

mean, that is essentially what would happen if this amendment is adopted with respect to our obligation to help finance the mandate that the Federal Government created with respect to digitalization.

If the Members want to support a real effort to help CDC prepare this country, they will support that \$2 billion request. They will not cut in half what we are trying to do here for digitalization for public television in order to create the appearance that we have done something significant which, in fact, would be a thimbleful in an ocean in terms of its impact.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, that is correct. I am advised by our leadership, also, that there will be a \$2 billion request by the Administration in additional emergency funding for the Centers for Disease Control to deal with bioterrorism, and that is a lot of money. I do not believe we should cripple the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to move into the 21st century in their ability to transmit to the public effectively. Obviously the FCC would not have made this requirement if it were not an important element of their ability to serve the public.

I, therefore, oppose the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SANDERS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. SANDERS:

At the end of title V, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following section:

SEC. 5. None of the funds made available in this Act for the Department of Health and Human Services may be used to grant an exclusive or partially exclusive license pursuant to chapter 18 of title 35, United States Code, except in accordance with section 209 of such title (relating to the availability to the public of an invention and its benefits on reasonable terms).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Ohio reserves a point of order.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, this is a very simple amendment to lower the cost of prescription drugs in this country. It is tripartisan and is cosponsored by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

When I first introduced a version of this amendment in 1996, it received 180

votes. Last year, however, it passed 313-109. There is a lot of support for this amendment in this body. I offer it tonight again in the hope that the Senate will agree favorably to it and begin to lower the price of prescription drugs developed with the taxpayers' money through the National Institutes of Health. This amendment is supported by organizations representing millions of American citizens, including Families USA, the Alliance for Retired Americans, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, and Public Citizen.

Mr. Chairman, over the years, the taxpayers of this country have contributed billions of dollars to the National Institutes of Health for research into new and important drugs, and that research money has paid off. It has worked. Between 1955 and 1992, 92 percent of drugs approved by the FDA to treat cancer were researched and developed by the NIH. Today, many of the most widely used drugs in this country dealing with a variety of illnesses were developed through NIH research, and that is very good news for all of us.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SANDERS. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, would the gentleman yield back the balance of his time if we said that we would accept the amendment?

Mr. SANDERS. If the gentleman would let me finish my statement, I have 2 more minutes. And he is going to accept it. I am happy to hear that.

□ 1730

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, what if we will not accept it if the gentleman finishes his speech?

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I will read fast. It will be done in a minute-and-a-half.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chairman and ranking member agreeing to accept the amendment. But the point here is that the bad news, by and large, is that those drugs that were developed at taxpayer expense were given over to the pharmaceutical industry with no assurance that American consumers would not be charged outrageously high prices. The pharmaceutical companies constitute the most profitable industry in America, yet while their profits soar, millions of Americans cannot afford the prescription drugs they desperately need because of the high prices they are forced to pay. That is bad. But what is even worse is that many of these same drugs were developed with taxpayer dollars.

Imagine a situation where taxpayers contribute to develop a drug, and then the person who paid taxes to develop that drug cannot afford to buy it. That is an outrage.

There are many crises in terms of the high cost of prescription drugs in this country. This amendment deals with one narrow aspect of that problem. If taxpayers in America are going to con-

tribute billions to develop drugs, then when those drugs are marketed by the pharmaceutical industry they must be sold at a reasonable price; and that is what this amendment does.

I could list, but I will not, the many, many drugs that receive Federal assistance that are now sold for outrageously high prices. It is time for the United States Congress to stand up to represent the taxpayers and consumers of this country and support this amendment.

Let me simply conclude by mentioning with gratitude that last year over 300 Members of this House overwhelmingly supported this amendment. I am very delighted and proud that the chairman and the ranking member are prepared to accept it and that I hope that we can go on tonight.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SANDERS. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am pleased that the amendment will be approved because I am a cosponsor of this amendment. I compliment the gentleman for bringing this to the floor.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) for his strong support.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there further discussion on the amendment?

Does the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) insist on his point of order?

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, we withdraw our reservation and are prepared to accept the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there further amendments to the bill?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ISTOOK

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. ISTOOK:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by increasing the amount made available in the second sentence under the heading "Health Resources and Services" for special projects of regional and national significance under section 501(a)(2) of the Social Security Act, reducing the aggregate amount made available under the heading "Disease Control, Research, and Training", and reducing the aggregate amount made available under the heading "Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant", by \$33,000,000, \$16,000,000, and \$17,000,000, respectively.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, this deals with the matter that was offered