like déjà vu all over again, as has been said.

We listened to the rhetoric for years and years before we went into Iraq. We did not go in in the correct manner. We didn't declare war. We're there. It's an endless struggle. We're in Iraq. We're endlessly struggling there, and I cannot believe that we may well be on the verge of initiating bombing of Iran.

Leaders on both sides of the aisle and the administration have all said so often that no options can be taken off the table, including a nuclear first strike on Iran. The fear is, they say, maybe some day they're going to get a nuclear weapon, even though our own CIA and our NIE, National Intelligence Estimate, has said they have not been working.

The Iranians have not been working on a nuclear weapon since 2003. They say they're enriching uranium, but there's no evidence whatsoever that they're enriching uranium for weapons purposes. They may well be enriching uranium for peaceful purposes, and that is perfectly legal. They have been a member of the nonproliferation treaties, and they are under the investigation of the IAEA, and Alberdy last verified in the last year there have been nine unannounced investigations and examinations of the uranium nuclear structure, and they have never been found to be in violation. Yet this country and Israel are talking about a preventive war starting bombing for this reason without negotiation, without talks.

Now, the one issue that I do want to mention tonight is a resolution that is about to come to this floor, if our suspicions are correct, after the July 4th holiday. And this bill will probably be

brought up under suspension, it will probably be expected to pass easily, and probably will be, and it's just more war propaganda, more preparation to go to war against Iran.

And this resolution, H.J. Res. 362, is a virtual war resolution. It is the declaration of tremendous sanctions and boycotts and embargoes on Iran. It's very, very severe.

Let me just read what is involved in this, if this bill passes, what we're telling the President he must do. This demands that the President impose stringent inspection requirements on all persons, vehicles, ships, planes, trains, and cargo entering or departing Iran and prohibiting the international movement of all Iranian officials. I mean, this is unbelievable. This is closing down Iran. Where do we have this authority? Where do we get the moral authority? Where do we get the international legality for this? Where do we get the constitutional authority for this?

This is what we did for 10 years before we went into Iraq. We starved children. 50,000 individuals that were admitted probably died because of the sanctions on the Iraqis. They were incapable at the time of attacking us, and all of the propaganda that was given for our need to go into Iraq wasn't true.

And it's not true today about the severity. And they say, Yeah, but Ahmadinejad, he's a bad guy. He's threatened violence. But you know, us threatening violence is very, very similar. We must look at this carefully. We just can't go to work again under these careless, frivolous conditions.

SOLUTIONS FOR HIGH ENERGY PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, tonight I rise because my constituents in my district are sick and tired of paying record-high gas prices while Congress does nothing to increase domestic energy production. Imagine for a moment that you are a regular working mom struggling to make ends meet. You need to get the kids to and from school, you need to get to work, you need to buy groceries, you need to do all of the things that millions of working parents do every day. Then at the end of the week, you stop by the gas station only to find that prices are so high that you can't even afford to fill your tank. What do you think she would want from her representative in Congress?

I know what my constituents want us to do. Everything. We should allow exploration of America's own energy reserves in places like ANWR and the Outer Continental Shelf waters. We should bring new carbon friendly nuclear reactors online and begin the reprocessing of nuclear energy. We

should invest in clean coal plants with carbon sequestration technologies. We should invest in research and development of alternative energy technologies, be that wind, hydro, geothermal, solar, and we should provide the tax incentives necessary to accelerate their deployment.

In short, we should do all of the above and more. America can neither drill nor conserve its way to cheaper energy. We must have a comprehensive approach that does have both short- and long-term solutions.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Science and Technology Committee, I have been a long-time advocate for research development for energy technologies like hydrogen, cellulosic fuels, solar, wind, and green buildings. In my own district, scientists at Argon National Laboratory are leading the way on the development of specialized batteries for special hybrid vehicles. They will allow motors to drive 40 miles before using a drop of gas. That's more than enough to cover Americans' commute to work and back. Then they can just plug the car into a regular electric socket and recharge it for another 40 miles.

I believe that the significant advances in these energy technologies are just around the corner, but in the meantime, we must provide relief to hardworking Americans being squeezed by soaring gas prices, and that means increasing the domestic supply of energy.

America is the only industrialized Nation in the world that prohibits oil and glass exploration in its Outer Continental Shelf waters. Foreign nations, like Cuba, are permitted to drill closer to our shores than the American companies; and yet instead of opening America's vast energy reserves, Congress forces us to rely on expensive oil from the Middle East.

I agree that examining futures markets for excessive speculation and exercising proper oversight is fine and good, but if we want to effectively curb speculation in the oil market, we should show that we are serious about developing our own energy reserves. When more supply is on the horizon developing our own energy reserves, speculators will have much less incentive to invest in oil commodities.

This debate isn't just about the price that Americans are paying at the pump. It's about the growing threat to our economy and our security. Last year alone, America increased its dependence on foreign members of OPEC by an additional 7 percent. How much more money and control are we willing to turn over to nations in these unstable regions of the world? And yet despite this growing threat, Congress is still debating legislation that holds zero potential to increase domestic energy production or help break our addiction to foreign oil.

Madam Speaker, I'm glad that the House leadership has finally realized that we need to bring bills to the floor