

Generic Prescription Bill Signed Into Law

Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle can work together on meaningful healthcare reforms that bring down costs and improve the quality of care.

Take for instance Rep. Tim Murphy's Generic Drug and Biosimilar User Fee Act (H.R. 3988), which was signed into law by President Obama on July 9 as part of a larger Food and Drug Administration reform bill. The bill dramatically expands affordable generic medications by clearing a backlog of pending applications at the FDA.

In addition to putting foreign factories under the same rigorous inspection regime as domestic plants, Murphy's bill establishes the first-ever generic drug user fee program so that generic drug companies — not taxpayers — bear the \$300 million annual cost of application review and foreign factory inspections.

The Murphy bill is expected to re-

duce healthcare costs by hundreds of millions of dollars for senior citizens, who save \$1,000 annually through access to life-saving generics.

Murphy held up the generic drug bill as an example of the kind of quality reform that will lower costs for consumers during debate on a measure repealing the 2010 healthcare law (Rep. Murphy supported repeal).

"We need to focus on delivering real reform so that every American has access to the care they need, from a doctor they choose, at a price they can afford," said Murphy.

He laid out other initiatives to improve healthcare, urging adoption of legislation to "allow individuals to take the plan you need across jobs, ensure you can't be cut for being sick, promote chronic disease management to keep seniors healthy and out of hospitals, and allow families to join

groups and purchase insurance across state lines."

In advance of the legislation to repeal the President's 2010 healthcare law following the Supreme Court ruling, Rep. Murphy solicited opinions from his constituents in an email survey of the law.

Thousands of Southwestern Pennsylvanians responded with a majority — more than 55% — advocating for full repeal of the bill. Almost twenty percent supported a partial repeal, 23% opposed to any changes in the law, and 3% were "unsure." More than 70% of Murphy's constituents want Congress to specifically undo the bill's \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare, as well as stop the expansion of Medicaid to cover childless, able-bodied adults who live far above the poverty line. For more info on Rep. Murphy's healthcare initiatives, visit Murphy.House.Gov.

Coal and Nat Gas Face Slew of New Regulations

cont. from page 3

chairman of the Congressional Natural Gas Caucus and serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

"Local workers who live in the region send their children to school here, and are part of the community have a vested interest in seeing things done right. In our area we have training programs that produce skilled workers who are second to none at no cost to the taxpayer to keep these jobs local."

To fully take advantage of Pennsylvania's coal, natural gas, and nuclear know-how, Murphy has introduced an

energy/infrastructure plan.

The Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act (H.R. 1861) expands safe offshore oil and gas exploration and reinvest those proceeds into public works projects. The American Energy Alliance estimates it could create 1.2 million new jobs annually and launch \$8 trillion in economic output. Rep. Murphy's plan moves the nation towards energy independence while also rebuilding roads, bridges, and sewer systems without spending your tax dollars, borrowing from foreign nations, or taxing other industries.



Capitol Update

Official Report for Southwestern Pennsylvanians from Congressman Tim Murphy

911th Closure Blocked by Congress

House Approves Murphy Bill To Keep Local Base Open

The 911th Airlift Wing in Moon Township will remain open and operational under a directive from Defense Secretary Leon Panetta until Congress enacts budget bills for the Department of Defense. The reprieve is an acknowledgement that decisions of this magnitude must be reviewed by lawmakers, said Representative Tim Murphy.

"This is welcome news for our region's military families and an important recognition of the role Congress must play in overseeing and approving major changes to our military's structure," said Rep. Murphy who has championed House efforts to save the base, which employs 300 civilians and houses seven C-130 transport planes.

The 911th is one of the most cost-effective bases and regularly exceeds recruiting targets. In recognition of the 911th's value, the Pentagon has invested \$58 million in the base over the last eight years. The Navy Reserve intends to build a new \$13 million operations and support center on the grounds of the 911th. The Pentagon is also building a new commissary, which Congressman Murphy fought to secure, so local military families have access to affordable groceries.

After discovering the Air Force had failed to undertake a



Rep. Murphy, Col. Craig C. Peters, William Smith, and Maj. Gen. Wallace Farris, at the May 2012 ribbon cutting for the 911th's new lodging facility.

cost-benefit analysis to justify the closure of the 911th, Rep. Murphy introduced legislation (H.R. 3911) to stop any transfer of planes from the base. His language was later incorporated into House-passed defense budget bills, which now await action in the Senate.

"The Secretary's decision to delay any aircraft transfers or retirements until Congress acts is also an acknowledgement of our efforts to expose the flaws in the initial Air Force structure recommendations. I urge the Pentagon to use this

cont. on page 2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Steel Caucus fights illegal trade by China, pg. 2

Murphy's energy agenda means jobs for the region, pg. 3

Generic drug bill signed into law, pg. 4

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Steel Caucus Fighting for 'Made in the USA'

The United States has the most productive, advanced, and innovative workforce in the world. But our economy faces fierce competition from international trading partners that do not follow the rules in global trade. The consequences are real, and the stark reality is that as a result of this cheating, America has lost its position as the global leader in manufacturing for the first time in a century to another country, namely China. E Since January 2009, the economy has shed nearly 600,000 jobs in manufacturing, which pay higher than average wages and benefits.

Congressman Murphy has been working to advance policies that support manufacturing. As chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus, Rep. Murphy worked to ensure federal projects use steel made in America, and has led efforts to stop illegal dumping



At a Caucus meeting, Murphy and lawmakers listen to US steelmakers about China's illegal trade practices.

by foreign steelmakers, fought the Pentagon's attempt to buy foreign-made steel plate, and is the lead Republican author of the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act (H.R. 639), which will stop China from illegally undervaluing its currency for a trade advantage in the global marketplace.

Create Jobs Here — Not Overseas
Last year, ABC News profiled work to keep it 'Made in America' after Fisker Auto, a recipient of a \$529 million stimulus loan, began making electric vehicles in Finland instead of a shuttered USA plant as promised. This could've been prevented had Rep. Murphy's 'Buy American' language not been stripped from the President's Stimulus bill. In July, Murphy organ-

ized a group of lawmakers in calling on the US Olympic Committee to adopt a 'Buy American' policy after it was revealed the organization bought clothes for athletes made in China. "The decision to outsource the making of uniforms to China is an affront to those hard-working Americans who would otherwise be gainfully employed," Murphy stated in the letter.

House Approves Murphy Measure Keeping 911th Open

cont. from page 1

future base closures impacting more than 1,000 military personnel would have to be included in the President's budget request and include a thorough cost and strategic impact analysis (the 911th has 1,126 reservists). Thus, Congress would have the final say in future years on whether to provide funds for a base closure.

Murphy also successfully attached an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that stops the Pentagon from using a loophole to close military bases like the 911th. Under current law, the Pentagon does not have to get congressional consent to close bases unless there are more than 300 civilian workers (The 911th contends they have over 300 civilian employees but the Pentagon disagrees).

Under the Murphy amendment, any

In many ways, the 911th is a victim of its own success by keeping costs low. For a nominal charge, the 911th relies on Pittsburgh International Airport for snow removal, fire and safety security, and a control tower. That saves millions for the military as Rep. Murphy testified recently as a witness before the House Armed Services Committee.

By deliberately undervaluing its currency, Beijing gives Chinese exporters a government subsidy upwards of 40%. An undervalued currency makes Chinese exports cheaper, and U.S. exports more expensive globally, costing American manufacturing more than one million jobs.

"By sharing all of these expenses and by having fewer personnel the irony is if the 911th was less efficient and costlier to operate, the Pentagon wouldn't have the power to close it. Ironically as I say if the Airport Authority did not offer those personnel it would cost the US Air Force about \$40 million over ten years instead of \$200,000 over ten years."

Located adjacent to the Pittsburgh International Airport, the 911th is also one of only a few Air Force bases with 24-7 access to four 10,000 foot runways.

Additional information about the 911th's strategic importance have been posted at Murphy.House.Gov/911th.

Government Transparency Will Help Effort on Spending Cuts

With the national debt nearing \$16 trillion, the House of Representatives has acted on numerous bills tackling the deficit, cutting spending, and bringing our budget into balance. To continue that work, Rep. Tim Murphy, who has voted for spending cuts and a Balanced Budget Amendment, has introduced legislation to increase transparency and accountability in the budgeting process with the Congressional Budget Office Transparency Act (H.R. 6136).

The CBO was created in 1974 to provide objective analyses of budgetary and economic issues for Congress. By law, CBO estimates or "scores" every bill up for a vote. A favorable or budget-neutral score makes the difference for a bill's success or failure as

Members of Congress and the public place great weight on the CBO score.

But little is known how CBO arrived at their number. Murphy said the bill relies on the same premise teachers use in math class: "show your work."

"You have the right to a government that spends your money as carefully as you spend your own. To keep lawmakers accountable to that standard, we need to open up the CBO so the public is better informed about the budgetary impact of legislation," said Murphy.

Murphy's bill is similar to Rep. Ron Paul's "Audit the Federal Reserve" effort (Murphy cosponsored Paul's bill). Like the Fed, the CBO is a "black box" wielding great influence over federal budgets.

CBO's Foggy Crystal Ball

- In 2009, CBO forecasted the stimulus would help to grow the economy by 4.1 percent. GDP growth has been roughly half that figure.
- The widely popular Medicare Part D prescription drug program has cost 40% less than CBO predicted.
- CBO says the President's health-care law will reduce deficits by \$84 billion, and between three and nine million individuals will lose their employer-sponsored coverage. Business consulting groups like McKinsey say the number of workers losing their employer coverage could be as high as 80 to 100 million.

Energy Overregulation Weakening Job Growth

The federal government doesn't create jobs. But the federal government all too often stands in the way of private sector job creation. For instance, new regulations on the coal industry, which employs 49,500 Pennsylvanians, could cost the economy \$184 billion and 1.44 million jobs in mining, transportation, manufacturing, and power generation according to NERA Economic Consulting.

Only five years ago, coal supplied nearly half of the nation's electricity. Today, coal is responsible for just more than a third of the nation's power as 57 coal plants are shutting down because of these new regulations like the "greenhouse gas" rule, which is meant to stop global warming.

Rep. Tim Murphy, who serves on the Congressional Coal Caucus, said shutting down coal would crush steel and heavy manufacturing, which need affordable electricity. Coal can be cleaned up through adoption of new ideas coming from the region's own scientists at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in South Park.

The NERA report says regulations could increase utility bills by \$300 to \$400 a year at a time when families are already paying \$2,400 more per year for gasoline than they were just three years ago. Meanwhile, instead of increasing oil supplies to bring down prices, domestic oil production on federal lands has shrunk 13 percent in the last year even



Murphy discusses new business opportunities with S&K Drill Bit Manufacturing owner Jim Shoup related to Marcellus Shale development.

though our country has more potential oil reserves than Saudi Arabia.

Even if Marcellus shale gas were able to meet higher demand in the utility and transportation sectors, its long-term viability is also threatened with costly overregulation. Ten different federal agencies — from the EPA to the Securities and Exchange Commission — are working to impose new regulatory burdens on natural gas development despite Pennsylvania strengthening its own strict enforcement of clean air, land, and water standards.

"Protecting homeowners, community space, local workers, as well as our air, land, and water begins with a highly qualified and trained workforce," said Rep. Murphy, who is

cont. on page 4