

New Jersey's Seventh, Mr. LEONARD LANCE.

Mr. LANCE. Thank you very much, and thank you for taking the lead on this extremely important issue.

Overspending and over-taxation are terrible factors in the American economy today, but from my perspective the worst factor is levels of debt, and I think that this is, in effect, generational theft.

The Congressional Budget Office, in calculating the proposals of the Obama administration, indicate that spending will hit about 28.5 percent of GDP during fiscal year 2009, and this is a record amount. CBO also estimates that next year spending will be 25.5 percent and at 23 and 24 percent over the course of the next decade.

As someone who tries to be a student of American history, over the last 40 years, the level of debt has been roughly 20 percent, and this is an historic average. And yet over the course of next several years we increase this dramatically. Let me repeat the figures: 28.5 percent in this fiscal year, and similar amounts in the next 2 fiscal years.

I believe that this spending is too great, and I hope that the administration will review its budget and working in a bipartisan capacity to bring this amount down.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 146, OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. POLIS (during the special order of Mrs. BACHMANN), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-51) on the resolution (H. Res. 280) providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 146) to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1404, FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. POLIS (during the special order of Mrs. BACHMANN), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-52) on the resolution (H. Res. 281) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1404) to authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes, which

was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I don't come to the House floor very often to speak. In fact, last year I addressed this body only a handful of times. I think that I am much more effective in representing my constituents by developing relationships in a personal setting rather than arguing my viewpoint on the House floor. But today marks a special time of year.

Mr. Speaker, the month of March is colon cancer awareness month. I think that it's only fitting that the month of March, a month where Congress has the most legislative work days, is devoted to an illness that is often relegated to the back burner of cancer awareness. Obviously, colon cancer is not an issue that garners a lot of headlines, but colon cancer has had a dramatic effect on my life, as it has millions of Americans.

I bring a picture of my mom up. Eleven years ago, my mom died of colon cancer. She was a vibrant woman. She was filled with joy. She was filled with optimism. This horrendous disease took her from Earth far too early. Because of colon cancer, she never had the opportunity to hold her granddaughter. She never had the opportunity to attend my wedding and see me marry my beautiful wife, Andrea. It's a tragedy that has forever left a void in my life.

You know, she was like so many mothers. She was always so proud of her son. She was always pushing me. She always cared about my grades. She always cared about how I did in school. And I was probably not the best student but she kept after me. She kept telling me how smart I was, and she kept pushing me.

The last memory I have of my mother is in a hospital room dying from this disease. She didn't get to see me become a Congressman. And like all Americans who have felt the pain and fear that comes with losing a loved one to cancer, I wouldn't wish that grief on anyone.

The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that I am not alone. This disease kills tens of thousands of Americans every year. It is the third most diagnosed cancer and one of the leading causes of cancer death in the United States. The American Cancer Society estimates that 150,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colon cancer in 2009, and out of that 150,000 citizens, over 50,000 of them will die from it.

What is so shocking about these deaths is the vast majority of them could have easily been prevented with

a simple routine screening called a colonoscopy. That is 50,000 moms and dads and sons and daughters that could still be enjoying the great gift of life if they would have just taken the time to get a routine colonoscopy by their 50th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, a colonoscopy takes under 1 hour to complete, and the results you receive will literally save your life. The American Cancer Society estimates that if detected early, 90 percent of all colon cancer deaths could be prevented.

Now, just, if you will, take a look at this board here. Look at the stages. Now, the stage where my mom was diagnosed is stage IV. There's about an 11 percent survivability rate and at stage I, 90 percent, and despite the effectiveness of this colonoscopy that can figure this out, only 50 percent of Americans use this procedure.

I think that's a very shocking statistic. Compare that prevention rate with breast cancer, where over 80 percent of women get a routine mammogram, and you can see why I work so hard to spread the word on preventing this disease.

But there is some outstanding news. The outstanding news is that there is hope ahead in fighting this killer. The Centers for Disease Control, along with groups like the American Cancer Society and the Colorectal Cancer Coalition, have taken it upon themselves to raise awareness about this disease.

Specifically, the American Cancer Society has launched a campaign to push the number of Americans who get screened for colon cancer from 50 percent to 75 percent by the year 2015. It's a lofty goal, but it's a goal that's worthwhile. In fact, a few of my colleagues have introduced important legislation aimed at reaching this mile marker.

One particular piece of legislation that I hope will receive strong consideration in the House Energy and Commerce Committee is my legislation, H.R. 1330, the Colon Cancer Screening and Detection Act of 2009. My legislation is pretty simple. Just like a mammogram, my bill would require every health insurance plan in America, both group and individual, to cover a preventive colonoscopy before the deductible. This legislation is very badly needed.

One of the top reasons many Americans do not get screened is the cost. The average cost of a typical colonoscopy is over \$1,000. That wouldn't be a concern to many citizens who are currently covered under a private health insurance plan, but most health insurance plans have deductibles exceeding \$1,000, or worse, they have a restrictive cap on preventive care, sometimes as low as \$250, and that's the issue.

We have thousands of Americans who are covered by insurance plans that pay little to none of the costs associated with a colonoscopy, so they never get one. It's a shame. We live in the