

House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### VETERANS ISSUES

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about the shocking and shabby treatment that this administration is directing toward our Nation's veterans. I would like to share some of the reasons I would make such a statement.

Approximately a year ago this administration decided they were going to raise the copay on prescription drugs that veterans would have to pay from \$2 to \$7 a prescription. So if a veteran goes to a VA hospital today, they are likely to see this poster up on the bulletin board, "Did you know the medication copayment has changed from \$2 to \$7?"

I thought that was outrageous, and I introduced legislation in the last Congress to reduce that copayment back to \$2, but in the President's most recent budget, he does not just want to charge veterans \$7 a prescription, he wants to increase that to \$15 per prescription. Think about that. In less than 2 years, the copayment will have gone from \$2 to \$7 to \$15 a prescription.

Many of the veterans in Ohio get 10 or more prescriptions a month. If we multiply \$15 times 10, that is \$150 a month, and then veterans frequently get 3 months supply at a time. That is \$150 times 3, for many veterans who are living on fixed income. It is shameful. It is shabby treatment.

Now, what else have they tried to do to veterans? Well, about a year ago they put out a memo from the VA headquarters saying that all of the health care providers were forbidden from marketing services that veterans are entitled to receive. In other words, the health care providers can no longer participate in community health fairs. They can no longer send out newsletters describing their services to veterans. They can no longer go to an American Legion post, for example, and sign up veterans for health care services. It is a gag order.

I call it the "if they do not ask, we will not tell" policy. If the veteran does not ask what they are entitled to receive, the VA will not tell them what they are entitled to receive. Furthermore, they will prohibit their health care providers from simply giving out that information.

Then, a few weeks ago, the VA decided to have a new category of veterans; priority 8, they called them. They said if you are a veteran and you are honorably discharged and you have served this country, but you make \$26,000-\$27,000 a year, you can no longer

enroll in the VA health care system. Sorry, veteran, you paid the price, you have served the country, you have been honorably discharged, but we do not want to have anything to do with you because you make too much money. You make \$26,000-\$27,000 a year.

It gets worse. In the President's most recent budget, they are proposing that veterans who make as little as \$24,000 a year, and they are referring to them as high-income veterans, would be required to pay a \$250 annual enrollment fee just to participate in the VA health care system.

Here is what they are doing. They are saying, we are not going to tell veterans what you are entitled to receive, but if you happen to find out about our services, we are going to increase your copay from \$2 to \$15 a prescription. And then if you make \$24,000 a year, which does not sound like a lot of money to me, not compared to those of us who make about \$150,000 a year, but if you make \$24,000 a year, we want to force you to pay a \$250-per-year enrollment fee. And we want to increase the cost of going to a VA outpatient clinic from \$15 to \$20.

I think Members get the point. It is as if this administration has declared war on our Nation's veterans.

It is a shameful situation, and I urge this Congress to look at this veterans budget and to reevaluate what we are trying to do; and what we are suggesting needs to be done.

#### PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE 108TH CONGRESS

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. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with clause 2(a) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, I am submitting for printing in the RECORD a copy of the Rules of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 108th Congress, adopted on February 12, 2003.

#### Rules of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure United States House of Representatives 108th Congress (Adopted February 12, 2003)

##### RULE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

###### (a) APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the Committee and its subcommittees.

(2) SUBCOMMITTEES.—Each subcommittee is part of the Committee, and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and its rules so far as applicable.

(3) INCORPORATION OF HOUSE RULE ON COMMITTEE PROCEDURE.—Rule XI of the Rules of the House, which pertains entirely to Committee procedure, is incorporated and made

a part of the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable.

(b) PUBLICATION OF RULES.—The Committee's rules shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

(c) VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Chairman shall appoint a vice chairman of the Committee and of each subcommittee. If the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee is not present at any meeting of the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be, the vice chairman shall preside. If the vice chairman is not present, the ranking member of the majority party on the Committee or subcommittee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

##### RULE II. REGULAR, ADDITIONAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS.

###### (a) REGULAR MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held on the first Wednesday of every month to transact its business unless such day is a holiday, or the House is in recess or is adjourned, in which case the Chairman shall determine the regular meeting day of the Committee for that month.

(2) NOTICE.—The Chairman shall give each member of the Committee, as far in advance of the day of the regular meeting as the circumstances make practicable, a written notice of such meeting and the matters to be considered at such meeting.

(3) CANCELLATION OR DEFERRAL.—If the Chairman believes that the Committee will not be considering any bill or resolution before the full Committee and that there is no other business to be transacted at a regular meeting, the meeting may be canceled or it may be deferred until such time as, in the judgment of the Chairman, there may be matters which require the Committee's consideration.

(4) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph shall not apply to meetings of any subcommittee.

(b) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—The Chairman may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to the call of the Chairman.

(c) SPECIAL MEETINGS.—If at least three members of the Committee desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chairman, those members may file in the offices of the Committee their written request to the Chairman for that special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matter to be considered. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chairman of the filing of the request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the Committee may file in the offices of the Committee their written notice that a special meeting of the Committee will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the measure or matter to be considered at that special meeting. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the clerk of the Committee shall notify all members of the Committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered; and only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

(d) PROHIBITION ON SITTING DURING JOINT SESSION.—The Committee may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.