

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HEALTH RESEARCH AND QUALITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2506) to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research:

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. TIERNEY, for offering this amendment today to focus on the need for universal health care in the United States. Our amendment clarifies that the Agency for Health Research and Quality should allow for studies that would compare the effect of a single-payer plan on national health expenditures with the health expenditures under the current system.

Our Nation spends more per capita on health care than any other Western nation. And yet, we have 43 million Americans with no health coverage. This is absurd.

We know that a universal, single-payer system will save the United States billions of dollars a year. Now let's prove it.

Earlier this year, a study commissioned by the Massachusetts Medical Society reported that in Massachusetts alone, a single-payer system could save over a billion dollars and eliminate more than 80 percent of patients' out-of-pocket costs. Not to mention covering hundreds of thousands of uninsured residents of that state. Imagine what the savings could be on a national basis.

Specifically, cutting the bureaucratic overhead by creating a single-payer system would have saved about \$3.6 billion in Massachusetts. The added cost savings under this model would add up to a \$5 billion reduction in the \$36 billion the state spends on health care each year. The report further states that it would then only cost \$4 billion of the \$5 billion in savings to cover all of the uninsured in the state and expand health benefits to those who have insurance. While this is the high-end estimate, the low-end estimate still finds the state saving \$170 million while increasing coverage for its residents.

The group that commissioned Massachusetts study, its state Medical Society, has traditionally not been a supporter of a single-payer system. And yet they had the insight to at least study how much their state could save under the program. That is what we are asking under the Tierney amendment today.

Should we live in a society in which all people, because they are human beings, have access to the best quality health care that the society can offer, or do we live in a society where health care is a commodity offered to people on ability to pay—with the wealthy in this country getting, probably, the best health care in the world—while middle class, working

class and poor people receive a lower quality of health care or none at all?

At a time when our health care costs continue to skyrocket while the availability of care declines, single-payer is becoming an even more attractive option and the best, most cost-effective solution to insuring all Americans.

I hope that my colleagues will support this amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING DEDICATION OF THE CITIZENS OF INDIANAPOLIS TO CURING BREAST CANCER

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the commitment the citizens of Indianapolis have shown toward reaching a cure for breast cancer.

Breast cancer is more than just a women's issue, it is a family issue. Too many families have lost mothers and daughters, aunts and sisters to this hideous disease. In the 1990's it is estimated that 2,000,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer resulting in nearly 500,000 deaths. In 1999 alone, an estimated 175,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer with 43,300 estimated deaths.

Excluding skin cancers, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women, and the leading cause of cancer death among women between the ages of 40–55. When breast cancer strikes, it strikes at families, hopes, and dreams.

Thanks to the monumental effort of Hoosiers and Americans across the country, we are beginning to strike back against breast cancer. The cornerstone of this effort is the emphasis of early detection. Mammograms can reveal the presence of cancers up to 2 years or more before a regular clinical examination or breast self examination, reducing mortality by more than 30 percent.

Education on the benefits of early detection are critical to reducing the breast cancer mortality rate. The Cancer Institute recommends routine mammography for women in their 40's and older. Early detection increases treatment options and survival rates. This message is particularly important for African-American women because they have the highest mortality rate for breast cancer and for Hispanic women because breast cancer incidence rates are increasing faster among Hispanics than other women.

On Saturday, October 16, 1999, 4,500 Hoosiers will participate in a 5K walk sponsored by the American Cancer Society to celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In honor of these heroes, I proclaim and declare the 16th day of October, 1999, to be "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Day" in Indiana's 10th Congressional District.

RECOGNITION OF LOCUST GROVE MAYOR JERRY MICHAEL ELKINS

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jerry Michael Elkins for the contributions he has made to the small town of Locust Grove, Georgia, in Henry County. A lifelong resident of Locust Grove, he has served the city in an elected capacity since 1976, first elected to the city council in that year. He served in that position for seven years before he was elected mayor in 1983, he accepted a position as city manager in 1995 and served as both city manager and mayor up until this year. His performance led the town of Helen, from the northern part of the state, to offer him a job as their city manager. Mayor Elkins resigned as Locust Grove's city manager in August, and will step down as mayor on December 31, 1999, when his term expires.

When he leaves for Helen, he leaves behind strong friendship, and many achievements. He served in the Georgia Army National Guard for five years, was a member of the board of directors for the Atlanta Regional Commission. He was past president of the Henry County Municipal Association, a member and president of the Locust Grove Lions club, and a master mason. He was a member of the board of directors for the United Way in Henry County, and a past chief of the Henry County Fire Department Station No. 2. In short, he was an extremely active member of the Locust Grove community.

His leadership has won him awards, both from Locust Grove, and from the Georgia Municipal Association. One of the greatest honors was bestowed upon him in 1996, when Locust Grove's city council named the city pavilion in his honor.

Too often our news dwells on trouble and troublemakers but not on positive people. Mayor Elkins' hard work on behalf of his fellow citizens in Locust Grove provides an example of true participatory democracy. Let us highlight those who contribute to our lives—people like Mayor Jerry Elkins.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS HARTMAN

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Hartman of Chestfield, who has been chosen to participate in the 1999–2000 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) program.

CBYX program was inaugurated in 1983 to commemorate the Tricentennial year of German settlement in the United States. Since then, more than 11,000 American and German

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students have spent a year studying in their host country. CBYX is designed to strengthen ties between the young generation of both countries and to create a better understanding among American and German youth of the importance of the partnership between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Prior to departure, Mr. Hartman completed a two-month orientation in Washington, DC. While in Germany, he will learn the German language, study in German schools, and work as a trainee in a German business. At the conclusion of his academic year, Mr. Hartman, will participate in a Bundestag sponsored program whereby participants spend a full day in panel discussions on current events and German-American relations.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in commending Mr. Hartman for his interest in the United States and her foreign affairs, as well as congratulations for his acceptance to this important international youth program.

DOD AUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for S. 1059, the Department of Defense Authorization Conference Report. I believe this bill is a step in the right direction—a step towards a strong military, heightened readiness, and a bolstered national security.

Among the bill's many critical provisions is a well-deserved and long-overdue pay raise for our military men and women in recognition of their hard work and dedication to their country. This bill provides for a 4.8 percent pay raise, .4 percent above the Administration's request. This critical pay raise provision will help ensure that increases are tied more to performance and promotion than years of service and will reduce the pay gap between military and civilian pay. Moreover, this salary increase is a step towards preventing the loss of the best and brightest men and women who find it increasingly difficult to manage on a military salary.

This legislation would also reform the military retirement system and provide service members an opportunity to choose which system better suits their individual needs. It would also extend pay and bonus authority, expand recruiting and retention, and add additional funds for military housing. In addition, this bill addresses our nation's veterans and recognizes their contribution to this country by guaranteeing their burial benefits, providing retirement flags for reservists and all the uniformed services, and restoring equity to widows' entitlement.

This conference report also adds \$2.7 billion to the procurement account for weaponry modernization, a crucial increase for improving military readiness. It adds \$2.8 billion in operations and maintenance and repair facilities and builds upon the President's proposal to increase defense spending by \$112 billion over the next 6 years. It also restores procurement funding for the essential F-22 fighter jet, a critical part of ensuring our military forces maintain their air superiority.

The Defense Authorization Conference Report significantly increases funding for the procurement of weapons, ammunition, and equipment, and for military construction and will enable the armed forces to modernize while maintaining a high level of readiness and training.

AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2559) to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act, to strengthen the safety net for Agricultural producers by providing greater access to more affordable risk management tools and improve protection from production and income loss, to improve the efficiency and integrity of the Federal crop insurance program, and for other purposes;

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, this Member rises in strong support of H.R. 2559, the Agricultural Risk Protection Act, which provides for the reform of our Federal crop insurance program, and urges his colleagues to vote for it.

This Member would like to begin by expressing appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST), the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, and the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), the Ranking Member of the Committee, for their assistance in expediting this legislation. This Member would also like to express his sincere appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING), the Chairman of the Risk Management Subcommittee, and the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT) the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, for their assistance with this legislation.

As an original cosponsor of H.R. 2559, this Member is pleased that this important legislation is being considered today. Agricultural producers throughout the country continue to suffer from disastrously low commodity prices and in some regions from adverse weather conditions. Clearly, an emergency agriculture relief package is needed immediately. Producers are in desperate need of a quick infusion of cash to help them deal with low prices and increasing costs. However, as important as that relief is, it is only a temporary fix. A long-term approach is needed.

This Member believes that H.R. 2559 is an important component of that long-term approach. It is certainly not the only solution to current problems, but it does provide a more adequate safety net to farmers who are too often confronted with natural disasters and low prices.

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act will make crop insurance coverage more affordable at every level. It will offer producers significant incentives to purchase higher levels of protection and provide farmers with the flexibility to purchase the coverage that best meets their needs.

It is important to note that this crop insurance reform bill also improves the current risk

management structure by providing better coverage for both production and revenue. It does so by making possible more affordable policies to protect farmers against price and income loss. The legislation also initiates a livestock pilot program to test the effectiveness of risk management tools to protect livestock producers.

This Member's constituents have made it clear that crop insurance is a necessary risk management tool. Unfortunately, it is often too expensive or offers too little protection to be of real value. This legislation takes these concerns into account and offers agricultural producers what they need—meaningful and more affordable crop insurance.

This Member urges his colleagues to vote for H.R. 2559.

IN HONOR OF DR. WOJCIECH ROSTAFINSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Dr. Wojciech Rostafinski as he is being honored for promoting his Polish Heritage through his outstanding accomplishments by the Polonia foundation.

In 1961 Dr. Wojciech Rostafinski began working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Lewis Center. While working as a scientist for NASA, his work on the motion of waves in nonlinear conduits was published in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. In a series of five papers, Dr. Wojciech Rostafinski solved one of the fundamental problems of acoustics. Following this achievement he went on to make more scientific discoveries. In addition to his work with NASA, he has published several new developments in applied mathematics, including a new indefinite integral that is now incorporated in all U.S. mathematical tables. While Dr. Rostafinski worked with NASA he received five NASA awards and certificates of recognition.

For his contribution to the Polish culture, Dr. Rostafinski was decorated in 1992 at the Polish Embassy in Washington, with Commander Cross of the Order of Polonia Institute. Recently he was awarded the Commander Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Dr. Wojciech Rostafinski for his scientific achievements.

TRIBUTE TO BLANCHE MOYSE ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Blanche Moyse, from Brattleboro, Vermont, on the celebration of her 90th birthday. Thirty years ago, Blanche founded the New England Bach Festival and has served as conductor since that founding. Ms. Moyse has made it possible for people from all over