

STIMULUS FAILURE

□ 1140

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, some may wonder why the nearly \$1 trillion in government stimulus spending failed to hold down unemployment or reinvigorate our economy. Phillip Greenspun, owner and operator of a helicopter company in Boston, understands why government doesn't efficiently spend the public's money. In a June 16 blog post, he relates his maddening experiences with Federal bureaucracy.

As the manager of his company, he must administer a random drug test to employees. As the only employee, he must surprise himself with a drug test. As the manager, he must take a course on giving drug tests. As the only employee, he must take a course on his rights regarding drug tests. Mr. Greenspun notes that all of these requirements and steps don't just cost him money, but cost the Federal Government since FAA employees must ensure all of these requirements are met. It's just a small illustration of how the government manages to make the simple complex and hurt both businesses and taxpayers. It's just another reason why we need a smaller, less expensive Federal Government so that our private sector can grow again.

BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO REPEAL
CLEAN WATER ACT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, up to today, I was concerned that my friends on the Republican side were only trying to defeat great Democratic programs of the 20th century. Medicare, which will be celebrating its 46th birthday next month, is one of the great laws that have been passed in this House, and yet it's in danger. Medicare as we know it is in danger.

Social Security passed in the thirties, one of the great social advances of the 20th century under President Franklin Roosevelt, but also endangered—all Democratic activities and Democratic Congresses. But today I saw there was a bipartisan effort to destroy the work of the 20th century. In the Transportation Committee, a bill coming to this floor is going to try to end the Clean Water Act. So it's bipartisan.

Richard Nixon passed the Clean Water Act. I'm a history buff, and I think Richard Nixon should be known not just for Watergate, but for clean water. I hope they don't repeal Richard Nixon's signature achievement, the Clean Water Act.

TIME TO MOVE FORWARD ON
FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, international competitiveness is critical to revitalizing America's economy. That is why it is so imperative that we move forward three free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Passage of these FTAs will not only improve our relationship with these countries but will also create new trade and jobs for America.

Make no mistake—creating jobs and growing the economy are the most important issue today facing America. The U.S. International Trade Commission reported that passage of these free trade agreements could create as many as 250,000 American jobs. In Florida, we have 14 deepwater seaports that generate over \$65 billion in economic value to the State. These trade agreements will only enhance that figure.

It is time that we get serious and start competing in the global marketplace. That time is right now.

RESPECTING SENIORS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, our seniors need Medicare. As we prepare to celebrate its 46th anniversary next month, history shows Medicare has been one of the most successful health care programs in our Nation. Seniors rely on it. But my Republican colleagues, sadly, want to end Medicare as we know it.

Missouri's own Harry Truman conceived of Medicare and was the recipient of the first Medicare card in 1965 as it was signed into law by LBJ. At the time, 40 percent of American seniors over 65 lived at or below the poverty level. Now, more than 40 million seniors in America are enrolled in Medicare, including 1 million Missourians, and the poverty rate for seniors has dropped to only 10 percent.

The Republican plan is to reopen the doughnut hole, double seniors' medical expenses, and give insurance companies the power to ration care. We cannot let this happen. Everyone agrees we must make serious cuts to lower our debt, but we have to take a balanced approach that doesn't threaten the fragile recovery or scapegoat American seniors.

I ask my colleagues to set our differences aside and have a serious conversation about our debt that respects what seniors need and deserve.

FINDING A CURE FOR DUCHENNE
MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

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

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Duchenne is a progressive muscle disorder for which there is no cure and affects boys disproportionately. According to Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, the disease affects approximately one in 3,500 live male births. Conditions of the disease include deterioration of the muscle tissue, abnormal bone development, paralysis, and eventually death.

Earlier this year, my office was contacted by several families from my district whose young sons are living with Duchenne disease. Duchenne takes lives too quickly, but, due in large part to the research developments, there are three signs of hope.

Over the last 5 years, Congress has appropriated \$175 million to NIH for Duchenne efforts. In 2010, the NIH awarded three grants specifically to New Jersey institutions totaling \$874,000. Two of the grants were awarded to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey to explore treatments for congenital diseases, and the third went to TRIM-edicine for research of protein therapies for muscular dystrophy.

I hope these and other innovations bring us closer to finding the answers that we need to help and even cure Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

REDIRECTING RESOURCES FROM
AFGHANISTAN TO AMERICA

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us, this Congress, to begin withdrawing both our troops and our tax dollars from Afghanistan. For now, it is important to still train the Afghan National Army, but we don't have to spend \$100 billion a year and keep over 100,000 troops in Afghanistan to help keep stability in that country.

We need to cut back our borrowing and our spending in Afghanistan in order to cut our debt and our deficit right here. But equally important, let's take that money that was slated for Afghanistan, and it is our tax dollars in the first place, and let's redirect it to the United States to protect Americans here at home with stronger homeland security. And all of the money we have spent in Afghanistan repairing bridges and roads and building schools and businesses, let's redirect this economic aid to the United States, because we need jobs here. Redirect our tax dollars from Afghanistan to help Americans and put them back to work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MICHAEL
C. OLIVIERI OF HOMER GLEN, IL-
LINOIS

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1