

us, it is equally important that we heed the suffering being caused by the current high prices. Let us help ease the increasing burden of fuel costs and help ensure that these farmers remain one of the backbones of our country and our country's economy.

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION
HeLP AMERICA ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, health care promotion programs have the potential to improve health, improve quality of life, reduce health care costs, and boost productivity. Unfortunately, a very small percentage of health care spending is devoted to health promotion. The national investment in prevention is currently estimated to be less than 5 percent of annual health care costs. Our Nation needs a new approach to healthcare—one that puts prevention front and center.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Healthier Lifestyles and Prevention America Act, also known as the HeLP America Act. My legislation is very similar to S. 1074, a bill of the same name, which was introduced by Senator HARKIN. Both Senator HARKIN's bill and my bill are designed to reduce health care costs and improve health outcomes by reorienting our nation's health care system towards prevention, wellness, and self care.

The HeLP America Act is a comprehensive approach to prevention and health promotion. It provides tools and incentives for schools to improve their nutrition programs. It provides tax incentives for employers to implement wellness programs. It provides grants for communities to implement activities to prevent and reduce the incidence of obesity, and chronic diseases associated with this condition. My bill also gives the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products, and requires nutrition labeling on menus in chain restaurants. These are just a few of the provisions included in the legislation designed to attack the problem of skyrocketing health care costs associated with the increasing rates of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses.

Adaptable lifestyle factors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition, unmanaged stress, and obesity account for approximately half of premature deaths in the United States. Spending on chronic diseases related to lifestyle and other preventable diseases account for an estimated 75 percent of total health care spending. And Mr. Speaker, as you and all of our colleagues know, our nation's total amount of health care spending is no small sum. In fact, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, total health care spending in 2004 was \$1.8 trillion. Furthermore Mr. Speaker, CMS estimates that this number will double by 2014. For those keeping score at home, that means in 2014 total health care expenditures will be \$3.6 trillion.

With a greater focus on prevention, we will be able to greatly reduce the number of individuals who suffer from all types of ailments, including diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and strokes just to name a few areas where pre-

ventive health care can make the difference. It will improve health outcomes, improve people's lives, and help cut down on our exploding healthcare expenditures. As is noted in the findings of this legislation, per capita health spending in the United States is 56 percent greater than the median for countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. We need to get more bang for our healthcare buck and we need to look no further than focusing on prevention. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking a new and more effective approach to the health of our nation by cosponsoring the HeLP Act.

RECOGNIZING THE STENNIS CON-
GRESSIONAL INTERN PROGRAM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participants in the Stennis Congressional Intern Program. For many years, the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service has enhanced the experience of a select group of summer interns working in congressional offices. The interns are provided with an insiders view of Congress through meetings with senior staff members and other experts to discuss the relationships Congress has with the legislative and executive branches, the media, the public and the private sector.

The program is a joint effort of the Stennis Center and a group of current and former senior staff members who serve as Senior Stennis Fellows. These insiders draw on their experience and expertise in creating the program and participating in sessions with the interns.

The outstanding interns selected to participate are chosen based on their college record, community service background and interest in a career in public service. This year, 30 interns, most of them juniors and seniors in college, have been working in personal and committee offices in the House and Senate.

I congratulate these students for being chosen to participate in this exceptional program, and I thank the Stennis Center and the senior fellows for providing such a unique experience for these interns and for encouraging them to consider a future career in public service.

This year's participants are David Benson-Staebler of St. Olaf College, interning in the office of Representative JIM OBERSTAR; Zeke Berzoff-Cohen of Goucher College, interning in the office of Representative JOHN OLIVER; Elizabeth Brady of the University of North Colorado, interning in the office of Senator MIKE ENZI; Tenisha Callender of Loyola University, interning in the office of Representative JAMES MCGOVERN; Paul Cenoz of the University of Southern California, interning in the office of Representative JOHN CAMPBELL; Jessica Cohen of Syracuse University, interning in the office of Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON; Rachel Dillard of Clemson University, interning in the office of Senator JIM DEMINT; Stephanie Dreyer of Boston University, interning in the office of Senator CHARLES SCHUMER; Brittany Erickson of the University of Pennsylvania, in-

terning in the office of Senator KENT CONRAD; David Evans of Wake Forest University, interning in the office of Senator MEL MARTINEZ; Jason Feld of the University of Pennsylvania, interning in the office of Representative LYNN WOOLSEY; Whitney Fogg of Yale University, interning in the office of Representative CONNIE MACK; Clark Fonda of the University of Southern California, interning in the office of Representative JOHN CAMPBELL; Sarah Hackett of Dickinson College, interning in the office of Senator PATRICK LEAHY; JC Hendrickson of American University, interning in the office of Representative MAURICE HINCHEY; Andrew Hill of Vanderbilt University, interning in the office of Representative CHARLIE NORWOOD; Abby Kirkbride of John Brown University, interning in the office of Senator MIKE ENZI; Anne Kouri of Creighton University, interning in the office of Representative RAY LAHOOD; Mark Ladley of The Citadel, interning in the office of Representative ALLYSON SCHWARTZ; Cassandra Long of the University of Central Florida, interning in the office of Senator BILL NELSON; Jonathan Lowrey of Northwest Missouri State, interning in the office of Representative SAM GRAVES; Meghan McCarthy of the College of William and Mary, interning in the office of Representative RUSH HOLT; Chris Nielsen of the University of South Dakota, interning in the office of Senator TIM JOHNSON; Edward Parkinson of the University of Witwatersrand, interning in the House Committee on Homeland Security; Sara Rafferty of the University of Oklahoma, interning in the office of Representative PHIL ENGLISH; Joshua Root of Cornell University, interning in the office of Representative JOHN OLIVER; Eric Sandberg-Zakian of Yale University, interning in the office of Representative RUSH HOLT; Matt Seager of the College of Charleston, interning in the office of Senator PATRICK LEAHY; Eli Sevcik-Timberg of Wesleyan University, interning in the office of Representative MEL WATT; and Elizabeth Tran of Boston University, interning in the office of Representative NEIL ABERCROMBIE.

IN HONOR OF ROY D. HOKE—32
YEARS OF SERVICE AND COM-
MITMENT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has spent the last 32 years of his life serving this body in the Paint Shop. Roy D. Hoke has become a friend of mine and a friend of my office staff. Through his years he has worked to make each and every one of our offices more beautiful—not for us, but for our constituents and honored guests. Rarely have I seen a man more dedicated to his work, and more filled with pride at a job well-done.

He has served in the House under six U.S. Presidents, and 16 sessions of Congress. Prior to his service in the House, Mr. Hoke served America in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

This year, Roy Hoke has become very close to my staff. My office took part in the Housewide program to refurbish our offices, and Roy played a major role in painting my office. He was always there to make it look perfect. Roy was never satisfied with his job—he