

YOUTH DRUG USE

Previous efforts to reduce drug use have been moderately successful, but hard core drug users and drug-related violence have proven more difficult to stop. Progress has been made. The number of people who use drugs each month has fallen from 22.3 million in 1985 to 12.2 million in 1994, and drug-related homicides are down 25 percent. It is alarming, however, that drug use is increasing among young people. One in three high school seniors say they have used marijuana, and reports show this figure is rising. In southern Indiana, parents, teachers, and local officials tell me that youth drug use is spreading swiftly in small towns and rural areas.

Protecting our children from the scourge of drugs must be our top priority. Tough penalties for drug violations can help, but communities must redouble their efforts to keep kids from trying drugs in the first place. The Safe and Drug Free Schools Act provides federal funding to help local schools with drug prevention. In southern Indiana, federal COPS community policing grants have helped many law enforcement agencies expand the DARE drug education programs in schools. I oppose efforts in Congress to reduce or eliminate these programs. There are dozens of other efforts, and we should improve cooperation among parents, schools, private groups, and law enforcement to identify, punish, and treat repeat juvenile offenders.

ACTIONS

Congress should take several additional steps to improve our drug war strategy. First, we must streamline the more than 50 federal agencies involved in the drug war. Second, we should increase monitoring of legal "source chemicals", which are used to process raw drugs and to make "artificial drugs" such as methamphetamines. Third, we must ask our foreign allies to do their fair share to fight drugs. I have introduced legislation to impose trade sanctions on countries that fail to control narcotics production and trafficking. We should also strongly link foreign assistance with a country's drug control efforts. Fourth, Congress should commit the necessary resources to crack down on drug trafficking.

We must recognize, however, that domestic and international law enforcement can only do so much. As long as Americans are willing to spend billions of dollars on illegal drugs, the traffickers and pushers will find new ways to meet that demand. If parents, schools, churches, community groups, and public officials insist on personal responsibility and provide support to end the cycle of addiction, we may be able to keep the next generation of young people safe from the scourge of drugs.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TIMOTHY WINTERS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly remarkable leader from my 50th Congressional District in San Diego. In the Reverend Dr. Timothy Winters, we find a man who has dedicated his life to improving the socio-economic and spiritual well-being of many of our neighborhoods and communities in San Diego.

In addition to being pastor of the Bayview Baptist Church, one of the largest churches in

San Diego, he also holds the position as president of the Baptist Ministers Union. While in this position, Dr. Winters has shown to be a very capable leader in guiding both his church and the ministerial organization to success and high achievement. He was instrumental in the building of the Martin Luther King Jr. School, complete with classrooms, meeting halls, and banquet facilities.

Dr. Winters is also an accomplished speaker, often called upon to speak on various problems and concerns of the African-American community and the city at large.

He lectures frequently on the matters of consumer awareness and debt-free living.

His workshops and finance seminars, which he often conducts from various churches, have helped to improve the lives of literally thousands of those who have heeded his advice and counsel.

Lately, Dr. Winters has been working with other community leaders as a part of a group to charter a new community credit union in the heart of my 50th Congressional District, another indication of his tireless dedication to the social and economic well-being of his—and my—community.

I am also proud of the many fair-lending agreements that Dr. Winters assisted in forging with the many banks, and other financial institutions in our city.

He has often been a great inspiration to me, and I look forward to working with Dr. Winters to raise the quality of life in our community. Please join me in celebrating the great contributions and achievements made to the constituents of the 50th Congressional District by Dr. Timothy Winters.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, on May 15, 1996, I was unavoidably detained and missed two rollcall votes. I would like the RECORD to show that had I been present for rollcall vote No. 173, on H.R. 3230, National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 1997, motion to recommend, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall vote No. 174, final passage, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO HUGH JARVIS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hugh Jarvis, a constituent, good friend, and dedicated educator who retired last February after serving for nearly 15 years as president of the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel.

At a time when all of us are working to improve educational opportunities for American families, the work of Hugh Jarvis is an inspiration. For 36 years, Hugh has dedicated himself to improving education in Macomb County and throughout Michigan. As a respected junior high school teacher, coach, and volunteer,

Hugh has worked both in and out of the classroom to achieve educational excellence for students, parents, and families in our community.

Hugh graduated from Michigan State University in 1960, and went on to get his masters degree from MSU in 1964. During that time, he started his career as a teacher in East Detroit—where I grew up—teaching junior high school social studies and working closely with students as coach for the track team.

Civic responsibility and involvement are not just ideas that Hugh Jarvis taught his students in the classroom, they are the values that he has lived by example. Quietly, without much fanfare, Hugh Jarvis worked for over three and a half decades as an activist for better education for students.

In 1985, Hugh's work in education was recognized when Michigan Governor Jim Blanchard appointed him to the board of control of Northern Michigan University—a prestigious position which allowed him to help direct NMU and its educational mission. Hugh has also volunteered his time and expertise as a member of the Michigan Public School Finance Commission.

In his distinguished career, Hugh's commitment to students and families has also led him to be a leader in the labor community, and to work for the rights of teachers and educators.

Actively involved in the Michigan Federation of Teachers and the Democratic Party since the early 1960's, Hugh was elected president of the MFT in 1981. During his tenure as president, Hugh distinguished himself as a person who worked tirelessly for better education for our children and better working conditions for the men and women who teach them.

Mr. Speaker, Hugh Jarvis' example is one that all of us should take. His quiet and unwavering commitment to education, and to giving of himself for students and families in Michigan are a testament to him and to his profession.

As we observe this milestone in Hugh Jarvis' distinguished career, I take great pride in calling him a personal friend, and in joining with my colleagues to express my deep thanks to him for his work.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3230) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1997, and for other purposes:

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Congressman TORKILDSEN and Congresswoman HARMAN which moves to restore sanity, and bipartisan reality to the U.S. Congress. Last year, the radical GINGRICH-ARMEY Republicans prevailed in inserting their radicalism into the Defense Department authorization and

forced upon the U.S. military that it had to kick out valuable experienced, trained U.S. military personnel if and when they were diagnosed as being HIV-positive.

Upon signing the DOD bill for fiscal year 1996, President Clinton instructed the military that it would be the policy of his administration to not enforce that provision. A bipartisan omnibus appropriations conference committee supported President Clinton's position by including a provision to override the discharge mandate. The current DOD authorization bill for fiscal year 1997 has a rerun of the radically conservative, homophobic and punitive measure that is really only designed to further harass persons because of their sexual orientation. It has been widely publicized that the 1,000 plus active military personnel currently known to be HIV-positive reflect a broad cross-section of American life. There are married men and women, single men and women, gays and straights, mothers and fathers among the HIV-positive currently serving in our military, just like there are all across our great land.

The Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] passed by Congress and implemented into helpful law all across America, prohibits discrimination against and provides for accommodation for persons who are HIV-positive among the many listed disabilities. Our dedicated military personnel deserve the same fair and culturally competent support as any other person afflicted with a physical or medical disability. Logical persons understand that a person can be HIV-positive for 20 or more years without developing AIDS or any further symptom or manifestation of HIV/AIDS. Reasonable persons have learned that HIV is a sexually transmitted disease that cannot be contracted by simple human contact.

In supporting this Torkildsen/Harman amendment, my colleagues are in good company. Let me just list a few of the people and organizations my colleagues have advised us are in support of this amendment: The American Medical Association [AMA]; the Air Force Association; the Veterans of Foreign Wars [VFW]; Disabled American Veterans [DAV]; the Human Rights Campaign; former Senator and former Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Barry Goldwater; Secretary of Defense William Perry; Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown; and Gen. John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

I urge my colleagues to support the Torkildsen/Harman amendment that eliminates the current bill language requiring that military personnel who are HIV-positive be discharged from the service, and to support fairness for all U.S. citizens, including our dedicated military service members.

RECOGNIZING JAMES R. NUNES

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, for more than three decades, James R. Nunes has served as an officer of the law. Since 1979, he has been chief of the Pleasant Hill, CA Police Department in my home district. Now, after 37 years of service as a police officer, first with the military and then with three different cities, he is retiring from the force.

Throughout his career, Chief Nunes has worked to make our streets safer, our communities stronger, and our children's future brighter. He knows the meaning of long nights, hard work, and personal sacrifice. His many community activities further reflect his commitment to the citizens of the East Bay community, and are indicative of his devotion to the building of a better society.

It is my sincere hope that Chief Nunes will enjoy a well-deserved retirement from the force. His contributions have been both formidable and enduring, and I know all of my colleagues will join me in wishing him every good thing in the days ahead.

TRIBUTE TO BOB SLIVOVSKY AND KENNY WILLIAMS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to two outstanding individuals who have contributed greatly to athletic competition in my district and throughout the Chicago area—Mr. Bob "Slivers" Slivovsky and Mr. Kenny Williams—who were inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame on April 27, 1996.

Slivers Slivovsky has devoted most of his life to athletics at Morton College in Cicero, IL, first as a member of the school's baseball team in the early 1950's, and for the last 24 years as equipment manager, a job title that does not even begin to describe his responsibilities. As Morton Athletic Director George Fejt said of his prized employee: He's our facility manager, sports information director, fundraising coordinator, and goodwill ambassador.

However, it may be Slivers work outside of the school that made the difference in receiving his recognition by the hall of fame as a friend of basketball. For years, he has run and organized the Henry Vais Basketball Tournament at Morton, a two tiered competition for local grade-school players of differing skill levels that is recognized as one of the best tournaments of its kind.

The tournament is his pride and joy—no team is eliminated and the kids enjoy themselves. It provides kids with an opportunity to play and not worry about the wins and the losses, as Slivers describes it.

THE FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAM BENEFIT CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a bipartisan group of Representatives to introduce the Federal Health Program Benefit Change Accountability Act. This legislation would prevent the Office of Personnel Management [OPM] from making significant changes to Federal retirees' health benefits without first reporting to Congress what those changes will entail, how costs to retirees will be impacted, and how quality will be assured.

This legislation comes in direct response to OPM's decision to allow Blue Cross/Blue Shield [BC/BS] to alter the prescription drug benefit of their standard benefit package for Federal retirees on Medicare. Prior to 1996, there was no cost-sharing for prescription drugs purchased at a network retail pharmacy or through the mail order pharmacy. Starting in January 1996, BC/BS began charging Federal retirees on Medicare a new 20 percent copayment for prescriptions purchased at their network retail pharmacies. The only way this new copayment can be avoided is to use the mail order pharmacy program offered by BC/BS.

Many of us heard from constituents who opposed this change. Most seniors live on fixed incomes and are sensitive to sudden increases in the cost of prescription drugs. They are also the segment of our population that uses the most medications. At the same time, seniors tend to have long standing relationships with their local pharmacists who provide important health care services to them. A local retail pharmacist is often willing to perform services such as color-coding their prescriptions, providing special caps for easy opening, and offering important face-to-face counseling. In addition to being health care providers, local pharmacies play an important local economic role. Sending prescriptions to mail order pharmacies takes dollars and jobs out of our communities. The bottom line is that this benefit change by BC/BS hurts both our constituents' health and our local economies.

More than 70 colleagues joined me in writing to OPM in December 1995 opposing this benefit change. We are still awaiting an important report from GAO that will detail the effect of various prescription drug policies on both enrollees and community pharmacies. We asked OPM to delay implementation of this benefit change until the GAO study was complete and until other cost-savings alternatives were investigated. That letter is attached at the end of this statement.

OPM did not agree with our concerns and went ahead with implementing the benefit change as scheduled. What happened then was nothing short of chaos. The mail order pharmacy company was not prepared for the tremendous increase in business resulting from the new 20 percent copayment at retail pharmacies. We received reports of doctors attempting to submit prescriptions being told that the fax machines had been unplugged and they were not accepting new prescriptions, enrollees were reporting delays of several weeks before obtaining their prescriptions, and there were problems with incomplete or incorrect orders. A constituent of mine in Baltimore stated that she had "literally spent one month on this phone with this company." She also said that when her order finally arrived, her bottle was seven pills short, and her husband's was shy two pills.

To OPM's credit, they immediately moved to correct these severe inadequacies of the program. They allowed a limited number of enrollees to temporarily obtain their drugs at their local pharmacies without the copayment penalty. While it does appear that these extreme problems have been corrected, the fact remains that there are still problems and inequities.

Mail order pharmacies are certainly an appropriate option to make available for enrollees. However, this new copayment structure