

In the case of one drug for glaucoma, Xalatan, the cost in the U.S. is \$631 a year. If we buy it in Canada, it is \$429 a year. If the government negotiated, as the VA does, we can get it for \$336 a year; but under the brilliant Republican plan here in the House, a drug that costs \$631 a year will cost a senior \$746. They will pay actually more than the drug costs today list price. This is the grand new benefit that they are going to deliver at a cost of \$400 billion.

We could lower the price of drugs more substantially for every American, particularly those on Medicare, by simply voting for and allowing the safe reimportation of U.S.-manufactured, FDA-certified drugs from Canada, plain and simple.

We are going to hear a whole host of reasons why that is a bad idea. It will hurt their profits. Yes, it will hurt their profits. They say, well, if our profits go down, we will not do the research. That is a lie. The pharmaceutical industry makes its money on new drugs. They get an exclusive 17-year patent for those drugs. That is their profit center. The last thing that is going to go is the research because that is where they are going to make their money. Maybe they will cut the obscene salaries of their CEOs. Maybe they can be get by on two, three million a year instead of sixty.

Maybe they will cut the billions they are spending to direct promote their drugs on television, something that was outlawed by the FCC and the FDA until quite recently and something that is very problematic, to get people induced to go out and by a particular drug, to go into their doctor who is pushed for time and say I want that purple pill, I saw it on television. Well, that is not what you need. I want the purple pill. Okay, I have only got 10 minutes, you are out of here, you have got the prescription. Doctors tell me they do that. So if they saved those billions, they cut the salaries and some of their other overhead and administrative costs, they would still have plenty of money to do the research, and they could still earn a good profit; but Americans would pay 40 or 50 percent less for their drugs.

They say this legislation will kill people. They claim somehow the drugs that took a vacation to Canada have become unsafe while they were there. They say this will kill people. I will tell my colleagues what is killing people in the United States of America today: the fact that they cannot afford life-saving drugs. There are seniors in my district who divide their drugs in half. There are seniors in my district, couples, who decide which one is going to get the critical drugs this month because they cannot afford to buy all of them because they do not have a benefit. That is killing people.

Bringing back U.S.-manufactured, FDA-certified drugs from Canada is not going to kill people. It will kill obscene profits on the part of this industry be-

cause they are gouging America's seniors. America's seniors are paying twice as much as people in Canada for many drugs and even more if we go across the border to Mexico.

So this is going to be a simple vote, but it is going to be a vote on which millions of dollars are unleashed to send false messages to try and pressure Members of Congress to vote against the interests of all Americans who would be healthier and benefit from less expensive drugs. We could do this through the miracle of market forces and, yes, even free trade.

I voted against the NAFTA agreement. I think it stinks and it is killing jobs in this country; but guess what, probably prohibiting the reimportation of drugs is NAFTA illegal, but no one ever files a complaint when these NAFTA illegal things benefit the big corporations, only when they benefit people, and this Congress is going to try and stop changes in that situation.

THE CLEAR ACT OF 2003

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share another tragic story with my colleagues of another senseless criminal act that could have and should have never happened but was allowed to take place because of our broken immigration system.

By the accounts of those who knew him best, 27-year-old Tony Zeppetella was a model son, a good brother, a loving husband and father, and a valued law enforcement officer with the Oceanside, California, Police Department. Sadly, the world lost Officer Zeppetella just last month when he was gunned down on a routine traffic stop. According to witnesses, it was a brutal gangland-style murder. Officer Zeppetella was shot once as he was walking away from the suspect's car. The suspect then pistol-whipped Officer Zeppetella, grabbing his firearm in the process and shooting him again at point blank range.

Madam Speaker, the individual accused and arrested for the murder is Adrian Camacho, an illegal and criminal alien who has a rap sheet that includes numerous gang- and drug-related charges and convictions and hard prison time. While it appears Adrian Camacho has been deported a number of times to his home country of Mexico, he was allowed to continue to return to his personal criminal playground, the United States, time after time after time.

America's committed law enforcement officers who protect us every day, officers like Tony Zeppetella, deserve better than an immigration system that creates a revolving door for 80,000 criminal aliens living in the United States, a system that asks them to spend their time arresting, then re-arresting the same individuals. This

makes their job far more difficult and dangerous than it already is.

Earlier this month, along with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD), the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART), and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL), I introduced The CLEAR Act. It is a bill that would address our Nation's criminal alien crisis and make a real difference for our men and women wearing the badge.

More specifically, The CLEAR Act would require the Federal Government to take custody of criminal and illegal aliens apprehended by local and State law enforcement agencies or else pay the locality to detain them. It would also create a new system for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or now known as BICE, to take custody of criminal and illegal aliens from localities and take them to a BICE facility for processing and deportation.

If a Federal agency is truly uncooperative in this process, The CLEAR Act allows the local or State law enforcement department to hold that agency accountable by establishing an unprecedented administrative review process and fine schedule.

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Lastly, the CLEAR Act would create a very real financial disincentive for criminal and illegal aliens, like Adrian Camacho, from illegally returning to the United States over and over again.

It is also a bill that carries the endorsement and support of our Nation's well-respected law enforcement groups, groups such as the National Sheriffs' Association, the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, the Southern States Police Benevolent Association, and the Friends of Immigration Law Enforcement. These are groups that represent America's rank-and-file officers and are groups that understand that an immigration system that allows 400,000 illegal immigrants with deportation orders to walk our streets and a system that allows 80,000 criminal aliens to continually commit violent and horrific crimes within our borders is an immigration system that puts our men and women wearing the badge in additional undue and unnecessary danger.

Madam Speaker, Officer Tony Zeppetella is a hero to the people whose lives he touched, his family, his wife and infant child, and friends and fellow officers that he left behind, but he is also a hero to all of us who are Americans because of his service to make our Nation a safer place.

Madam Speaker, it is time our Federal Government and this Congress got serious about our criminal alien crisis. The dangerously inefficient immigration system we have today has created far too many stories like that of Officer Zeppetella.

I urge my colleagues to do the right thing. Take a thoughtful, long look at our problem. Support our local and State law enforcement officers. Support the CLEAR Act, and let us

straighten up this immigration system in America.

SECRETARY POWELL MEETS WITH TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH GUL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HARRIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, this Thursday Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul is scheduled to visit the United States for meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Powell. On the eve of his visit, I come to the House floor to highlight two serious issues: first, the ongoing blockade against Armenia; and, second, the nearly three-decade-long occupation of the northern third of the sovereign Island of Cyprus.

Madam Speaker, for the last 11 years, Turkey has imposed a crippling blockade against Armenia. The blockade clearly runs afoul of U.S. and international law. In fact, both the U.S. Government and the European Community have repeatedly called on Turkey to lift their campaign of attempting to starve an entire nation. Turkey's denial of U.S. and international assistance to Armenia is in violation of their commitments to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which they have signed.

Madam Speaker, Turkey's blockades not only affect Armenia, they affect the entire South Caucasus region. By choking off a major transportation region across the Caucasus, Turkey is stunting the growth of the economies of Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and even Turkey itself. I urge the administration to take an active role in pressing Foreign Minister Gul to open the border with Armenia.

The administration has consistently supported the development of normal relations between Armenia and Turkey and should continue to do so. A resolution of this dispute will mean stability and further economic development of the South Caucasus, and this should be done immediately and without preconditions.

Madam Speaker, Turkey's continuing occupation of the northern third of the Island of Cyprus is also one of Turkey's most egregious violations of international law. Yesterday marked the 29th anniversary of Turkey's illegal military occupation beginning on June 20, 1974.

This has been a monumental year for the Island of Cyprus. The European Union's decision to invite the divided island into the EU has placed intense international scrutiny on the reunification talks. The EU invitation is for the Republic of Cyprus, which is internationally recognized as the legitimate government of the entire island. But EU membership would be suspended in the occupied area until the end of the Turkish occupation, and the Cypriot parliament has unanimously approved the accession to the European Union.

Recent moves by Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, have failed to lessen international pressure. Denktash's move to partially lift restrictions on movement across the UN's cease-fire line and give the ability of Turkish and Greek Cypriots to briefly visit the other side of the island has brought a glimmer of hope, but also renewed frustration to the Cypriot people.

Tens of thousands of Turkish Cypriots in the north have recently peacefully protested Denktash's decision to reject the U.N. plan to reunify the island, and Turkish Cypriot citizens made this rare public rebuff of Denktash's demanding reunification so that the coming prosperity of the European Union-Cyprus partnership does not pass them by.

Madam Speaker, when Foreign Minister Gul comes to meet with the Bush administration, I would hope these issues would be discussed. Turkey has long stated that it is a Western-leaning European democracy, but in this country it will no longer be judged solely by its words. Now they must fulfill their obligations under international agreements and laws by dropping their illegal blockade against Armenia and finally removing their troops from the Island of Cyprus.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I rise again tonight to talk about an issue that I suspect many of my colleagues are becoming weary of, and frankly, I am as well. It is the issue of the cost of prescription drugs and what we pay in the United States compared to what the rest of the industrialized world pays for those exact same drugs.

What I have tonight is a chart. I apologize, it is a little difficult to read. I am going to hold up the back of today's Congressional Daily. It has a picture of two tablets in a little cardboard container and under it the captions says, "Quick. Pick The Capsule That Hasn't Been Tampered With." And somehow we are supposed to believe that if we allow Americans to have access to FDA-approved drugs from FDA-approved facilities from around the world, that obviously people are going to tamper with them and people will die.

So we have made up our own little chart, a little comparison that says, "Quick. Pick The Bottle That Hasn't Been Tampered With." Can you pick which one?

The fact of the matter is, this year we will import from other countries, and I have the exact number, \$824,888,000 worth of imported wine. Now, it is altogether possible that somebody could tamper with that wine. Yet every day Americans buy bottles of wine from all over the world and they

open that wine, and how do they know that it has not had arsenic put in it? They do not. We take a risk every day.

Every day Americans eat imported plantains, imported cucumbers, imported fruits, imported vegetables, and imported meat. Americans take a risk every day and we do not even inspect them. Well, I take that back, we do inspect them a little bit. About 2 percent of the products coming into the country get inspected. But, nonetheless, if you eat an imported food that has some form of food-borne pathogen and you die, you are still dead.

Now, what do we know. The CDC and the FDA keep very good records, and we have had testimony and we have asked them this question several times, how many Americans have actually become seriously ill or died from taking FDA-approved drugs from other countries? And it is an easy number to remember. It is a nice round number. The number is zero. Yet we continue to hear these scare tactics.

Scare tactics serve only one purpose, and that is to obscure the facts. The facts, I think, speak for themselves, though, and that is that Americans, because we are a captive market, pay the world's highest prices for drugs, which largely are developed here in the United States and many times paid for by the taxpayers' research dollars. Let us take one drug, perhaps the most effective anti-breast-cancer drug ever developed, Tamoxifen, developed essentially here in the United States with taxpayer dollars.

We invested almost half a billion dollars, taxpayer dollars, developing Tamoxifen, but here is what really chaps my hide. Americans are expected to pay \$360 a month for Tamoxifen. That drug can be purchased every day of the week in Germany for \$60, as we did, or it can be bought in Canada for \$50.

Now, scare tactics are really not about helping Americans understand the facts, because the facts speak for themselves. It is about trying to obscure the facts.

We require in our bill that we begin to develop a process of counterfeit-proof, tamper-proof packaging which will benefit whether the drugs are imported, exported, or made and consumed here in the United States.

This is really about profit over people. It is not about safety, it is not about research, it is about money. It is about big money. We estimate that over the next 10 years, seniors alone, if we open up markets and markets level those prices here in the United States, seniors alone could save over \$600 billion. That is with a "B". We are talking real money. As my colleague from Oregon earlier said, that could be worth more than this entire prescription drug benefit plan that we are talking about.

Let me tell my colleagues the story of Dr. Wenner from Vermont. Her clinic began to encourage, or at least assist their patients to buy their drugs from