

needs to remove substance abusers from the drug or alcohol in question before any treatment could be effectively initiated. The majority of VA facilities for such programs exist in the Northeast. It is foolish not to utilize them in the name of efficiency, especially when the comparison is between outpatient care and inpatient treatment—applies and oranges.

I believe that this bill adequately addresses the problems posed by the VERA-based model for VA health care reallocation. Rather than simply reacting to the VERA model, this legislation is proactive, and changes VERA to make for true equity in VA health care allocation. The VERA model does offer many constructive suggestions for improving the manner in which the VA delivers health care services. Yet these improvements should not benefit some veterans at the expense of others.

The veterans of the Northeast and the Rust Belt gave just as much for their country as their counterparts in the Sun Belt and Deep South. There is no reason why they should be punished with their VA health care, simply due to where they have chosen to live.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation which will guarantee true equity in the allocation of veterans health care funding.

H.R. 1580

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

**SECTION 1. CRITERIA FOR REQUIRED COPY-
MENT FOR MEDICAL CARE PRO-
VIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) EXCEPTION BASED ON PRIOR CATASTROPHIC HEALTH CARE EXPENSES.—Subsection (a) of section 1722 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out “or” at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by striking out the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting in lieu thereof “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) the veteran’s expenses for medical care (as defined in section 213 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) for the previous year are in excess of 7½ percent of the veteran’s adjusted gross income for the previous year (as determined for purposes of the personal income tax under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).”

(b) ADJUSTMENT IN INCOME THRESHOLDS FOR VETERANS RESIDING IN SMSAS.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) The amounts in effect for purposes of this subsection for any calendar year shall be increased by 20 percent for any veteran who resides in a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA), as defined by the Bureau of the Census.”

(c) AMENDMENTS WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out the amendments made by this section for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 within the amount of funds otherwise available (or programmed to be available) for medical care for the Department of Veterans Affairs for those fiscal years.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 1998.

SEC. 2. SERVICES FOR MENTALLY ILL VETERANS.

(a) MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE ON CARE OF SEVERELY CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL VETERANS.—Section 7321 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and members of the general public with expertise

in the care of the chronically mentally ill” in the second sentence after “chronically mentally ill”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) The Secretary shall determine the terms of service and (for members appointed from the general public) the pay and allowances of the members of the committee, except that a term of service may not exceed five years. The Secretary may reappoint any member for additional terms of service.”

(b) CENTERS FOR MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND CLINICAL ACTIVITIES.—Paragraph (3) of section 7320(b) of such title is amended to read as follows:

“(3) The Secretary shall designate at least one center under this section in each service network region of the Veterans Health Administration.”

SEC. 3. ALLOCATION OF MEDICAL CARE RESOURCES FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8116 the following new section:

“§ 8117. Allocation of medical care resources

“In applying the plan for the allocation of health care resources (including personnel and funds) known as the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation system, developed by the Secretary pursuant to the requirements of section 429 of Public Law 104-204 (110 Stat. 2929) and submitted to Congress in March 1997, the Secretary shall exclude from consideration in the determination of the allocation of such resources the following (resources for which shall be allocated in such manner as the Secretary determines to be appropriate):

“(1) Programs to provide readjustment counseling and treatment.

“(2) Programs to provide counseling and treatment (including psychiatric care) for the mentally ill.

“(3) Programs relating to drug and alcohol abuse and dependence.

“(4) Programs for the homeless.

“(5) Programs relating to post-traumatic stress disorder.

“(6) Programs relating to spinal cord dysfunction.

“(7) Programs relating to AIDS.

“(8) Programs relating to geriatric and extended care.”

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8116 the following new item:

“8117. Allocation of medical care resources.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 8117 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to the allocation of resources for each fiscal year after fiscal year 1997.

TRIBUTE TO WADE SHEELER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of Wade Sheeler, a student in my community. Wade’s one act play “Vortex” recently won a national competition and was honored at the Kennedy Center’s America College Theater Festival, here in our Nation’s Capital.

While growing up in Woodland Hills, Wade’s love of theater and film was nurtured by his father taking him to see classic films at the Los Angeles Museum of Art. He continued his

study in radio, TV, and film at California State University, Northridge. Wade is currently a student at the California Institute of the Arts in the Directing for Theater, Video and Cinema Program. It seems his education and inclination toward theater have served him well, as “Vortex” is an exceptional work.

The storyline of the play is of a gunman on the run from the law that meets up with a mysterious holy man, and how the two must learn to trust and rely upon one another for their own survival. The enthralling relationship of these two men captivates the audience and proves to be the driving force of the play. In the one act production the audience gets a glimpse into the life and mind of Wade Sheeler. Indeed Wade poured himself into this work and his passion is evident in the play’s exhilarating highs and believable lows.

“Vortex” competed against hundreds of plays to win the National Short Play Award, truly a remarkable accomplishment. This feat is particularly impressive in light of the fact that most of the plays it was competing against were faculty-directed or produced, while “Vortex” was an entirely student-operated production. In recognition of this honor Wade will be awarded a membership in the Dramatist’s Guild and “Vortex” will be published.

I am pleased to represent such a talented individual as Wade. I wish him the best in what promises to be a long and inspiring career as a successful playwright.

**THE COURAGE TO STAND ALONE—
THE PUBLICATION OF LETTERS
AND WRITINGS OF CHINESE DEMOCRACY LEADER, WEI
JINGSHENG**

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an outstanding voice for human rights in the People’s Republic of China, and to join me in demanding his immediate release from prison.

Wei Jingsheng, a former soldier and an electrician at the Beijing Zoo, has become the best known pro-democracy activist in China today. He challenged China’s authoritarian system first in the late 1970’s by mounting posters calling for freedom and democracy on the famous “Democracy Wall” in Beijing. For the “crime” of speaking out for democracy, he was jailed on charges of “counter-revolutionary” activities in 1979 and remained a prisoner of conscience until September 1993.

Immediately after his release from prison in 1993, Wei Jingsheng was threatened and intimidated by Chinese authorities for speaking out publicly in support of democracy and freedom of speech. He also continued to maintain contacts with foreigners, including my good friend, the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, John Shattuck.

Shortly after meeting with John Shattuck, Wei Jingsheng was again arrested, and in a blatant violation of Article 48 of the Chinese Criminal Procedure Law—which stipulates that a person can only be held for 10 days without charge—he was held incommunicado for almost 20 months. Prior to his trial, his family

had no information about his whereabouts or the charges being brought against him. In a trial which leading human rights groups called a mockery of justice, Wei Jingsheng was charged with activities aimed at toppling the Chinese Government, and he was sentenced to 14 years in prison on December 12, 1995.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we are marking the publication of Wei Jingsheng's remarkable book "The Courage To Stand Alone: Letters From Prison and Other Writings." It is the determination, the tenacity, and the courage of men and women such as Wei Jingsheng that will change China, that will bring a new day of respect for human rights in China. Clearly we have not yet reached a time when freedom and democracy flourish in the People's Republic of China, but the brave pioneers of a better and more human future for China, such as Wei Jingsheng, will bring about that day. We in the United States Congress must continue our support for their struggle, for respect by the Chinese Government for human rights.

A TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN ANTONIO B. WON PAT ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leading figure in Guam's history. Last week on May 1, the people of Guam marked the 10th anniversary of the passing of an elder statesman and beloved leader, former Congressman Antonio B. Won Pat.

Antonio B. Won Pat was born in Sumay on December 10, 1908. His father Ignacio, was originally from China and his mother was native to the village of Sumay. He began his professional life by becoming a teacher and later a school principal. In 1936, Mr. Won Pat was elected to serve in the Guam Congress, the forerunner of the Guam Legislature. Although the Guam Congress was not a law making body and instead advised the Naval governor on matters concerning the island, he served his constituency with pride and was an outspoken critic of Naval policies which he believed were unfair and oppressive.

After the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II ended, the first post-war elections were held and Antonio Won Pat was overwhelming elected to the lower house of assembly of the Guam Congress. There, he obtained the confidence of his colleagues and was elected president of the assembly. Along with his colleagues, Assembly President Won Pat co-lead a protest demonstration known as the walkout of the Guam Congress. The assembly protested their lack of authority as elected officials by refusing to convene for session. This bold move continues to be a turning point in Guam's history and is a great source of inspiration for Guam's current leadership and their pursuit of commonwealth status.

In an effort to secure civil liberties for the people of Guam and to clarify Guam's political status with the United States of America, Antonio Won Pat became a leader of the movement which advocated U.S. citizenship and

self-government for the people of Guam. The movement secured the passage of the Organic Act of Guam, which granted the Chamorro people with U.S. citizenship, created civilian government for Guam that ended over 52 years of Naval government, and established Guam as an unincorporated territory of the United States.

As time progressed, Antonio Won Pat and other Guam leaders continued to press for more governmental reform and more self-government. In the 20 years that followed, Congressman Won Pat participated in the call for elective governorship for the people of Guam and in 1968, Congress passed the Guam Elective Governorship Act.

Participation in the national government also became an issue of concern to the people of Guam. In 1965, the Eighth Guam Legislature passed a law to create a Washington Representative from Guam and in that election, Antonio Won Pat resigned from his seat in the Guam Legislature and was elected to become the first Washington Representative to Washington. Through much of his own efforts and with those of other Guam leaders, the U.S. Congress passed legislation giving Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands nonvoting delegates to the U.S. House of Representatives and in 1972, Antonio B. Won Pat became a Member of Congress.

Here in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Won Pat fought hard for Guam to be included in a myriad of Federal programs. He worked on issues concerning education, health, welfare, civil defense, social security, agriculture, airport development, and highways. He closely monitored military activities on Guam by his membership on the Armed Services Committee. He safeguarded the interests of Guam's large veteran population by his membership on the Veterans Affairs Committee.

In 1979, Congressman Won Pat gained the confidence and trust of the other members of this body when he was selected to be the chairman of the Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Having attained the chairmanship of this committee, Congressman Won Pat laid the groundwork in which the leadership of Guam continued to pursue a new political status. He did this by coordinating a series of meetings between the leadership of Guam and a bipartisan congressional delegation in Guam and in Albuquerque. At those meetings, an agreement was made to submit a draft commonwealth act to Congress.

Reflecting on Congressman Won Pat's life and work in Washington, former Senator J. Bennet Johnston of Louisiana entered the following statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in 1987:

Won Pat was an exceptional advocate and negotiator who understood the true value of face-to-face negotiations. When he added his personal touch to a request, I found it very difficult to say no and when you look at the record of what Tony accomplished in his twelve years in Congress, I'd say my experience was the norm, not the exception. Like all good teachers, Tony always had his facts together and had carefully thought through his presentation. He was patient, as good teachers are, but he also had the other quality good teachers have—persistence and diligence. It was this unique combination which made him so successful.

I had the personal pleasure of knowing the Won Pat family when they were my neighbors in the village of Sinajana. He and Mrs. Ana Won Pat were close friends of my own parents and they shared many of the same experiences.

When I was in high school, Mr. Won Pat was running for the seat of Washington Representative. He was my personal hero and a role model for many young people on Guam. He was the major elected official on Guam for the generation that grew to adulthood in pre-World War II Guam. His character, forged in the humiliating circumstances of Naval colonial rule and tested by a cruel foreign occupation, stands as testimony to the strength of the people of Guam.

Si Yu'os ma'ase' Tun Antonio.

FAIRNESS FOR JONATHAN POLLARD

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am entering two articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which deal with the case of Jonathan Pollard. It is important to have these articles printed because the American people deserve to understand all aspects of Jonathan Pollard's case.

I do not believe that what Jonathan Pollard did was right. It was wrong; it broke the law and Jonathan Pollard deserved to be punished. Jonathan Pollard is the first to admit that. In fact, at a recent meeting I had with him at the Federal prison in Butner, NC, where he is incarcerated, he told me that he was wrong and deserved to be punished.

My problem with the entire Jonathan Pollard case is that while I don't expect him to be treated any better than anyone else committing similar acts, I certainly don't expect him to be treated any worse. The fact of the matter is that Jonathan Pollard has now served more than 11 years of a life sentence, far greater than anyone else convicted of similar crimes. In fact, a number of people convicted of spying for enemy countries, such as the former Soviet Union, have been given lighter sentences than Mr. Pollard—who was convicted of spying for a friendly country.

It is my understanding that Mr. Pollard pled guilty and avoided going to trial in exchange for a promise that the Justice Department would not ask for a life sentence for him. Although the Justice Department did not per se request a life sentence, others, including Caspar Weinberger, did. Thus, Mr. Pollard was given a life sentence, even though he had been led to believe he would face lesser punishment.

The two articles I am submitting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD tell of the disparity of the Pollard case when contrasted with another person who passed classified information to Saudi Arabia. As one can tell from the articles, the indictment of the person accused of spying for the Saudis was subsequently dropped in exchange for a last minute plea bargain agreement offered by the Navy in which the alleged perpetrator spent not 1 day in jail and received only an other-than-honorable discharge.