

federal funds, including "a federally assisted zoo or theater . . . to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful opportunities for access" by Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals.

How will Executive Order 13166 be enforced? The Maine Medical Center, based in Portland, now has nine official tongues and counting, thanks to a settlement with the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights.

The Maine Medical Center is now required to post a "Interpreter Availability Sign" to be "printed at least in English, Farsi, Khmer, Russian, Serbo-Croatian (Cyrillic and Roman alphabets), Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese."

In addition, hospital personnel must be "inform[ed] that MMC's policy of providing in-person and telephone interpreter services to LEP (Limited English Proficient) persons is not limited to languages in which [the Interpreter Availability Sign] and other documents are printed." In other words, anyone who arrives at the front desk of the Maine Medical Center now has the right to insist on a translation into any language in the world.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to turn next to the question of bilingual education, which the voters of my state abolished in June of 1998.

Thanks to the passage of Proposition 227, more California children are learning English and getting ready to take their rightful place in American society.

On August 20, 2000 the New York Times carried a story in its front page entitled: "Increase in Test Scores Counters Dire Forecasts for Bilingual Ban." The story began:

Two years after Californians voted to end bilingual education and force a million Spanish-speaking students to immerse themselves in English . . . those students are improving in reading and other subjects at often striking rates, according to standardized test scores released this week. . . . The results are remarkable given predictions that scores of Spanish-speaking students would plummet.

Consider the experience of Ken Noonan, who . . . founded the California Association of Bilingual Educators 30 years ago . . . [he] warned in 1998 that children newly arrived from Mexico and Central America would stop coming to school if they were not gradually weaned off Spanish in traditional bilingual classes.

Now, he says he was wrong. "I thought it would hurt kids," Mr. Noonan said of the ballot initiative, which was called Proposition 227. "The exact reverse occurred, totally unexpected by me. The kids began to learn—not pick up, but learn—formal English, oral and written, far more quickly than I ever thought they would."

There was more good news. While 29% of the state's limited English proficient students were enrolled in bilingual education programs prior to the passage of Prop. 227, the percentage dropped to 12% after the proposition was implemented. "Even in the classrooms that had been designated as bilingual . . . teachers reveled that . . . their students were receiving much less literacy instruction in their primary language."

All this means that more California children of immigrants are being taught English. And test scores show they are learning it. Especially in the lower elementary grades, students who arrived at school speaking little or no English have made dramatic improvement in reading and mathematics.

Mr. Speaker, these facts support making English America's official language. Let me now turn to the underlying message of this legislation. Opponents of official English claim legislation of this sort sends the wrong message to Hispanic Americans. They are wrong, as Hispanic Americans from all walks of life are quick to reply.

The real message underlying this legislation was well-expressed by Everett Alvarez, Jr., who led the Republican Convention in the Pledge of Allegiance earlier this year.

Everett Alvarez was the first American pilot shot down in Vietnam. Everett Alvarez is also a proud American of Hispanic descent. In his book, *Code of Conduct*, Alvarez said, "I didn't spend eight-and-one-half years of my life as a prisoner of war because I was Hispanic. I didn't get beat up because I was Hispanic. I was an American fighting man." Alvarez also had this to say about bilingual education:

I am proud of being living proof that America is a country in which a person can overcome economic disadvantages and ethnic stereotypes. . . . I believe that education is the key to a successful and happy life in an open society. With that in mind, I oppose the movement to make Spanish (or any other foreign tongue) a second coequal language in American schools. This is a hindrance rather than a help to the young people who will eventually have to make their way in an English-speaking society.

Ernesto Ortiz, a South Texas ranch hand echoed this view. As quoted by John Silber, in his book *Straight Shooting*: "My children learn in Spanish in school so they can grow up to be busboys and waiters. I teach them in English at home so they can grow up to be doctors and lawyers."

Alvarez and Ortiz are joined by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., who so eloquently spoke in his book, *The Disuniting of America*, of how: "a common language is a necessary bond of national cohesion in so heterogeneous a nation as America. . . . [I]nstitutionalized bilingualism remains another source of the fragmentation of America, another threat to the dream of 'one people.'"

The vision which underlies my English Language Amendment is the uniquely American vision of a nation of immigrants united by a common tongue. This is not only the popular position—official English has won handily in my home state of California—is also the right position.

If passed by the Congress and ratified by the states, my English Language Amendment will provide permanent protection from the divisions and dangers of mandatory multilingualism. It is for this reason that I hope Congress will choose this particular approach, though it is a longer and harder road than simple legislation. This nation of immigrants needs a common tongue.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the English Language Amendment.

COALITION FOR AUTISM RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (C.A.R.E.) CAUCUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I joined with Rep. MIKE DOYLE of Penn-

sylvania and over 60 other Members of the House to introduce a new congressional caucus concerning autism called C.A.R.E., which stands for the Coalition for Autism Research and Education.

As I have said many times before, the parents of children with autism are truly the voices of the voiceless. They are the protectors of those who cannot fend for themselves. For some years now, we have been working to provide help to the parents. But today we have reinforcements. Today we launch a new vehicle through which we can all work towards our common goals.

The Coalition for Autism Research and Education (C.A.R.E.) is a bipartisan Congressional Member Organization (CMO) dedicated to improving research, education, and support services for persons with autism spectrum disorders. I am very proud to be a Co-Chairman of this new organization, and pleased to be working alongside my good friend, and Democrat colleague, MIKE DOYLE of Pennsylvania (PA-18).

At today's press conference we were also honored to have a special guest, Mr. B.J. Surhoff, a professional baseball player who plays left field for the Atlanta Braves. Many of us know B.J. for his skill and grace on the baseball field. But few of us know that of all the challenges and accomplishments he has faced in his life, probably none are more near and dear to his heart than his son, Mason, who is autistic.

I have always believed that the true value of any society can be seen in how it treats its most vulnerable members. And few are as vulnerable and dependent on others as the autistic child.

A key mission of C.A.R.E. is to expand federal research for autism. The caucus will be working hard to build upon a proven record of accomplishments in the area of autism research during the previous 106th Congress.

During the 106th Congress, we passed landmark legislation which established "Centers of Excellence" to track cases of autism, increased funding at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) from \$1.1 million in Fiscal Year 2000 to \$6.7 million in FY 2001 and boosted funding at the National Institute of Health (NIH) from \$40 million in FY 1999 to \$45 million in 2000. Another significant increase in autism funding is expected at NIH for FY 2001. Congress also held hearings on autism, which have led to a better understanding of the disorder.

Many of my colleagues who I worked with last year on these issues are enthusiastic members of C.A.R.E., including, Dr. DAVE WELDON of Florida, Chairman DAN BURTON of Indiana, and Congressman JIM GREENWOOD of Pennsylvania.

I am extremely proud of the work we did last Congress. The enactment of Title I of the Children's Health Act (P.L. 106-310) on October 17, which incorporated provisions of two bills JIM GREENWOOD and I introduced—HR 274 and HR 997—were a major feat for autism research.

Title I of this legislation, among other things, authorized the creation of 3 "Centers of Excellence" in autism epidemiology to conduct prevalence and incidence data on autism. In this way, scientists can get a better understanding of the scope of CDC and would specialize in a specific aspect of autism research. In addition, the centers would provide education on the best methods of diagnosis and

treatment of autism to educators and physicians.

In December, we worked hard to win appropriations of \$3 million for Fiscal Year 2001 to fund the Centers of Excellence for CDC and begin larger-scale autism prevalence and incidence studies.

CDC expects to issue program announcements and requests for proposals in the early summer of 2001 to implement P.L. 106-310. Grants would be awarded to successfully completed applications to CDC for the "Centers of Excellence" sometime in the early fall of 2001.

Another provision in the Children's Health Act directs the Director of the NIH to establish not less than 5 Centers of Excellence to conduct basic and clinical research including developmental neurobiology, genetics and psychopharmacology.

The Members of C.A.R.E. will work to further advance the process of establishing these Centers of Excellence, which will lead to a better understanding of autism and related disorders.

The 106th Congress also significantly boosted total federal funding for autism. We want to take a page out of that playbook and repeat that success this year as well. CDC funding for autism increased from \$1.1 million in FY 2000 to \$6.7 million in FY 2001. Since FY 1998, when autism funding at CDC was a mere \$287,000, funding has increased by a net total of 2,246 percent! That's 23.5 times what CDC spent just four years ago.

At NIH, Congress won increases in funding for autism from \$40 million in FY 1999 to \$45 million in 2000. Funding for 2001 is also expected to increase. Since FY 1998, autism research has been increased by 66 percent at NIH. Maybe this year we can make yet another installment on our plan to double autism research at NIH.

Finally, at the request of interested Members of Congress and with grass roots support, the House has held two separate hearings on the problem of autism—one by the Commerce Committee and another by the Government Reform and Oversight Committee. Additional hearings are likely if Member interest stays strong. I know Chairman DAN BURTON at the Government Reform and Oversight Committee remains deeply interested in further hearings. And Chairman MIKE BILIRAKIS is another strong supporter of autism research and oversight.

IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE
INSURANCE COVERAGE OF
CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS ACT
OF 2001

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, vaccines have made dramatic improvements in the lives of children and adults in the last century. Scourges such as polio and small pox have been eradicated thanks to advancements in vaccine research.

Childhood vaccinations prevent nine serious infectious diseases. Thanks to immunizations, children no longer have to suffer from the dangers of polio, measles, diphtheria, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German

measles), tetanus, hepatitis-B, and Hib (the most common cause of meningitis).

Immunizations are not only sound medicine, they're sound public health policy. Over \$21 are saved for every dollar spent on the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine. Almost \$30 are saved for every dollar spent on diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine.

Unfortunately, many children do not have access to these life-saving vaccines. In fact, one third of two-year-old children are under-immunized, and in some cities and urban areas, more than 50 percent of children are not fully immunized.

Part of the problem is that nearly one in five employer-sponsored health plans do not cover immunizations for infants and children. Nearly one in four children in Preferred Provider Organizations and indemnity plans do not have coverage for immunizations.

The Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunization Act of 2001 would address this problem by requiring ERISA governed health plans to cover vaccines for children under 18 years. Vaccines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule must be covered.

The federal government provides this benefit for its own workers, and twenty-four states have enacted laws to require state-regulated plans to cover vaccines. Unfortunately, ERISA plans do not have to comply with state laws. This legislation will ensure that all children, regardless of the type of insurance they have, will receive life-saving vaccines. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting immunization coverage for all children.

THE WORK FOR REAL WAGES ACT

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that helps correct a portion of the Welfare Reform Law of 1996.

Under the 1996 welfare reform law, states were allowed to enact workfare programs in which welfare recipients are forced to work off their welfare benefit, rather than receive real wages.

The Work for Real Wages Act requires that welfare recipients who perform unpaid work as a condition of receiving welfare benefits be credited with wages for the purposes of calculating the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

It is unfair to require unpaid work, yet credit nothing toward Social Security, unemployment compensation, and other wage-based benefits programs.

My bill credits the hours worked without direct compensation as though minimum wage were paid for the purpose of claiming earned income tax credits.

I urge all Members to cosponsor this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR.
THOMAS J. DEMPSEY

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor one of the founders of the community of Mammoth Lakes, in my district in California, Mr. Thomas J. Dempsey. After a lifetime of hard work and dedication, my good friend Tom Dempsey passed away on February 1, 2001. He was 66 years old.

Tom was a very private man who quietly made possible the growth and development of Mammoth Lakes. While most people are unaware of his contributions to the community, he played a vital role in forming what it has become.

From the time he arrived in the early 1950's with dreams of becoming a professional ski racer, Mammoth Lakes was always near and dear to Tom's heart. In 1955, he helped build Chair I at Mammoth Mountain. After working as a carpenter for several summers, in 1961, he constructed his first home in Mammoth. That was but the beginning of great things to come. As the sole owner of Dempsey Construction Corporation, Tom became one of the foremost developers of mountain resorts and planned communities in the western United States. However, despite many successful developments elsewhere, the Snowcreek Resort in Mammoth Lakes has remained the corporation's flagship project.

In a very literal way, the town of Mammoth Lakes is what it is because of Tom Dempsey's vision and sense of civic duty. When he purchased the 355-acre Snowcreek Resort property in 1977, the town was under a building moratorium due to insufficient water supplies. That moratorium was lifted after Tom transferred significant surface and ground water rights from his property to the Mammoth County Water District and permitted the district to drill five major water supply wells.

It was also Tom Dempsey who provided a solution to the town's chronic lack of land for community facilities. In 1980, he completed a complicated land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service that involved 80 acres of government land. Of that land, Tom donated 21 acres for the Mammoth High School site, 20 acres for a future school site in Crowley Lake, and 9.5 acres to the town of Mammoth Lakes. Furthermore, Tom made Snowcreek lands available for a fire station, church, and a water treatment plant.

In addition to these efforts, Tom voluntarily contributed to many other community development projects. These include the landscaping of Main Street, improvements to the Whitmore baseball fields, landscaping and lighting improvements at the Mammoth/June Lake Airport, and restoration of the Mammoth Creek meadow.

While it was his passion for skiing that brought him to the beautiful Eastern Sierra, Tom also enjoyed many other athletic and outdoors endeavors. He was an avid windsurfer, bicyclist, tennis player, and hiker. The same deep love of the environment that drew him to outdoor activities is reflected in all of his development projects.

More importantly than his numerous professional and civic accomplishments, Tom