

I cite the cost savings aspects of AHCPR research because of a recommendation by the Budget Committee to cut AHCPR research by 75%. The committee report also indicates that AHCPR was established to manage health care reform. That assertion is just plain wrong. AHCPR is an important agency for its research, but it was not envisioned to be a health care implementation agency. We may save a few Federal dollars by cutting AHCPR's funding, but we will lose far more in potential savings in our health care system.

The budget resolution also proposes deep reduction cuts in Medicaid and Medicare spending. I oppose those harsh cuts because the people of West Virginia will have health care benefits taken away from them as a result. It seems to me that the only way to rationally reduce costs and not hurt people by reducing their access to care or their quality of care, is to know what works and what does not work. That is precisely the point of the research of AHCPR.

The current budget of AHCPR is about \$160 million. This modest investment is just now paying off in research and guidelines which have the potential to reduce cost and without a reduction in quality of care. It is my hope that the Appropriations Committee will continue to provide adequate appropriations for AHCPR and I will do my best to support the agency as the Congress makes its decisions on authorizations and funding for the coming fiscal year.

I ask that the article from the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 15, 1995]

HOUSE PANEL WOULD KILL AGENCY THAT
COMPARES MEDICAL TREATMENTS
(By David Brown)

It doesn't take long to go from being a solution to waste to simply waste.

That, at least, is the congressional budget committees' view of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. The \$162 million agency is the government home for "medical effectiveness research."

When it was created by Congress in 1989, the AHCPR was viewed as an essential tool in the effort to control medical costs without damaging medical care. Last week, the Senate Budget Committee proposed cutting its budget by 75 percent, and the House Budget Committee said it should be eliminated altogether.

AHCPR was launched with the great hope—much of it enunciated by politicians—that it would help the country cut health care costs painlessly by comparing competing treatment strategies to see which works, best, and at the least cost.

Over the last five years, the agency has sponsored 20 Patient Outcomes Research Team (PORTs), each headquartered at a different hospital or university, which studied such topics as back pain, schizophrenia, prostate enlargement, knee joint replacement, cataracts, breast cancer and heart attack.

The teams reviewed the published medical literature on the topic, delineated the vari-

ations in treatment, attempted to uncover links between specific treatments and patient outcome (often using large data banks kept by Medicare or private insurance companies), and occasionally devised new tools. For example, the prostate PORT created a video to educate patients about what to expect with certain treatments—including no treatment—and formally incorporated the tool into medical decision-making.

Recently, AHCPR has begun funding randomized controlled trials, which are generally the best way to compare one treatment with another. The topics are ones unlikely to appeal to the National Institutes of Health, where new therapies, not old ones (or low-tech ones), are the preferred subjects of clinical research.

AHCPR trials, for instance, are comparing chiropractic treatment to physical therapy in low back pain; testing a mathematical equation that identifies which patients are most likely to benefit from "clot-busting" drugs for heart attacks; and comparing homemade vs. commercial rehydration fluids for children with diarrhea.

The agency also has sponsored 15 "clinical practice guidelines," which, based on the best medical evidence, suggest how to treat such common (and unexciting) problems as cancer pain, urinary incontinence and chronic ear infections.

In a recent example of that program's effects, researchers at Intermountain Health Care System in Utah reported they had cut the incidence of bedsores in high-risk (generally paralyzed) patients from 33 percent to 9 percent at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City after implementing a modified version of AHCPR's guideline on pressure ulcers. Incidence of ulcers—which cost an average of \$4,200 to treat—also fell among lower-risk patients, and the hospital estimated the annual savings will be at least \$750,000.

To defund a relatively modest effort like that at a time when the questions they need to answer are becoming even more critical doesn't make a lot of sense to me," said Jay Crosson, an executive in charge of quality assurance at Permanente Medical Group, the physician organization of the Kaiser Permanente health maintenance organization (HMO). There's a lot more work that needs to be done than even AHCPR can fund."

In explaining its recommendation of a 75 percent budget cut, the Senate Budget Committee said AHCPR "was to be the primary administrator of comprehensive health reform."

This, however, is not true. Although data-gathering by AHCPR-funded researchers presumably would have helped assess the equity of a national health care program, the agency had not official role in the defunct Clinton administration plan.●

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF LAUREL

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, celebrations to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the city of Laurel, MD, are being held throughout this year. The mayor of Laurel, Frank Casula, along with the entire community, have planned several significant events to commemorate this milestone.

First known as the "Commissioners of Laurel," the citizens of Laurel established their home as recognized by the laws of Maryland in 1870. Yet, even before then, the people of Prince Georges County were living off the land now known as Laurel. The first grist

mill that was erected in Laurel would be the outset of community development; many industries, storefronts, offices and homes would eventually appear along that particular stretch along the Patuxent River. Creating what is now known as Laurel's Main Street, the mill built by Nicolas Snowden in 1811, had laid the foundation for a thriving community.

By 1888, Laurel was the largest town in Prince Georges County and had become the focal point along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between Baltimore and Washington, DC. In 1879, the Laurel Leader, one of the oldest newspapers in the State of Maryland, was founded. The Leader continues to serve not only Laurel and Prince Georges County, but also the bordering counties of Howard, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel.

Laurel was also a pioneering community in education. The first public high school in Prince Georges County is located in Laurel. Laurel Elementary School was also the first public school in the county to have a cafeteria to serve its students.

Laurel is a model of community spirit and cooperation. The activities being sponsored to commemorate this auspicious occasion exemplify the deep devotion of Laurel's residents to their community. The spirit and enthusiasm of Laurel's citizens have been the foundation of its success. These celebrations provide the opportunity to renew the dedication that has supported Laurel throughout its history and helped it to develop from a railroad stop to one of Prince Georges County's most attractive communities.

We in Maryland are fortunate to have an area as community-oriented as Laurel. I join the citizens of Prince Georges County in sharing their pride in Laurel's past and optimism for continued success in the years to come.●

PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN BOSNIA AND CROATIA

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I commend the United Nations for its May 25 air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs. It is about time the United Nations took an assertive, instead of a passive, approach to carrying out its mandated responsibilities to defend Bosnian safe areas and the Sarajevo weapons exclusion zone. Even before the formal expiration of the January-April cessation of hostilities in Bosnia, Bosnian Serbs were violating their commitment to refrain from violence. The Bosnian Government has defended itself, and apologists within the U.N. have mistakenly treated as equal the cease-fire transgressions of the Serb aggressors and the Bosnian victims. This has been wrong. Today's decision, finally, to use force, which has long been authorized, against those violating the weapons exclusion zone is a step in the right direction.

But it is only a small step. I was not surprised to learn of the failure of the

latest effort to appease Serbian leader Milosevic by offering to lift sanctions in exchange for his recognition of Bosnia and Croatia. The United States participated in this contact group offer despite the fact that Milosevic has repeatedly and blatantly violated his commitments to prevent shipments of arms to the Bosnian and Croatian Serbs. The U.N. eased sanctions on Serbia in November with the understanding that Milosevic would stop supplies to the Bosnian and Croatian Serbs. Faced with clear evidence that Serbia violated this commitment, the U.N. Security Council nevertheless extended the easing of sanctions for a second period in April. In Milosevic's experience, aggression, false promises and delay pay dividends. No one has given him any reason to expect that serious consequences will follow his failure to live up to his commitments.

Similarly, the Bosnian Serbs have every reason to doubt the resolve of the international community—represented by UNPROFOR—in carrying out its commitments to protect safe areas, enforce weapons exclusion zones, or deliver humanitarian assistance to starving communities. The Bosnian Serbs have demanded and received from the U.N. treatment equal to that of their victims, the Bosnian Government. The U.N. has thus become a passive contributor to Bosnia's tragedy just as a witness who does not intervene to assist a victim can be judged to be an accessory to a crime. U.N. peacekeeping is truly at a crossroads in Bosnia—the largest and most expensive U.N. peacekeeping mission in history. While UNPROFOR may have contributed to stability and delivery of humanitarian supplies in the first year of its deployment, its compliant approach to resurgent Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia since then has called into question the U.N.'s capability to effectively carry out peacekeeping responsibilities in the future.

We must make no mistake about the origins of the war in Bosnia. As Warren Zimmerman, the last U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia, made clear in a recent Foreign Affairs article, the Serbs initiated the war in Bosnia even before the country declared its independence from Yugoslavia.

It is said by some that Bosnia's fate will have little impact on U.S. national security. They are wrong. I believe that tolerance of visible genocide and aggression in the heart of Europe cannot help but make more probable the recurrence of these crimes in other places in the future. If that is the case, then the post-cold war world is likely to be a Hobbesian one where independence for small democracies will all too often be painful and short-lived.

We must not let our desire to stop the killing in the Balkans lead us to blame the victims instead of the aggressor. We cannot let our aversion to war obscure our vision of right and wrong. Is the post-cold war era going to be known as the no-fault era, when

strong countries used their influence merely to contain the bad things that happened to weak countries but with no blame assigned? Surely the United States, which was founded on the principles of freedom and "certain inalienable rights" will not participate indefinitely in a policy of denying the pursuit and defense of basic human rights for Bosnians? Appeasement is never an honorable or effective course in foreign policy. Appeasement of a ragtag band of former Communists and war criminals—the Bosnian Serbs—is a dishonorable course which we should have no part in.

I applaud the U.N.'s decision—supported by President Clinton—to use air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs May 25 in an effort to enforce the weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo. I hope this is the beginning of a more assertive U.N. approach in Bosnia which will be sustained and expanded as necessary even if, as Bosnian Serb leader Karadjic has promised, his forces retaliate. The only way to avoid a larger Balkan war and to bring the Bosnian Serbs to the negotiating table is to stop Serbian aggression. Regrettably, talk alone will not do the job.●

RAPE PREVENTION MONTH IN NEW JERSEY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I call attention to the fact that May is Rape Prevention Month in the State of New Jersey. Rape is one of the most violent and hurtful crimes committed in our society. It is a severe problem and we must do all we can to reduce its incidence, punish offenders, and assist victims.

In this country, rape and child sexual abuse still continues to increase at an alarming rate. Organizations like Women Against Rape in Collingwood, New Jersey have taken on the difficult task of combating rape by providing crime prevention programs, teaching rape prevention techniques, offering escort services, and having hotline and counseling services available.

For the 15th consecutive year, Women Against Rape is sponsoring the month of May as Rape Prevention Month. During this month they have worked hard to address this problem in both crisis and everyday situations. Education is one of the first steps to stopping this awful crime, and I commend the volunteers and professionals who have dedicated their time and effort to raise awareness about rape and sexual abuse.●

SALUTE TO THE GOODSPEED OPERA COMPANY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Goodspeed Opera Company in my home town of East Haddam, CN for receiving the 1995 Tony Award for Outstanding Achievement in Regional Theater. This award, given upon recommendation by the American Theater Critics Association,

is the second such award received by the Goodspeed Theater and is well-deserved recognition for the Goodspeed's decades-long record of excellence in theater. This award marks the first time a national regional theater has received a second special Tony award for general excellence.

The Goodspeed Opera House, located on the Connecticut River, was originally built in 1876 by William Goodspeed, a shipping merchant. This beautiful, six-story Victorian landmark fell into disuse and disrepair in the early 1900s and basically sat abandoned until 1959 when it was saved from demolition through the efforts of the State and community. With local support and significant private assistance, the building was restored and reopened in 1963 as the Goodspeed Theater, home to the Goodspeed Opera Company. Since that time, the Goodspeed has been dedicated to the advancement of the American Musical through the creation of original musicals and the production and reinterpretation of classic American musicals.

Under the leadership of executive director, Michael Price, the Goodspeed Theater has developed dozens of original musicals, many of which have gone on to Broadway. These have included such well known musicals as "Annie," "Shenandoah" and "Man of La Mancha." Just this year, the Goodspeed sent its production of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" directly from East Haddam to Broadway.

The Goodspeed Opera Company has not only attracted national attention but has also served as an artistic beacon for its own community. This special relationship is symbolized by the ongoing financial support of the Chester and East Haddam communities as well as its numerous and diverse audiences from all over the Northeast. The Goodspeed is the very heart, both literally and figuratively, of my hometown of East Haddam. Not only is it our single largest industry and the cultural center of the region, it is also our main landmark and point of reference; in East Haddam, all roads lead to the Goodspeed.

It is also timely to note that the Goodspeed Theater receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. In this time when Federal funding for the arts is under attack, the Goodspeed exemplifies how a small Federal investment in a community arts organization can have an enormous yield. Theaters, such as the Goodspeed, assure that first rate artistic events and productions are accessible to people who do not live near large urban cultural centers. At the same time, places like East Haddam and its surrounding areas have enjoyed additional economic activity brought in by theater patrons. And in the case of the Goodspeed, the benefits have been even broader since many of the musicals created there have gone on to