about a safety net. There is no safety net anymore. It has been eradicated in the last 4 years. Section 8 tenants in the major cities of America are going to really suffer. It is too bad. It is too bad that the poor are getting poorer, the rich are getting richer, the middle class is becoming smaller and smaller. That is what this administration has done to America.

I yield the floor, and any time I have left in morning business, I yield back.

LOBBING ABOUT MEDICARE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I felt compelled to come to the Senate floor today to respond to something I read today that was in the newspaper, the Hill, that relates to another effort to confuse people about what happened with the Medicare prescription drug bill, the Medicare cards that I hate to even call discount cards because they are not discounts. In fact, we are now seeing an effort to pay people to reach out and say something nice about the Medicare prescription drug bill and to get seniors to do it. Let me read to you some of this article.

A Republican lobbying firm is offering healthcare consultants almost $4,000 each to find senior citizens willing to speak out in favor of the Medicare drug discount bill and write letters to Congress thanking members for supporting money on pharmaceuticals.

Obviously, it is difficult to find people to do that, so now they are paying people to go out in the form of headhunters, if you will, to find people who are willing to say something nice about the new Medicare prescription drug bill.

The DCI Group, a Washington, DC-based lobbying shop that advertises to potential clients that it can treat “corporate issues like campaigns,” is offering healthcare consultants $3,750 plus expenses over six weeks [between now and the election] to generate positive news stories about the drug card and offer support to Congress for voting for the Medicare drug law. A recent e-mail sent from the DCI Group’s Starlee Rhoades to healthcare consultants says that the campaign will run from September 15 to October 31 and that the client is providing between the chairman and vice president equally of the Congressional Record for his or her continuing consideration of P ORTER J. G OSS, of Florida, for a seat on the Committee on Intelligence.

The DCI Group also asked the health care consultant to speak out on their own in support of the drug card. Finally, every Wednesday from now until the 31st they are expected to send a report to the DCI that answers many questions, including how many events they attended. Did you speak in favor of the card and benefit? How many health care leaders did you ask to stop by the office of their Congressman or Senators? And how many actually did.

Then it says you will be responsible for acting as a local spokesperson at community events and media to get health care professionals’ opinions, which goes a long way in making the story seem credible to the general public.

Reached yesterday, the lady involved initially declined, was involved in this campaign. But when told that her e-mail had been distributed widely, she said, “I can’t talk about it.”

I feel compelled to talk about this and to take a moment and say that $3,750 will buy a lot of Medicare for seniors. In fact, I am tempted to actually encourage seniors in my State and around the country to offer to say something nice now and the election because they can buy a lot of medicine with this. That would be a better way to spend it than have more lobbyists trying to tell folks something that is not true.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the morning business time be reserved.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PORTER J. GOSS TO BE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to executive session to begin consideration of Calendar No. 815, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Porter J. Goss, of Florida, to be Director of Central Intelligence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there are 6 hours of debate on the nomination equally divided between the chairman and vice