

as now seems to be the case. In the days ahead, I shall consult with my colleagues, with legal scholars, political scientists and historians, in order to weigh the appropriate actions necessary to prevent this or any future Administration from usurping the power of Congress and the power of the people to decide public policy on the basis of accurate knowledge.

An accurately informed public is the essence of our democracy. It is most essential on the ultimate question of peace or war. To deceive the Congress and the public about the facts underlying that momentous decision is to transgress one of the president's supreme constitutional responsibilities. I believe the House Committee on the Judiciary should consider whether this situation has reached that dimension.

That question is especially acute at this time because President Bush's disturbing doctrine of "preventive war" means he plans to persuade the Congress and the electorate that additional "preventive wars" are necessary. Will that advocacy be based on deception and false statements, too? The prospect is frightening.

Finally, I note the provocative analysis on this point recently offered by former Counsel to the President John Dean, who has carefully analyzed the nature and context of the President's many assertions about the threats allegedly posed by Iraq and the constitutional implications should they prove false upon further examination. It deserves wide dissemination.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1738, "THE AMERICAN PARITY ACT"

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, we all know that it will take years, if not decades, for Iraq to be restored and rebuilt in the wake of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our nation's desire to restore and rebuild Iraq—for the Iraqi people—is to be commended. It reflects the most dearly held values in American society.

As Americans, we want to make the world a better place. We want people to live full, healthy lives without fear of violence and hunger. We want children to have full stomachs, clear heads and the educational resources to realize their potential. We believe that healthcare should not be available to only the rich.

Certainly, as a nation, we want to elevate the quality of life for the Iraqi people, who bear the scars of years of hunger, violence and fear. At the same time, we must ask, what is being done to end the hunger, violence and fear that dominates the lives of far too many Americans?

As USAID makes the first down-payment of \$1.7 billion that the United States has dedicated to the housing, education, health care, and the infrastructure of rebuilding Iraq, we must ask—what is the Administration's plan to "Rebuild America"??

Here at home, our schools are closing, summer school activities are being shut down, hospitals are not able to provide the health care, and state and local first responder budgets are being stretched thin.

Over the past two years, 3.1 million Americans have lost their jobs, nearly 5 million Americans have lost their health care coverage, and 2 million families that were living the American Dream have dropped out of the middle class into poverty.

This is not progress. We need a plan to "Rebuild America."

Enacting more tax cuts, as the Administration favors, is illogical. How can a \$550 billion tax cut that primarily changes the tax treatment of corporate dividends stimulate the economy? How will this tax cut help state and local authorities address the shortfalls in our nation's critical infrastructure? Twenty billion dollars, as provided in the tax package, is wholly inadequate. Moreover, it is a drop in the bucket as compared to our \$1.7 trillion commitment to Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, while I believe that rebuilding Iraq will be important to secure lasting peace in the region, it must not come at the expense of rebuilding America.

My colleague, RAHM EMANUEL, has introduced legislation to require that for every dollar spent rebuilding Iraq, at least one dollar is spent addressing the health care crisis in America, urgent school construction, funding for first responders, and other domestic priorities.

In looking over USAID's plans for Iraq, I cannot understand how the Administration can justify building 12,500 new schools in Baghdad, without doing anything for children in America. Today, far too many American children are forced to study in trailers because their school districts simply do not have the funds to build a new school.

How can the Administration justify providing health care services to 13 million Iraqis while 42 million Americans struggle to live without health care? It's indefensible. Why, just today, Paul Bremer, the U.S. civil administrator of Iraq, announced plans to invest \$100 million to create jobs in Iraq.

IN IRAQ?

Mr. Speaker, how can the Administration justify launching this ambitious initiative in Iraq when there are thousands of workers in Western New York that have been unemployed for over two years?

Mr. Speaker, the Administration must not sit idly by and let America fall apart, just as unprecedented resources are being dedicated to reconstructing Iraq. I strongly believe that enactment of H.R. 1738 will help us make significant strides in the effort to restore this nation.

We must rebuild America. We owe it to the men and women who fought in Iraq, risking their lives to protect our homeland. We owe it to our children. We owe it to our seniors. We owe it to all Americans.

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CHIROPRACTIC EMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Department of Veterans Affairs Chiropractic Employment Act. I do so to prompt the Department of Veterans Affairs to make chiropractic care available to America's veterans.

Currently, thousands of veterans enrolled in the VA health care system could benefit from chiropractic care. Millions of Americans use the services of chiropractors. However, veterans who are enrolled in VA's health care system are unable to receive this specialty care. Numerous studies have shown that chiropractic is an effective therapy, and can be an effective approach to low back pain, spasm, and other maladies of the spinal region, including health problems caused by the aging process and physical exertion. This bill would grant specific employment authority in VA for chiropractors as clinicians under Title 38 of the United States Code.

Signed into law in 1999, section 303 of Public Law 106-117, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, required the VA Under Secretary for Health to establish a defined policy regarding the role of chiropractic care for veterans enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration. Issued almost a year later, VHA Directive 2000-014, established what the Department deemed a policy on chiropractic care. However, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs found that declaration to be woefully inadequate and less than a policy. It was a way for VA to further delay the advent of VA chiropractic services for veterans. As a result, Congress enacted section 204 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-135). This statute required the Secretary of VA to create a program to provide chiropractic care and services for veterans who are enrolled in VA's health care system, and specified that each of VA's 21 Veterans Integrated Service Networks put at least one chiropractic care program in place. This law also required the establishment of a Chiropractic Advisory Committee within the Department, and charged the Committee to provide assistance to the Secretary in the development and implementation of the chiropractic health program the law authorized, including recommendations on scope of practice, qualifications, privileging and credentialing matters, among other factors that might influence the employment of chiropractors and the deployment of the new program nationwide.

While some progress has been made by the advisory committee on chiropractic care, the Department is now contending that formal organizational, qualification, and classification studies are needed due to VA's lack of a specified employment authority in Title 38 of the United States Code for chiropractors. Other unnamed technical and professional fields are already specifically authorized. Such an undertaking by VA may require extensive usage of resources and much time investment on the part of the Central Office, advisory committee, Office of Personnel Management staffs, as well as outside consultants. A number of Members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee believe we can remedy this situation with the bill I am introducing today, to speed VA's decision-making on establishing chiropractic clinical care positions within the staff of the Department.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce this legislation that would address the authority for VA to appoint chiropractors in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department so that those veterans who are in need of chiropractic care may indeed and at last receive it in VA facilities. This bill will allow a fair compensation schedule with other comparable