

scourge not only for professional sports but for amateur sports because, increasingly, those who are competing on an amateur level believe they have to use steroids to compete. That is a tragedy.

We are seeing usage of steroids at 20 to 40 percent in high school athletes because they read the stories, and they see what others are doing who have been at the very highest levels.

So I wish to give my profound thanks to Senator MCCAIN and Senator BUNNING.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, it has been a long day in the Senate, especially for our capable and dedicated staff. I wish to take a couple of minutes to say thank you to the Senators who, a bit ago, supported the Snowe-Wyden legislation to hold down the cost of prescription medicine.

Tonight a majority of the Senate voted to make the Federal Government a smart shopper when it comes to prescription drugs. For the first time, the Senate voted to remove an error of commission: the authorization of a provision in the prescription drug law that bars the Federal Government from negotiating to hold down the cost of prescription drugs.

For the life of me, at a time when the Federal budget is hemorrhaging, when the Government must pay for the costs of Katrina, I do not see how you can argue against the Snowe-Wyden amendment that was offered tonight. It prohibits price controls—that is certainly critical—so we can encourage innovation and research in the pharmaceutical area, but what the Snowe-Wyden amendment does is ensure that the Federal Government is going to do what everybody does in the marketplace—and that is use its bargaining power to hold down the costs. That is what the Federal Emergency Management Agency does when it buys cots, what every Federal agency does to make sure taxpayers and our citizens have their concerns addressed responsibly.

Now, tonight, Senator SNOWE and I had to get a supermajority to prevail. I want it understood that no matter how many procedural hurdles are put in front of us, no matter how many roadblocks are put up, we are going to keep coming back on this issue again and again and again until the needs of seniors and our taxpayers are met.

The older people of this country are insisting that an offensive piece of special interest legislation, one that defies common sense, get changed. The AARP made the case when they backed our bipartisan bill. They pointed out that drugs seniors use, such as Lipitor, are going up more than twice the rate of inflation. Seniors want that changed.

They will not abide it. Taxpayers will not abide it. And Senator SNOWE and I are going to stay at it until Medicare is liberated and can act as a smart shopper.

Fifty-one Senators—a majority of this body—said tonight it is time to get serious about holding down the cost of medicine in the United States. Fifty-one votes is not the supermajority we needed, but Senator SNOWE and I are going to stay at it until we get justice done for our older people.

Finally, I want to say a special thanks to our bipartisan group of sponsors and particularly thank Senator STABENOW, Senator MCCAIN, and Senator FEINSTEIN. They are all Senators who got this from the get-go. They understood this was a question of making sure that, at a time when the Federal Government begins the biggest expansion of entitlement health care in years, we take steps to protect the interests of taxpayers and the interests of older people who, right now, are beginning to sign up for the program and will, in fact, start participating formally next year.

We believed it was important tonight to offer this amendment. We wish we had more time to discuss it this evening. I went into it at some length yesterday, but I am pleased we made real progress. For the first time, a majority of the Senate says that this provision that keeps the Federal Government from being a smart shopper simply does not add up. It does not make sense. It defies logic. It is contrary to what everybody else does in the marketplace across the country. I wish we could have gotten the 60 votes needed to prevail tonight, but for the first time we got a majority, and we are going to come back again and again and again. We are going to do it because the older people of this country deserve a fair shake. They are going to insist we keep coming back.

I close my comments tonight by thanking the Presiding Officer, as well, for his support in this effort.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JAMES GRAY, NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT FOUNDER

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn today that James Gray passed away after a long illness on November 1, 2005. Mr. Gray was 78 years old and lived in Danville, CA. I knew him as the founder of the National Writing Project, which today is credited with perfecting the training

model of teachers teaching teachers how to teach writing.

For more than 30 years, teachers of all grades and nearly the entire spectrum of subject areas have benefited from the vision and dedication of Jim Gray to finding better ways of raising a new generation of writers. Thousands of teachers have participated every year in workshops, classes and retreats to perfect their skills, and as a result, an exponential tens of thousands of students continue taking new steps to becoming skillful writers.

It was his work that gave me the good fortune of meeting him, and my becoming a close friend to the Writing Project as the sponsor of legislation to make it a Federal program under the U.S. Department of Education.

Across the country, many teachers and students mourn him, but I hope they take his serious creativity in teaching and live his legacy of the National Writing Project. I extend to his family, and to all who knew him, my message of gratitude for his life's work and my deep sympathy.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the obituary of James Gray released today by the National Writing Project be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT FOUNDER JAMES GRAY DEAD AT 78

James Gray, founder of the National Writing Project, died November 1 in Danville, California, after a long illness.

Gray, a former high school teacher and then a senior lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Education, founded the innovative Bay Area Writing Project in 1974. Acting on his belief that successful classroom teachers were an untapped resource for providing their peers with professional development, Gray brought together 25 talented Bay Area teachers and charged them with sharing their expertise about the teaching of writing.

The Bay Area Writing Project became the first site that offered a professional development model for teachers of writing. Now known as the National Writing Project (NWP), the program has grown to 189 university-based sites located in fifty states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Gray served as Executive Director of the NWP until his retirement in 1994 and remained on the NWP Board of Directors until his death.

Gray's simple but highly successful model has been responsible for transforming classroom practices and improving student writing performance at schools in rural, urban, and suburban communities across the U.S.

"Jim's belief in teachers and their knowledge, commitment, and creativity never wavered," said NWP Executive Director Richard Sterling. "We are all the beneficiaries of his vision and his tireless work on behalf of the National Writing Project."

For more information about Jim Gray and the National Writing Project, visit the NWP website at www.writingproject.org.

LAUNCHING OF JEWISH SOCIAL ACTION MONTH

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to announce the launching