

coming to an end, but our students have a lifetime of learning ahead and they need our help.

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

(Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. PAYNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMPILATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG LETTERS FOR HOUSE FLOOR

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

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, beginning on April 12, for the 20 weeks that the House has been in session, I have read 22 letters from MI seniors who desperately need help with their high prescription drug costs.

In that time, I have been pushing consistently for prescription drug coverage under Medicare. Our time is nearly up, and we still have not passed this important legislation.

Looking back through the 22 letters that I have read on the House floor, I am reminded of why it is so important to modernize Medicare and provide prescription drug coverage for seniors.

From Shirley and Raymond Radcliff, Escanaba: "We are a couple on a fixed income and cannot afford these drugs that continue to escalate. Our income cannot keep up with it. Fifteen pills of [one medication] are \$41.99. I cannot afford that and discontinued taking them . . . A two month supply of [another medication] is \$82.53. I no longer take those either, because I cannot afford them."

From Concetta Lisuzzo, Dearborn: "If you can bring these prices [down] I will be very grateful to you. It seems like a visit to the doctor adds one more prescription. Please help us, so we won't have to make choices between food or prescriptions."

From Annabelle Lewis, Alma: "I stopped taking [my medication] in January 1999, having cut pills in half."

From Julia Kanopsky, Livonia: "I just wish the government would take an interest in problems like this. To curb high prices, I eat two meals a day, and any more hike in health cost, I'll have to go on one meal."

From Dolores Graycheck, Indian River: "Each month we get deeper in debt and soon we, like a lot of other people, won't have any-

thing left . . . I think it's a shame that our supposed Golden Years aren't Golden after all."

From Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Crook, Hillsdale: "We can't go [anywhere] or do anything because it takes all our income for the cost to live. Some weeks, I wonder how long we can go on. It keeps going up in cost and we cannot live."

From Harriett Simmons, Detroit: "We are senior citizens today but yesterday we were active, taxpaying citizens. Don't mistreat us now. We need protection."

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

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

USS LST MEMORIAL, INC.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is a story about a World War II LST that is coming home. She is one of the last of her kind. She has seen a lot in her time. And now, at about 65 years of age, she is about to take on one of the biggest challenges of her entire lifetime.

She was there on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Time and again, the gallant LST 325 returned to Omaha Beach, through murderous gunfire, to unload more men and more equipment to replenish the high casualty and death rate being suffered. She was repaired, and she survived.

At the close of World War II, she was transferred for service to Greece and her name was changed to Syros. After years of good service to Greece, Syros was no longer needed.

About 3 years ago, my constituent, James Edwards of Canton, Texas, contacted me with a request for assistance in the retransfer of the LST from Greece to the United States LST Ship Memorial, Inc., a nonprofit organization whose membership consists of former Navy service members, mostly World War II type guys. I understand the feelings, as I fall in that category, too.

The members of this organization had a dream and a goal that never died. They planned, dreamed, and worked for years to own their own LST. They had a vision of using the ship for educational purposes.

□ 1915

They wanted young people to tour the ship and experience the value of

such a trip in helping to win the war and to honor the work it had done. They wanted young Navy midshipmen to train on her, and they wanted Americans of all ages to climb aboard and visit her and even sail on her. Therefore, the LST had to be a movable museum, one that could sail around the waters of the United States and even up the rivers, docking at cities along the way to welcome visitors aboard. That was a tall order, but a worthy cause.

After learning of this noble plan, I introduced legislation to secure the transfer from Greece, and I want to thank my colleagues who supported this effort and helped pass it. I think it should be noticed that the legislation never required one Federal dollar. Unique in itself, the Memorial Association has been raising money and saving funds for years, waiting for that day when they could bring a "live" LST back home.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that the veterans have been in Greece for 3 months, at their own expense, renovating the ship in preparation for the journey back home. She is equipped with the newest radar, repainted and made safe and livable for this historic trip. LST 325 will be sailed home by these veterans, most of whom are veterans of World War II and many of them who are retired. The average age is reported to be at 74 years young.

Recently, the men took LST 325 for a 5-hour shakedown. They cruised around Crete, and she performed perfectly. The report came back to me that the veterans said how wonderful to feel the salt air in their faces again, and I heard that there were some tears of joy mixed in. These men are being cheered and supported by current Navy personnel stationed in Crete and by members of the Hellenic Navy. I am pleased to tell my colleagues that our Ambassador to Greece, Nicholas Burns, and officials of our American Embassy, have done much to make all of this good news possible, and I am sure my colleagues will join me in being appreciative of their assistance.

Finally, having planned very well and believing they had all loose ends tied up, these veterans discovered that their source for food was not going to be available. Neither was their source for fuel. That was the bad news. How were they going to get the LST back home?

This story is fraught with heroes. This epic, this ongoing saga of 40 courageous World War II veterans giving of their hearts to bring the LST 325 home, found another big heart and that is the heart of Mike McAdams, a vice president of British Petroleum, a fellow Texan and former staffer of mine, who went to other officials of BP with the story of this little band of veterans, so full of bravery and determination and so in need of fuel.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that British Petroleum has donated over 40,000 gallons of fuel to the men and the

the memorial ship, enough to bring LST 325 back home to America. They are ecstatic and grateful and so am I.

The corporate leaders of British Petroleum have shown a responsibility to share which cuts across all generations in a salute to those who have given so much and served so proudly. Mr. Speaker, I say: thank you, Mike Mc Adams and thank you British Petroleum.

The transfer of documents will take place in Athens momentarily and the LST 325 will be on her way. The plan is to stop in Rota, Spain, taking the southern route home. She is expected in Fort Lauderdale sometime around Thanksgiving, as she travels only 7½ knots an hour. I hope to be there when she arrives. What a celebration that will be.

When the men, these veterans, come home, they will have realized a dream of many years and a vision for a memorial that will honor all veterans who have put their lives in harm's way. Many of their shipmates lost their lives during the amphibious assaults, and the LST memorial will honor these men who sail this ship today in the memory of all who have gone before them.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of the 106th Congress, I am honored to pay tribute to the veterans of the LST and all those who helped make this dream come true. I hope that my colleagues will join me in wishing them well and say a prayer for their safe journey back home.

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

(Mrs. FOWLER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE
TOM BLILEY, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

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

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to provide a complete legislative record, I am providing the CBO cost estimates for H.R. 762, the Lupus Research and Care Amendments of 2000, and H.R. 3850, the Independent Telecommunications Consumer Enhancement Act of 2000, which were not included in the Committee's reports on the bills.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
Washington, DC, October 4, 2000.

Hon. TOM BLILEY,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 3850, the Independent Telecommunications Consumer Enhancement Act of 2000.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

The CBO staff contact is Ken Johnson, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(for Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE, OCTOBER 4, 2000

H.R. 3850: INDEPENDENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSUMER ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000, AS ORDERED REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2000

H.R. 3850 would exempt small telecommunications carriers from certain rules and reporting requirements administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The bill would relieve small carriers from the requirement to maintain separate affiliates to provide advanced telecommunications services. This provision could alter payments that such firms receive from the Universal Service Fund. The legislation also would require that the FCC grant or deny merger petitions from small telecommunications firms within 60 days, and all reconsideration and waiver petitions within 90 days.

CBO estimates that H.R. 3850 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill could, however, have small effects on both direct spending and governmental receipts (revenues), so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. H.R. 3850 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Based on information from the FCC, CBO estimates that the agency would spend about \$3 million a year to implement H.R. 3850. The commission would need more staff to investigate the costs incurred by small telecommunications carriers, which the bill would exempt from certain reporting requirements. The FCC also would have to hire additional personnel to review merger, reconsideration, and waiver petitions in order to meet the bill's deadlines for acting on such petitions. Under current law, enforcement and regulatory costs that the agency incurs are offset by fees charged to the industries that the FCC regulates. Therefore, CBO expects that the net effect on the FCC's appropriated spending would be negligible.

H.R. 3850 would affect governmental receipts and direct spending in two ways. First, it could allow small telecommunications carriers to receive larger payments from the Universal Service Fund to support the added costs of providing advanced telecommunications services. Using the Universal Service Fund established by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the FCC seeks to provide universal access to telecommunications services, in part through assessments on telephone companies to finance payments to companies that serve high-cost regions. Receipts to the Universal Service Fund are recorded as governmental receipts, and payments do not require annual appropriation action. Based on information from the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company, CBO estimates that any change in the Universal Service Fund's spending resulting from this legislation would not be significant and would be offset by either lower payments to other companies or higher revenues.

Second, H.R. 3850 would affect application fees the FCC collects to offset costs associated with tariff filings and other applications from the telecommunications industry. Those licensing fees are recorded as offsetting receipts. Based on information from the FCC, CBO expects that H.R. 3850 could affect the number of tariffs filed by small telecommunications carriers. However, CBO es-

timates that the resulting change, if any, in receipts from application fees would not be significant.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Ken Johnson, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 13, 2000.

Hon. TOM BLILEY,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 762, the Lupus Research and Care Amendments of 2000.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Alexis K. Ahlstrom, who can be reached at 226-9010.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE, OCTOBER 13, 2000

H.R. 762: LUPUS RESEARCH AND CARE AMENDMENTS OF 2000, AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OCTOBER 10, 2000

H.R. 762 would require the Director of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMSD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to expand and intensify research and related activities of the institute regarding lupus. The NIH will spend approximately \$50 million on lupus research this year. The act would require the Director to coordinate activities with similar activities conducted by other national research institutes and agencies of the NIH. The act also would require NIAMSD to conduct or support research to expand the understanding of the causes of lupus, and to increase research into finding a cure for the disease.

H.R. 762 would authorized grants for the establishment, operation, and coordination of delivery of essential services to individuals with lupus and their families. The act also would regulate charges (such as enrollment fees, premiums, deductible, cost sharing, co-payments, coinsurance, or other charges) imposed by grantees on service recipients.

H.R. 762 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as necessary to carry out the act's provisions in fiscal years 2001 through 2003. At this time, CBS cannot estimate how much would be necessary to implement H.R. 762. However, because the act would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 762 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. State and local governments, as well as a number of community and nonprofit organizations, would be eligible for grants established by H.R. 762 for the purpose of delivering and enhancing health care and related services for individuals with lupus.

The CBO staff contact is Alexis K. Ahlstrom, who can be reached at 226-9010. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

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

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)