

the use of information systems for the study of health care quality and other information initiatives; maintaining the Center for Primary Care Research and continuing primary care research; and establishing grants for regional centers to improve and increase access to preventive health care services.

We realize the importance of supporting public-private solutions to improve health care quality in our nation, and we hope that Congress will support the reauthorization of this important agency. A brief summary of the legislation follows:

SUMMARY OF THE HEALTH RESEARCH AND QUALITY ACT OF 1999—(LEGISLATION TO REAUTHORIZE THE AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE POLICY AND RESEARCH)

PART A: ESTABLISHMENT AND GENERAL DUTIES

Redesignates the agency as the “Agency for Health Research and Quality” (AHRQ, pronounced “arc”), and changes the agency head’s title from administrator to “director.” Revises the agency’s mission to emphasize its role as a partner to the private sector, with responsibility for promoting health care quality through research, synthesizing and disseminating scientific evidence, and advancing private and public efforts to improve health care quality.

Prohibits the agency from mandating “national standards of clinical practice or quality health care standards.”

Emphasizes the agency’s non-regulatory role in building the science of quality, while private and public sector purchasers and accreditation agencies set quality “standards.”

PART B: HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH

Directs the agency to take specific action to improve the quality of health care by:

1. Identifying and disseminating methods for rating the scientific strength of research studies;

2. Conducting and supporting research, and building partnerships to support research, in order to reduce errors in medicine;

3. Supporting the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) and expanding its sample size to provide information on the quality of patient care;

4. Supporting research to evaluate and initiatives to advance the use of information systems for the study of health care quality and other information initiatives; and

5. Maintaining the Center for Primary Care Research and continuing primary care research.

Authorizes the Secretary of HHS, acting through the Director, to coordinate all research, evaluations, and demonstrations related to health services research and quality measurement and improvement supported by the federal government.

Requires the Secretary to contract with the Institute of Medicine to develop two reports on the organization and coordination of the quality improvement, research, and oversight activities of the federal government.

PART C: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Reauthorizes the agency’s existing national advisory council and standardizes membership among the groups represented.

Directs the council to more broadly focus on overall priorities for health care research (quality, outcomes, cost, use, and access to care), the field of health services research, and identification of opportunities for public-private sector partnerships.

Increases the limit on small grants from \$50,000 to \$100,000 to reflect inflation.

Revises the authorization of appropriations to reflect congressional intent to increase research funding related to health care quality and improvement (authorizes

\$250 million in funding for FY 2000 and “such sums as necessary” for Fiscal Years 2001-2006).

Amends Title III of the Public Health Service Act to establish grants for regional centers to improve and increase access to preventive health care services.

THE NAVY NEEDS THE TOMAHAWK MISSILE

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, some of you may have been surprised to learn that the Tomahawk missile is obsolete. According to a recent AP story the premier strike weapon in the Navy and the hero of Desert Storm is obsolete.

This unbelievable story not only surprised me but it surprised the Navy and the Joint Chiefs.

As late as April 20 of this year the Navy and Joint Chiefs of Staff certified a combat requirement of 4,000 Tomahawk missiles. Today, the navy has half this number.

This administration has fired over 700 Tomahawks in just the last twelve months. We have replaced zero and shut down the production line last year.

Luckily, our fine Chairman of the procurement subcommittee took this shortage head on. We added almost 900 million dollars to the supplemental and the defense authorization bills—to replace these missiles and put the Navy on track to fulfill its national security requirement.

The Navy does need Tomahawk, if you don’t believe me just call them your self.

Tomahawk is the Presidential weapon of choice except when it come to the budget. Support our Chairman, support the Navy, support the Tomahawk missile and ignore the nay sayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 12, 1999, I was detained at Los Angeles International Airport, due to aircraft equipment failure, while returning from my district and missed rollcall votes 277, 278, and 279. Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on votes 277 and 279. I would have voted “present” on vote 278.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support for the amendment offered by the gentleman from California.

Mr. Chairman, we don’t need any more timber roads. Construction of timber roads uses U.S. taxpayer dollars to pay for the business costs of the timber industry, and results in the degradation of soil, water quality and wildlife habitat.

We have over 440,000 miles of roads in our National Forests, the vast majority of which are for logging. If you pull out your calculator, Mr. Chairman, you’ll find that 440,000 miles is enough to encircle the globe 17 times; that’s ten times more road miles than we have in the Interstate Highway System.

These timber roads initiate erosion of soil, deposit sedimentation into streams, damage water quality, degrade fish habitat, fragment wildlife habitat, disrupt wildlife migration routes, and destroy the quiet beauty of our National Forests. The taxpayer ends up paying the cost for these damages—and too often the damage cannot be undone. These timber roads also give timber companies subsidized access to our natural resources. I don’t think that’s smart horse-trading, Mr. Chairman.

Over the recent recess I took a three-day hiking and horseback trip through some of the beautiful federal lands in my home state of Colorado. Over each hilltop, crossing each stream and river, coming across beautiful vistas, one after another—I found myself thinking what an unforgivable crime it would be to squander these resources. The next time my colleagues return to their districts, I urge them to take to the natural areas, and see first hand what I’m speaking about. I returned from my trip resolved to redouble my attempts to conserve these resources for future generations.

And I believe a good place to start is to eliminate the subsidized creation of more timber roads. I urge my colleagues to support the Miller amendment to protect roadless areas in our National Forest System.

IN MEMORIAM: KAREKIN I, CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the world’s great religious leaders, who recently passed away.

On June 29th, Armenia’s Catholicos, Karekin I, died at the age of 66. The Catholicos is essentially equivalent to the “pope” of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Armenia’s President Robert Kocharyan declared three days of official mourning, from July 6th through the 8th. Funeral services for the Catholicos were held on July 8th in the Cathedral of Echmiadzin. The principal celebrant of the four-hour funeral rite was Aram, I, Catholicos of Cilicia, the sister Catholicosate of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Thousands of Armenians were joined by religious leaders from around the world, including the Armenian Church Patriarchs of Jerusalem and Constantinople (Istanbul). Also participating in the

funeral mass were the heads of a number of national Orthodox Churches, and Cardinal Edward Cassidy, who represented Pope John Paul II.

Messages of condolence on the passing of Karekin I have been sent to the religious and national leaders of Armenia from around the world. President Clinton stated, "His Holiness was widely respected for his deep scholarship, deep sense of principle and his sincere devotion to the broadcast possible ecumenical dialogue." President Kocharian noted that Karekin I had the fortunate distinction to be one of the few Supreme Patriarchs to serve as Catholicos of All Armenians in an independent Armenia.

Last week, an Ecclesiastical Council, composed of the 49 bishops and archbishops, elected Archbishop Nerses Pozapalian as Locum Tenens to run the affairs of the Catholicosate until a new Catholicos is elected. Archbishop Pozapalian, who is 62 years old, was born in Turkey but educated in Armenia. Although the traditions of the church dictate that an election should take place after a six-month wait, a change in the rules has been proposed to permit an election before the year 2000 so that the Armenian Apostolic Church could fully participate in the Jerusalem commemorations of the second millennium of Christ's birth.

Mr. Speaker, Karekin was born in Syria in 1932, baptized as Neshan Sarkissian. He was educated at Oxford in England, and held top church positions in New York, Lebanon and Iran. He was a unique individual in the way he combined a deep reverence for one of the world's oldest religious traditions with a very modern world view. He fluently spoke Armenian, English, French, and Arabic. He was equally at home in meetings with the leaders of other religions, and with leaders of foreign governments and international institutions like the World Bank.

In 1991, Armenia—the first nation to embrace Christianity as its national religion achieved its independence from the officially atheist Soviet Union. Four years later, Karekin was elected as the 131st leader of the Armenian Church, after the death of Vazgen I, who had served for 40 years. At that point, he took up residence in the Armenian town of Echmiadzin, the seat of the Armenian Church.

Mr. Speaker, I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet Karekin, both here in the United States, and also at Echmiadzin. He was a man of deep faith and spirituality. But he also addressed very worldly concerns, such as calling for a peaceful solution to the Nagorno Karabagh conflict and securing Armenia's place in a free and prosperous world. In what promised to be a major breakthrough in relations between different branches of Christianity, Pope John Paul II had been scheduled to visit Armenia. Unfortunately, the serious illness of the Catholicos, as well as the Pope's recent health concerns, caused that visit to be put off. As a Roman Catholic with deep concern for the Armenian people, I hope that a meeting between the leaders of these two great churches will eventually take place.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian Apostolic Church—which will celebrate its 1,700th anniversary in the year 2001—is one of the so-called Ancient Churches of the East which split away from Byzantine Christianity before the Great Schism of 1054, which divided the

Eastern and Western Churches. Christianity was brought to Armenia by the apostles Jude and Bartholomew. King Trdat III proclaimed Armenia a Christian country in AD 301, 36 years before Emperor Constantine I, the first Christian ruler of the Roman Empire, was baptized. During the many years that Armenia lived under often hostile foreign domination, the Armenian Apostolic Church was the focus of the national aspirations and identity for the Armenian people. To this day, the Armenian Church is a major focal point for all Armenians, those living in Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh, and the millions of others in the Armenian Diaspora, including more than one million Armenian-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, on this occasion, I join with the Armenian people in mourning the passing of Karekin I, a great man who leaves a towering legacy.

HONORING THE WORK OF HARRY SWAIM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry Swaim and his nearly 45 years of work for the Communications Workers of America, which has a nationwide membership of more than 600,000. Harry tenure with the organization will soon come to an end, though. He has decided to retire on Aug. 7.

As a state representative for the union, Harry's invaluable experience and caring attitude helped advance the union's many worthy causes. His tireless service to the organization reveals his genuine concern about the membership. Harry truly exemplifies all that is good about organized labor. He is certainly a fixture within the CWA and will be sorely missed by the entire membership.

I have known Harry for more than 20 years and consider him a close friend. He has given me lots of good advice over the years, and I thank him for that. I congratulate Harry for his admirable and distinguished career and wish him lots of luck in future endeavors.

CREDIT FOR VOLUNTARY ACTIONS ACT—H.R. 2520

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today legislation designed to encourage voluntary actions by industry to reduce the potential environmental problems caused by greenhouse gas emissions. The Credit for Voluntary Actions Act represents what I believe is a "New Environmentalism"—a new way to look at how all of these groups can partner together to effect change in the way business affects the environment.

I am proud to say that with the passage of this Credit for Voluntary Actions legislation, environmental regulation will no longer be a zero-sum game. This legislation successfully combines the interests of both industry and environment in a way that is mutually bene-

ficial and unprecedented. The major hindrance to industry cooperation in the reduction of greenhouse gases is the great uncertainty of the regulatory environment. There is a skepticism of scientific knowledge and a feeling that the high cost of pollution reduction will not be a good investment economically.

Additionally, there is no way to predict the future of global climate change or how effective reduction measures taken now will be in the long run. The current regulatory situation actually does more to discourage action than to promote environmentally-conscious activity.

The Credit for Voluntary Actions bill addresses these concerns directly. This is a voluntary program that allows a broad spectrum of U.S. business to participate in ways that make fiscal sense for them. This bill is not creating a regulatory program or buying into any international agreements. It is simply authorizing companies to reduce greenhouse gases without fear of punishment later. Many businesses have come to us and told us they would like to take actions to reduce greenhouse gas reductions but are concerned that they would be penalized in the future if they did so. Does it make sense to stop these companies from doing the right thing for the environment, and their own bottom lines? I didn't think so.

This bill is good for the environment, and good for business. What once might have been considered an anomaly, you see here as a new way to look at environmentalism for the 21st century—representatives from utilities and the oil and gas industry partnering with members of environmental groups; Democrats and Republicans—all standing unified in an understanding that we must find a way to address the issues of climate change.

There are those who are concerned that this bill will pave the way for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. This bill is neutral on the issue of the Kyoto Protocol and does nothing to implement that accord. Nor does this bill create any other domestic regulatory regime to address the issue of climate change. The purpose of this bill is to pave the way for voluntary actions by companies who are looking at major investments today, but who worry about being penalized tomorrow. Through these voluntary actions, this bill will result in demonstrable and measurable progress on greenhouse gas emissions and the issues associated with global climate change.

This bill embraces the principles of: (1) environmental progress through market-driven approaches; (2) flexibility allowing the creativity and innovation which have created the largest economy the world has ever seen; (3) non-bureaucratic methods focusing on results not progress; and finally (4) voluntary, not mandatory, efforts allowing us to work with those that can and are willing to contribute to the solution rather than concentrating on efforts on enforcing against those who cannot. In short, this bill embraces the legislative approaches of the 21st century to address this emerging environmental issue.

I would like to elaborate on how these important principles apply to this bill. Central to this bill is the concept of tradable emission credits, a market-based approach proven in the Acid Rain provisions of the 1990 Clean Air Act. Tradable credits allow the environmental objectives to be met at lower costs. To achieve these credits, companies are not constrained by pre-conceived methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Rather, they