

Dr. Michael LaQuaglia, M.D., Physician, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York. Dr. LaQuaglia spoke about the long battle ahead in the fight against childhood cancer, the devastating course a family goes through from diagnosis through treatment, the need for increased funding for research and coverage for childhood catastrophic illness.

G. Denman Hammond, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California. Dr. Hammond spoke about the history of pediatric treatments, the formation of the support groups such as the National Childhood Cancer Foundation and Children's Oncology Group (C.O.G.), and the need for increased awareness.

Nai-Kong Cheung, M.D., Ph.D., Physician and Researcher, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York. Dr. Cheung spoke about his first hand experience treating childhood cancer patients, the devastating effects the disease has on families and the process they go through, the cost barriers to treatments and the limited support available to help, the need for a bill of rights for individuals with serious illness, the need for increased funding for research and orphan drugs, and the need for more accurate data collection.

Mark A. Mozer, M.D., Pediatrician and Parent, Blue Springs, Missouri. Dr. Mozer spoke about his personal experience with his son Jacob's neuroblastoma, the need for more targeted funding for childhood cancer research, and the adversarial relationship between insurance companies and victims of pediatric cancer.

Robert Barton, Parent, Tehana, Texas. Mr. Barton spoke about his personal experience with his son Brady's osteosarcoma, and the need for increased funding for childhood cancer research.

Joan Bondareff, Parent, Alexandria, Virginia. Ms. Bondareff spoke about her personal experience with her daughter Lori's neuroblastoma, the need for increased awareness and funding for pediatric cancer, and she urged congressional support for H. Con. Res. 115, H. Res. 576, H.R. 2621 and S. 1091.

Beverly Circone, Founder and Director of Kids 'N Kamp, Columbus Ohio. Ms. Circone spoke eloquently about her experience running a summer camp for children with cancer and the need for private and public fundraising to support families.

Janet Hall, Parent, Dayton, Ohio. Mrs. Hall spoke about her personal experience with her son's cancer and the need for increased research in this area. Mrs. Hall is the spouse of Congressman Tony Hall.

Craig Lustig, Survivor, Washington, D.C. Mr. Lustig spoke of his personal experience as a pediatric brain tumor survivor, and the need to reduce barriers to clinical trials and for continued funding for research.

Andrea Martini, Parent, Everett, Washington. Ms. Martini spoke about her personal experience with her daughter Alexandria's AML, the significant costs involved in treatment, and the need for mandatory coverage of cancer trials.

Pat Tallungan, Parent and Administrator of an On-Line Support Group, Bloomington, Illinois. Ms. Tallungan spoke about her personal experience with her son Nick's neuroblastoma, her involvement with various childhood cancer foundations and organizations, and the need for expanded availability of cancer trials, better pain management, and increased funding for research.

Beth Westbrook, Parent and Fundraiser for Childhood Cancer, Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ms. Westbrook spoke about her personal experience with her daughter Katie's osteosarcoma and the need for increased funding for childhood cancer

research. Everyone present gave Katie a standing ovation.

Gina Peca, Parent, Balston Lake, New York. Ms. Peca spoke about her personal experience with her daughter Katie's neuroblastoma, the limited number of treatment options and facilities for afflicted children, and the need for mandatory coverage of cancer trials.

Robyn Raphael, Parent and Founder of Keaton Raphael Memorial Fund, California. Ms. Raphael spoke about her personal experience with her son Keaton's neuroblastoma.

Tom Dunbar, Parent, Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Dunbar spoke of his personal experience with his son's neuroblastoma, the need for increased federal funding for research, and the many difficulties surrounding clinical trials. He also addressed the shut down of a promising clinical trial at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital that he felt was caused by overzealous and irresponsible reporting on the part of the Washington Post.

Duane Parker, Uncle, Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Parker spoke about his personal experience with his nephew Evan's neuroblastoma and the need for increased funding.

Diane Moore, Parent and Founder of Houston's Hope Fund, Fairfax, Virginia. Ms. Moore presented a slide show containing pictures of children lost to pediatric cancer.

Cathy O'Connell, Parent, East Hampton, Massachusetts. Ms. O'Connell spoke of her personal experience with her daughter Ashley's neuroblastoma, the financial devastation that often faces families with sick children, and the need for increased funding for research.

Judy Gelber, Parent, Miami Beach, Florida. Ms. Gelber spoke of her personal experience with her son Zach's lymphoma, her family's program for kids with cancer—Camp Fiesta, and the need for increased government oversight of the FDA and funding for research.

Nina Petrarca, Parent, Registered Pediatric Nurse, and Founder of Nonprofit Organization Samantha's Way, Exeter, Rhode Island. Ms. Petrarca spoke about her personal experience with her daughter Samantha's cancer known as mixed scleroma, the need for increased access to information in order to make informed decisions about treatment, the need for support groups within treatment centers and increased federal funding for research, and her organization Samantha's Way.

Meg Crossett, Parent, Centreville, Virginia. Ms. Crosett spoke of her personal experience with her daughter Rachel's neuroblastoma and the need for targeted funding for pediatric cancer research.

Jacob Shoval, Parent, Germantown, Maryland. Mr. Shovel spoke about his personal experience with his son Benjamin's neuroblastoma, the need for increased funding for research, and the significant barriers to receiving even covered care from insurance companies.

Nick Schiaffo, Parent, Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Schiaffo spoke of her personal experience with his son Danny's medulloblastoma and the need for more research in this area.

Rosalie Baumann, Parent, Merrick, New York. Ms. Baumann spoke about her personal experience with her son Gregory's brain cancer and the need for increased research and awareness in this area.

James F. Sexton, Parent and Founder of Neuroblastoma Children's Cancer Society, Hoffman Estates, Illinois. Mr. Sexton spoke of his personal experience with his son Michael's neuroblastoma, the need for increased funding in this area, his organization the Neuroblastoma Children's Cancer Society, and the devastating financial impact the disease has on families.

Kelly Salvatore, Parent, Maryland. Ms. Salvatore spoke about her personal experience with her son Mark's neuroblastoma, the adversarial relationship between victims and insurance companies, and the need for increased funding for pediatric cancer research.

Susan Roe, Parent, Henderson, Nevada. Ms. Roe spoke of her personal experience with her son Christopher's leukemia, the adversarial relationship between victims and insurance companies, and the need for a Patient's Bill of Rights.

Charmaine Coulter, Parent, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ms. Coulter spoke about her personal experience with her daughter Alise's osteosarcoma and the need for increased awareness and funding in this area.

Lise Yasui, Parent, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ms. Yasui spoke about her personal experience with her son Lucas's neuroblastoma and the need for increased funding and awareness in this area.

Bobby McQuinn, Survivor. Mr. McQuinn spoke on his personal battle with leukemia and the foundation his family started to support victims of pediatric cancer.

Paul Steinberg, Mr. Steinberg spoke on the need for increased funding for pediatric cancer and the role of the federal government.

Rebecca Howard, Parent. Ms. Howard offered written testimony on her personal experience with her daughter Elizabeth's liposarcoma, the adversarial relationship between victims and insurance companies.

Lisa Tignor, Parent. Ms. Tignor offered written testimony on her personal experience with leukemia, the disease that afflicted both her sons, Brian and Kevin. Her testimony also addressed the need for increased awareness, data collection, and funding for research as well as increased access to cancer trials.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS RETIREMENT RELIEF ACT

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing on behalf of the more than 41,000 federal law enforcement officers a bill to more fairly calculate the formula used for disability retirement. Federal law enforcement retirement is based on a terribly complex formula which is less than equitable to the brave officers who become disabled when they put their lives on the line. My bill amends the federal disability retirement laws to properly reflect their retirement contributions and their public service.

Our federal law enforcement officers, federal fire fighters, capitol police and their families are now often treated inequitably after suffering what amounts to a career ending disability. My bill will correct this situation.

In too many cases, an officer injured in the line of duty may not have met the minimum years of government service required for disability benefits and survivor annuity. Their annuity and survivor benefits would then be computed at a lower rate than normal for law enforcement officers. It would be computed at the lower general civil service rate, despite the fact that the law enforcement officer paid a higher rate into his retirement. My bill provides retirement benefits and survivor annuities on an equitable and fair basis.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this legislation so that we can help provide fair and equitable treatment to the men and women who so courageously serve our country.

IN HONOR OF THE MAKE A WISH
FOUNDATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast, Central and Southern Ohio, an organization which succeeds in bringing hope to children who face the adversity of fatal illnesses.

The Foundation is a charity which grants the very special wishes of children, between the ages of 2½ and 18, who have been diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. Any child that has been diagnosed appropriately by their doctor qualifies for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Following this, a team of Make-A-Wish volunteers visits the child and family to determine his or her wish. The organizations then works in conjunction with local contacts and businesses to transform the child's wish from fantasy into reality.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation offers children an opportunity to see their dreams come true. It recognizes the vital importance of hope to all human life. It seeks to extend a helping hand to all children in need. The Foundation granted the individual wishes of nearly 200 children in the fiscal year 1998. Each wish is limited only by the child's imagination. The organization helps all children irrespective of their families' financial need or status. It covers all expenses associated with a wish, including airfare and accommodation. It provides a ray of light for children in dark times.

I would also like to commend the tireless dedication of Rose Serraglio to the work of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. In her capacity as chairwoman and organizer of the Foundation's Halloween Benefit, she has demonstrated the highest order of caring for children whose world has been shattered by the traumatic effect of fatal illnesses.

My fellow colleagues, please rise with me in honoring the valuable contribution of the Make-A-Wish Foundation to the lives of children afflicted by the serious illnesses. It is an example to us all of the importance of helping the less fortunate members of our community.

INDEPENDENT FILMS AND
TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, On behalf of Representatives MARK FOLEY, ROBERT MATSUI, and XAVIER BECERRA, I would like to express our continued interest in an issue designed to increase the production of independent films and television programming in the United States.

As the Members know, the 1990's have seen an accelerating departure of U.S. fi-

nanced films and television programs to Canada, Mexico and other foreign countries. The trend has become so pronounced that a new phrase has been coined to describe the impact—"runaway productions." Next year, we intend address this issue, look for reasonable and responsible legislative remedies and work with our trading partners to reverse the trend of filmings outside the U.S. solely for economic reasons. These efforts are supported by a diverse group of entertainment trade associations and guilds and would be targeted at productions costing between \$500,000 and \$10 million.

The impact of runaway productions has been profound. Runaway production means fewer employment opportunities for individuals directly employed in the U.S. film and television industry. Runaway productions also significantly reduce the business opportunities for the film and television service industries like hotels, restaurants and catering businesses, post production services providing editing and music scoring, equipment rental and transport companies, electrical contractors and many others who service or supply the entertainment industry.

Moreover, these job losses are not limited to Hollywood or Southern California. Many states have seen once thriving film and television industries depart, leaving behind unemployed technicians and craftspersons, business losses and reduced local tax receipts. States like Illinois, Texas and Florida have been particularly hard hit, but even the state of Minnesota, for example, has just experienced its worst year in the past eleven for film and television production. In addition, the individuals whose jobs are lost usually are highly skilled workers who cannot replace their income with work in another sector.

Where are the jobs going? A surprising number are going to Canada. According to Statistics Canada, for example, independent film and television and video production was up 16 percent in 1997-98, the most recent year for which Canadian statistics are available. In British Columbia, alone, film and television production has increased five-fold since the late 1980s to over \$700 million annually. Moreover, full-time Canadian employment in the film and television industry increased by 63 percent from the 1992-93 to 1997-98. The rising trend in Canadian film and television production exacerbates the runaway production problem because Canadian film and television crews and actors obtain the training necessary to accommodate even more productions.

More U.S. film and television production in Canada and elsewhere in the world means less production in the U.S. The U.S. production share of Movies of the Week broadcast on U.S. television declined from 62 to 41 percent between 1994-95 and 1999-2000 representing a loss of \$727 million in U.S. production expenditures. Estimates of overall job loss in the U.S. film and television industry run as high as 23,500 in 1998 alone. To select just one of many examples that demonstrate the impact of this disturbing trend on employment, aggregate wages for musicians performing on film scores in 1999 declined by more than 30 percent from the previous year.

Runaway production is due, in large part, to the concerted efforts of governments to attract U.S. film production. Canada has been particularly successful in this regard. For exam-

ple, the combination of federal and provincial tax credits in the provinces of British Columbia and Ontario exceed 30 percent of wages paid in connection with a production. The sheer size of these credits has increasingly attracted productions to Canada that might otherwise have stayed in the U.S.

We look forward to working with our colleagues next year in an effort to keep independent U.S. film and television production here at home in the United States.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
SIDNEY R. YATES

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I will never forget Sid Yates—ever. He loved the story of the Adams family. I could recite passages from the Adams Chronicles. He represented the finest this country has to offer.

Politics is not just serving. It's serving well and with high integrity. That was Sid Yates.

P.S.—He was lots of fun to be with!

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 1614, CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT
COMPANY PROGRAM
IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to touch on aspects of this bill that the Members of the Commerce Committee worked hard on this past year. Just last month, we marked up in full committee, HR 5291, the Medicare, Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program Beneficiary and Improvement Protection Act of 2000.

I would like to mention several of the provisions in the Commerce package voice voted out of the Commerce Committee, that were included in the legislation we are voting on her today. I am hopeful that the President will support this package, which includes many bipartisan provisions.

We all know that one of the most pressing issues facing American senior citizens and persons with disabilities today is the need for coverage of prescription drugs under Medicare. While we continue to work to reach consensus on a Medicare prescription drug benefit, I want to thank Members from both sides of the aisle who supported a provision that would restore and preserve Medicare coverage for certain injectable drugs and biologicals that are crucial to seniors and persons with debilitating chronic illnesses. This legislation ensures that the sickest of our Medicare beneficiaries who suffer from life threatening illnesses such as cancer and multiple sclerosis, will receive life saving therapies by providing coverage for certain injectable medications.

In addition, we build on last year's step towards providing coverage of immunosuppressive drugs by eliminating the arbitrary 36 months cap currently in place.