

colleagues will be on the floor voting on a bill that will rectify that situation. We should not have to wait through another election. We should not have to wait for any other development. We know the facts. We know the people are going to Canada. We know the people are making these tough choices. We know heartfelt letters such as these are written, pleading for the Congress to respond. The only thing we do not know is how long it will take for the Congress to do what it needs to do; that is, to respond effectively with a comprehensive approach to universal access to good prescription drug coverage with cost containment as part of that coverage. That will happen someday as a result of the leadership shown and the extraordinary persistence of the Senator from Michigan.

I thank the Senator again for that effort.

Ms. STABENOW. I am deeply grateful for the comments of the Senate majority leader. His leadership, truly, on so many issues, particularly this issue, touches the lives of so many people every day. I am very grateful to the majority leader for that leadership.

We are focusing on bringing bills to the floor so we can solve the problems addressing what Mrs. Askin from Romulus, MI, has written about. We cannot say: We will wait another year: Mrs. Askin, why don't you wait on medications that you need, wait until next year or the year after or the year after?

This is not like buying a new car or a new pair of tennis shoes or are you going to wait on buying a piece of clothing. This is lifesaving medicine. There has to be a sense of urgency.

Health care has changed. Most of the time we are not admitted into the hospital. Thankfully, medication will allow people to avoid open-heart surgery or allow them to live with dignity at home or allow parents to care for children who are chronically ill or disabled, that allow them to live longer. We welcome these new innovations. It is wonderful.

I am proud that in this country we are in a partnership with investments from all taxpayers to the National Institutes of Health, utilizing the American ingenuity of the companies that go to work. It is wonderful.

Unfortunately, the end result is not wonderful. At the end of this process, the very people who help invest in the process cannot afford these lifesaving medications. Something is wrong. When we get to the end of the process and the health care system we have set up for older Americans who use the majority of medications, or those who are disabled who use the majority of medications, does not recognize these new lifesaving drugs incorporated in part of the health care system called Medicare, there is something wrong.

When we are creating these medications and they are sold to every other country in the world at half the price they are sold to us, there is something wrong.

When we see today these lifesaving medications are treated like any other product and twice as much or 2½ times more is spent on advertising than the research, and we, as taxpayers, pay for that through tax writeoffs, something is wrong. More was spent on Vioxx last year for advertisement than spent by Budweiser on beer, Coca-Cola on Coke, Pepsi-Cola on Pepsi. There is something wrong. It is fine to advertise and promote, but when the companies drive the prices beyond our ability to be able to afford the medications, when this advertising and promotion and sales going on in doctors' offices all over the country each day create a situation where a small business has to drop their insurance for their employees because they cannot afford the premium, it has gone too far.

When manufacturers have to stop providing health care for retirees or lay off people because of rising health care costs, most of which is the cost of their prescription drugs, it has gone too far. I could go on and on with examples of what has been happening.

Right now one of the largest costs, one of the costs driving every part of our economy, is the explosion in the pricing of prescription drugs. We can do better than that. We can open the border to competition for Canada. We can limit the amount we are willing to subsidize in those explosive advertising costs. We can support States in innovative ways. They are looking for ways to bring down prices for their own citizens such as in the State of Maine and the innovations they have incorporated, making sure when patents run out and it is time for the generic, the same formula can be sold without the brand name at pennies on a dollar. Those generic laws work, and we are, in fact, doing that. We have a plan that works. It is now time to put it into action.

In closing, I say to Mrs. Askin that people do care. We are working very hard to get it right. We are working hard so citizens will not have to decide every morning what bill to pay, what food they can afford, or whether or not they can afford their medicine. It is time to get it right. I will work very hard until we get it right so you can know that you can benefit from the wonderful new medications that have been placed on the market to save lives, to extend life, so you can also enjoy all the other wonderful parts of your life without worrying about whether you can afford your medicine.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Ms. STABENOW. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

## CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

## ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE EXPANSION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 3009, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3009) to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, to grant additional trade benefits under that Act, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Baucus/Grassley amendment No. 3401, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid (for Byrd) amendment No. 3447 (to amendment No. 3401), to amend the provisions relating to the Congressional Oversight Group.

Reid (for Byrd) amendment No. 3448 (to amendment No. 3401), to clarify the procedures for procedural disapproval resolutions.

Reid (for Byrd) amendment No. 3449 (to amendment No. 3401), to clarify the procedures for extension disapproval resolutions.

Reid (for Byrd) amendment No. 3450 (to amendment No. 3401), to limit the application of trade authorities procedures to a single agreement resulting from DOHA.

Reid (for Byrd) amendment No. 3451 (to amendment No. 3401), to address disclosures by publicly traded companies of relationships with certain countries or foreign-owned corporations.

Reid (for Byrd) amendment No. 3452 (to amendment No. 3401), to facilitate the opening of energy markets and promote the exportation of clean energy technologies.

Reid (for Byrd) amendment No. 3453 (to amendment No. 3401), to require that certification of compliance with section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 be provided with respect to certain goods imported into the United States.

Reid (for Durbin) amendment No. 3458 (to amendment No. 3401), to establish and implement a steel import notification and monitoring program.

Reid (for Harkin) amendment No. 3459 (to amendment No. 3401), to include the prevention of the worst forms of child labor as one of the principal negotiating objectives of the United States.

Reid (for Corzine) amendment No. 3461 (to amendment No. 3401), to help ensure that trade agreements protect national security, social security, and other significant public services.

Reid (for Corzine) amendment No. 3462 (to amendment No. 3401), to strike the section dealing with border search authority for certain contraband in outbound mail.

Reid (for Hollings) amendment No. 3463 (to amendment No. 3401), to provide for the certification of textile and apparel workers who lose their jobs or who have lost their jobs since the start of 1999 as eligible individuals for purposes of trade adjustment assistance and health insurance benefits, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent corporate expatriation to avoid United States income tax.

Reid (for Hollings) amendment No. 3464 (to amendment No. 3401), to ensure that ISAC committees are representative of the producing sectors of the United States Economy.

Reid (for Hollings) amendment No. 3465 (to amendment No. 3401), to provide that the