

The Republican Medicare bill fails on all of these points.

Today, prescription medicines are a critical component of medical treatment. Indeed, prescription medicines keep many seniors out of the hospital and at home with their families. But too many of our seniors must choose between paying for food and other necessities or the prescription medicines they need to live full, healthy lives. Seniors deserve prescription medicine coverage under Medicare. Yet, the Republicans continue to play politics with this vital issue.

There are several flaws in this Republican bill. First, it is inadequate. The Republican Medicare bill would cover less than 20 percent of what seniors are projected to spend on prescription medicines over the next ten years. The bill also leaves seniors who spend between \$2,000 and \$3,700 on prescription medicines without coverage for part of the year forcing nearly half of all seniors to pay the full cost of their medicines.

Second, the Republican bill provides no guaranteed benefit to seniors. The only thing this bill promises seniors is the ability to shop around for some type of coverage. There is no specific language in this bill that sets premiums at \$35. In reality, private plans can charge whatever they want for premiums. What's more, under their plan the insurance companies that will administer this plan are allowed to vary their prices and the availability of coverage all across the country, which will shortchange the seniors who need this benefit the most.

Finally, this Republican bill provides subsidies to private insurance companies instead of providing seniors with a guaranteed prescription medicine benefit. Tonight we see the Republican majority's priorities, Mr. Speaker. They put insurance companies first, not our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a prescription medicine benefit plan. It's a sleight of hand proposal designed to hide the Republican Leadership's true intention to eventually privatize Medicare.

It is noteworthy that the Republican majority has placed a number of provisions relating to physicians and hospitals into the bill that I strongly support. Currently, physicians are not being adequately reimbursed for taking care of Medicare patients, making it difficult to keep their doors open. The current system defies common sense, basing physician reimbursements on the state of the economy instead of the cost or need of health care. The fact is folks do not stop visiting the doctor because the economy is sluggish. I support the provisions in this bill that would correct this flawed payment system.

As a Member of the Congressional Rural Health Coalition, I also support provisions in this bill to increase the reimbursement payments for our nation's hospitals, especially those facilities located in rural areas. In fact, I joined 77 of my colleagues in writing the Chairmen of the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees in support of provisions to standardize the base payments between rural and urban hospitals. Language to this effect is also included in the bill. There are other worthwhile measures in this bill, and it is a shame these provisions are included in a fundamentally flawed bill.

Despite these provisions, I am unable to support H.R. 4954 because the Republican

Majority's Medicare bill will not help America's seniors get access to affordable prescription medicines. I support the Democratic alternative that is easy to understand, designed to fit into our Medicare system, and provides seniors access to all of the medicines they need. It also includes all of the provider reimbursement provisions that are contained in H.R. 4954. Unfortunately, the Republican majority has denied us the opportunity to offer this alternative.

America's seniors deserve a prescription medicine benefit that allows them to remain healthy in their golden years. We must strengthen Medicare with a real, guaranteed Medicare prescription medicine benefit, not a private insurance plan that leaves half of America's seniors without prescription medicine coverage. I urge my colleagues to reject this sham Republican Medicare bill, and to support the Democratic Motion to Recommit.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONGRESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of law enforcement who have exemplified themselves through uncommon and distinctive service to the citizens of New Hampshire during the course of their duties.

Few among us would question that one of the most demanding professions in our nation is law enforcement; it is a profession that requires sacrifice, courage and a dedication to serve others. Each day, these brave men and women put themselves in harm's way in order to administer the laws of our society. In so doing, they have earned—and deserve—our respect and our gratitude.

In 1998, my friend and colleague, Representative CHARLES BASS, and I first established the New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Awards at the request of current and retired New Hampshire law enforcement personnel. We both agreed that these awards would be an excellent way to honor the men and women of law enforcement whose service and professionalism was truly extraordinary, and this Sunday, July 14, a ceremony will be held at the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training facility in Concord to honor the 82 recipients of this year's awards.

In New Hampshire, the nominations process for the awards starts with all duty sworn officers of the law, full or part-time, including local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement professionals from other states who distinguish themselves in serving the people of New Hampshire are also eligible. Nominations are then made based on exceptional achievement in any police endeavor, including: extraordinary valor; crime prevention; drug control and prevention; investigative work; community policing; community service; traffic safety; search and rescue; and juvenile training, programs. Individual officers are nominated for the award by citizens, an officer's department or his or her co-workers, a city or town official or a government agency.

The awards honor law enforcement personnel in one of five separate categories: Ca-

reer Service Award, which recognizes those who have shown an outstanding dedication to law enforcement over the length of their career; Unit Citation Award, which recognizes officers for actions taken as a group in dangerous situations; Dedication and Professionalism Award, which recognizes personnel who exceed their normal duties in service to others; Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award, which honors officers who put their lives in harm's way in service to others; and Associate Service Award, which honors fire and rescue personnel as well as civilians who assist law officers in the course of their duties—at times putting their own lives at risk.

While Congress works each day to pass legislation that supports local law enforcement and protects the interests of our communities, families and children, the men and women of law enforcement, working on the front lines every day, take the necessary risks to ensure our safety and the safety of our loved ones. These awards have been a fitting tribute to our officers and a reminder to all of us of the important role they play in our lives and in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I join with Congressman BASS and all the citizens of the Granite State in offering our appreciation for the service and the dedication of our law enforcement personnel. I congratulate each recipient of the 2002 New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Awards, and thank the people with whom they work and the citizens they serve for nominating such outstanding individuals.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALAN TERRY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate an outstanding individual from Colorado whose hard work and dedication has produced a number of awards throughout his business career. Alan Terry, the president of Terry & Stephenson, P.C. has just received a very high honor from the business community, as he is the recipient of the Accountant Advocate of the Year award. The Denver Urban Renewal Authority nominated Alan for this award, which is among the most prestigious and coveted forms of recognition given in the business world, and I am honored to bring forth his accomplishments before this body of Congress and nation.

Alan attended Trinidad State Junior College, received an AA in Business Administration and went on to complete his undergraduate work at the University of Southern Colorado where he earned a BS degree in accounting. His professional career began with Price Waterhouse in Baltimore, Maryland and after several years, Alan moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he started Terry & Stephenson, P.C., a certified public accounting, and management consulting firm. In 1986, he moved to Denver, Colorado and opened the Denver office of Terry & Stephenson, P.C.

Since opening the Denver office, Alan has worked with a variety of businesses including start up businesses, Fortune 500 corporations, the State of Colorado, the City and County of Denver, and various nonprofit organizations.