

hard-earned savings last throughout retirement, no matter how long they live.

This proposal is an important step in bringing our nation's retirement system in line with 21st century challenges. Like any solid retirement plan, our reform efforts must be comprehensive. They should account for accumulated funds in pensions, IRAs, 401(k)s, and other qualified plans. They need to help retirees manage their savings to last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has already taken great strides to reform America's private pension system. The bill we introduce today complements previous efforts to encourage accumulation in qualified plans. The Lifetime Annuity Payout Act will help Americans manage those accumulated funds to provide for a stable standard of living in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on November 13 and 14, 2001, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall votes 436 through 440. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 436, "yea" on rollcall No. 437, "yea" on rollcall No. 438, "yea" on rollcall No. 439, and "yea" on rollcall No. 440.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL PRESERVATION AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2001

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to help restore and preserve our nation's treasured veterans' memorials.

The freedom we enjoy in the United States has not just been given to us. Men and women have made great sacrifices, some with their lives, to protect our way of life. We have erected memorials to honor these soldiers, sailors, and aviators and their valiant deeds. Unfortunately many of these expressions of our gratitude don't receive the care they deserve. These memorials may not be as large as those on the National Mall or Arlington National Cemetery but they are just as important. My bill would provide grants to rehabilitate those memorials that have fallen into disrepair. The grants would be distributed from a Veterans' Memorial Restoration Fund that would be administered by the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs. With the additional resources provided by this fund we would be able to revive those veterans' memorials on public lands to their original splendor.

People should know the hallowed ground where departed veterans have been laid to rest. These are the most important memorials, where families go to reflect on the lives of their loved ones who have passed on. This bill would make veterans' cemeteries eligible for supplemental guide signs placed on any federally aided highway.

Also, this bill would make sure that people who willfully desecrate a veterans' memorial on public land could be fined or put in jail, and they would be subject to civil penalties to cover the cost of repairing damages.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor America's men and women in uniform now fighting in Afghanistan to protect our freedom we cannot forget those who have protected us before. We can do this by making sure memorials to their memory do not fall into disrepair. This bill will help to ensure that our veterans are not forgotten.

For the benefit of my colleagues I have attached a fact sheet that outlines the bill.

FACT SHEET: "VETERANS' MEMORIAL PRESERVATION AND RECOGNITION ACT"

"VETERANS' MEMORIAL RESTORATION FUND"

Creates a fund to cover the costs associated with the repairs or restoration of veterans' memorials. These funds are also to cover the costs of continued maintenance and upkeep of veterans' memorials.

The funds made available in this account are to be in addition to other monies designated by the Treasury to be used for repair and maintenance of veterans' memorials.

The funds would be distributed to individuals or entities that are responsible for the upkeep of a veterans' memorial through Federal grants. (The Secretary of Veterans' Affairs would determine the criteria for how the grants are to be awarded.)

(There is not a specified amount of money designated for the fund. The fund would be augmented by donations. Also, money collected as a civil penalty from willful damage to memorials would go into the fund.)

DESECRATION OF VETERANS' MEMORIALS

Persons who willfully damage a veterans' memorial on public property can be imprisoned up to 10 years and fined (the fine amount is not defined in this legislation). If the damage does not exceed \$1000 then the defendant cannot be imprisoned for more than one year.

Whoever willfully damages a memorial will be subject to civil penalties in an amount equal to the cost of repairing the damage.

HIGHWAY SIGNS RELATING TO VETERANS CEMETERIES

A veterans cemetery will be eligible for a supplemental guide sign placed on any highway that receives Federal monies.

TALIBAN'S TREATMENT OF WOMEN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the Taliban's treatment of women and in support of H. RES. 281. There are no adequate words to describe the atrocities committed by the Taliban against women since 1996.

The Taliban has denied women the right to work or go to school, to laugh, or to speak above a whisper. Women cannot see physicians who aren't female and they can't practice medicine, which effectively denies women the right to healthcare. Women can't wear shoes that click when they walk or wear white socks. And they can't leave their homes without a male relative, even to go to the market to buy food for their starving children. Worse

when women disobey these outrageous edicts they are often brutally and publicly beaten, flogged, stoned or even murdered.

But we do a disservice to the public and to ourselves if we view the treatment of women in Afghanistan as strictly a women's rights issue or a human rights issue. Women's participation in Afghan society is essential to its economic health. When the Taliban forbade women from working outside the home, Afghanistan lost 74% of its schoolteachers, 60% of its university professors, the vast majority of its nurses, 40% of its doctors, half of its university students, and 30% of its government workers. So, it is no surprise that the Afghan economy collapsed as soon as the Taliban took control. As in every country in the world, Afghanistan's very stability depends on the labor and skills of women.

The Afghan culture fomented terrorism because Afghanistan has no economic power—its people are poor and desperate and angry. And tragically, some are channeling that anger at the West. Killing Bin Laden and his Al Qaeda associates may stem the next round of terror, but it will not result in a sustainable peace. Peace is only possible in Afghanistan if its economy, infrastructure and government recover and become strong enough to provide for its people. And women are not peripheral to that recovery effort—they are central.

The Taliban understood that in order to impose a totalitarian regime on Afghanistan, they first had to remove the women. It is imperative that we understand that in order to eliminate that totalitarian regime, we have to restore to women their rightful, and indispensable role in society.

I urge my colleagues to join me in categorically condemning the Taliban's treatment of women, and affirming the importance of women to the reconstruction of Afghanistan by passing H. Res. 281.

AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO FIVE-YEAR HIV/AIDS HOUSING PLAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, while affordable housing is a national problem, it is particularly serious for persons who also face significant health care problems. I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to an important new study and set of recommendations on this issue prepared by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Recognizing the importance of stable housing to the health and well being of people living with HIV/AIDS, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has published the Five-Year Chicago Area HIV/AIDS Housing Plan. The plan is the result of an intensive year-long community planning process that drew on input from more than 50 agencies, 100 AIDS housing professionals, and 500 consumers of AIDS housing services. AIDS Housing of Washington also served as a consultant to the project.

The plan describes HIV/AIDS housing services and unmet needs across the nine-county Chicago metropolitan area. The plan examines how housing services are distributed to people

living with HIV/AIDS who are facing crises or instability in their housing. Finally, the plan offers policy and programmatic recommendations for eliminating the AIDS housing crisis in metropolitan Chicago. The AIDS Foundation of Chicago, together with its many partners in this project, has designed the plan so that it can be used by housing providers as they budget and plan for the future and by philanthropists and government officials working to allocate resources to support stable health and housing. Finally, the plan will be a critical tool in educating a wider audience about the importance of housing to HIV health care and about the crisis in affordable housing that is affecting the Chicago region as a whole.

The Five-Year Chicago Area HIV/AIDS Housing Plan is an updated version of a similar five-year plan that was first published in 1995. That plan, like this year's plan, was the result of an AFC-led collaborative effort by key stakeholders in the Chicago metropolitan area. Many of the strategies mapped out in the original plan were adopted across the region and have led to greater efficiencies in the development and distribution of AIDS housing services, improving housing opportunities for significant numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Unfortunately, despite expanded and improved housing services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the Chicago metropolitan area, the major finding of the new plan is that the need for housing assistance among people with HIV/AIDS continues to outpace available resources. In fact, more than 5,000 individuals with HIV/AIDS in the Chicago metropolitan area are left without access to needed AIDS housing services each year—a factor which contributes to the high rate of homelessness experienced by people living with HIV/AIDS.

As the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to grow in the United States and affordable housing becomes more and more scarce, Chicago's plan should be used as a model for metropolitan regions facing overlapping crises in HIV/AIDS and housing. Such plans not only map out the particular challenges facing communities struggling with overlapping HIV/AIDS and affordable housing crises, the very processes used to develop such plans help pave the way for the collaborative efforts that are required for implementing the best practices recommended by the plans.

I want to congratulate the AIDS Foundation of Chicago for its leadership in preparing the five-year plan and for its continued commitment to addressing the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Established in 1985 to provide central leadership in the fight against the epidemic, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is an invaluable resource to our community and to the nation. It promotes sound HIV/AIDS public policy, funds HIV/AIDS prevention and care projects, and, through its 135-member Service Providers Council, helps to coordinate the delivery of essential HIV/AIDS services. As an advocate and by empowering individuals living with HIV/AIDS to participate in public policy debates, it provides an important voice that we should listen to carefully.

FIVE-YEAR CHICAGO AREA HIV/AIDS HOUSING PLAN—NOVEMBER 2001

Recognizing the importance of housing stability for the health and well being of people with HIV/AIDS, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has published the Five-Year Chicago Area HIV/AIDS Housing Plan. The plan,

which is the result of an intensive and year-long community planning process, describes HIV/AIDS housing services and unmet needs across the nine-county Chicago metropolitan area. In addition, the plan examines the distribution of services responding to the housing needs of people with HIV/AIDS, and offers a series of recommendations aimed at eliminating the AIDS housing crisis in metropolitan Chicago, through targeted service expansion and policy reforms.

The plan's Ad-Hoc Steering Committee and the Housing Committee of AFC's Service Providers Council were instrumental in the creation of the plan, providing critical information, direction, and oversight to the community planning process. For the plan's data analysis and recommendations, AFC drew on input from more than 50 agencies, 100 AIDS housing professionals, and 500 consumers of AIDS housing services. AFC commissioned AIDS Housing of Washington, a national AIDS housing consulting agency, to serve as a consultant to the process.

In 1995, AFC conducted the region's first AIDS housing planning process and published the Chicago EMA Five-Year HIV/AIDS Housing Plan. Recommendations from the 1995 plan led to greater efficiencies in the distribution and development of AIDS housing services, which ultimately resulted in greater numbers of people being served. The 2001 plan updates the housing inventory and needs assessment from the previous plan, measures the progress made in AIDS housing services since 1995, and presents emerging trends in the provision of HIV/AIDS housing services.

Among the most important findings described in the 2001 plan is the growing, unmet need for housing assistance among people with HIV/AIDS in metropolitan Chicago. The report shows that, despite steady gains in the availability of AIDS housing services, the need for assistance continues to outpace available resources, leaving more than 5,000 individuals with HIV/AIDS homeless or at risk of homelessness each year. Lack of safe and affordable housing has dire consequences for people with HIV/AIDS, whose survival can depend, quite literally, on having a stable place to live. Stable housing promotes adherence to complex HIV medication regimens that often have special dietary requirements and can induce debilitating side effects. People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are more likely to fall out of regular medical care and experience greater difficulties adhering to their medication regimens. For those disabled by AIDS, the hardships of living on the streets or in substandard housing puts tremendous strain on already severely compromised immune systems.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE AIDS HOUSING CRISIS

The Five-Year Chicago Area HIV/AIDS Housing Plan documents several factors contributing to the AIDS housing crisis in metropolitan Chicago:

More people are living with HIV/AIDS than ever before. A steady number of people become newly infected with HIV each year, and the number of AIDS-related deaths has declined as a result of more effective medications. This much applauded trend means that greater numbers of people are in need of housing and other support services, for longer periods of time.

Housing instability is directly related to a person's struggle to maintain a living wage. For many individuals, HIV/AIDS affects their ability to work and keep steady income. For others, poverty and other health problems force them into homelessness or put them dangerously at risk of evictions or foreclosures. Among people with HIV/AIDS

surveyed for the plan, more than half reported incomes below the federal poverty level and over one-third reported being homeless at some point in their lives. Participants of AFC's survey and other local surveys report insufficient income as a leading contributor to housing instability.

The region's affordable housing crisis contributes to housing instability among people with HIV/AIDS. Studies show that there are 245,000 low-income renters and 115,000 low-cost rental units in the Chicago area, leaving two low-income renters for every unit of affordable housing. Rents in the Chicago area are rising faster than the national average, and demolitions and redevelopment projects are depleting the region's stock of affordable housing, including thousands of government-subsidized housing units.

Government funding for AIDS housing assistance and services has not kept pace with community needs. Unless extended, state and federal subsidized housing programs expiring in the next five years will leave thousands of previously affordable apartments subject to market-rate rents. In addition, decreased federal funding for subsidized housing vouchers, more commonly known as Section 8, has so severely restricted the program that prospective aid recipients are turned away or told to wait several years in order to enroll.

LESSONS FOR PLANNERS AND PROVIDERS OF AIDS HOUSING SERVICES

The plan draws on input from people with HIV/AIDS, AIDS advocates, and service providers to assess the effectiveness of the AIDS housing service system in metropolitan Chicago. The following are recommended strategies for improvements:

Expand AIDS housing and support services across the region for men and women who are poor, chemically dependent, mentally ill, or recently released from correctional facilities. In its analysis, the plan identifies trends among new cases of HIV/AIDS that signal emerging issues for the AIDS housing service system. In particular, the plan found that the system is ill prepared to serve clients with chemical dependency, mental illness, and histories of incarceration. In addition, a disproportionate number of women, people of color, and people living in poverty are affected by HIV/AIDS. These demographic trends are resulting in service gaps along the housing continuum of care, and require additional resources to address them. The plan's consumer survey and other local surveys provide crucial guidance in designing services appropriate to meet clients' needs.

Expand services in areas of high need to combat geographic disparities that persist in the availability of AIDS housing services. The most dramatic increases in numbers of new AIDS housing units since 1995 have taken place on the south and west sides of Chicago and in DuPage, Lake, and Will counties, where no AIDS-specific housing services existed previously. However, geographic disparities among certain types of housing services still exist.

Make an ongoing commitment to community planning and assessment to inform the use of scarce AIDS housing resources. Service providers and other stakeholders identified a lack of ongoing planning across the AIDS housing service system. They recommend that coordination of AIDS housing services across funding streams be increased to avoid limiting potential innovations and efficiencies in the provision of client services. Cross-collaboration between services funded by the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), the Ryan White CARE Act, and other sources was specifically identified as crucial to maximize available AIDS housing resources. Increased collaboration between AIDS service providers

and correctional health, public aid, and substance abuse treatment providers was also identified as a pressing need.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

The plan calls on federal, state, and local lawmakers to expand government support for AIDS housing services. In particular, the plan calls for increased funding for: State and federal short-term rental assistance programs designed to promote housing stability by assisting individuals to meet a short-term financial crisis, such as unmet healthcare, utility, housing-related costs, or temporary job displacement; Federal transitional housing services for those who have been recently released from correctional institutions, hospitals, and treatment facilities; Long-term subsidized permanent housing with off-site supportive services for those capable of living independently, but on fixed incomes; Local, state, and federal programs designed to stimulate development of affordable housing and auxiliary support services.

HOW TO ACCESS AND USE THE PLAN

AFC and members of its Housing Committee will use the plan to advocate for increased public and private spending on housing services and expanded community involvement in the planning and organization of AIDS housing services. AFC and Housing Committee members will pursue strategies to implement each of the plan's recommendations and will carefully monitor and assess progress meeting these goals.

The plan is a rich resource of information for service providers, policymakers, and service planners about the need for and availability of AIDS housing services. Extensive feedback from HIV-positive people on service needs and preferences provides an especially important perspective for AIDS service providers. The plan is an excellent resource for policymakers and students about the continuum of housing services established to respond to the needs of people with HIV/AIDS.

The plan is available for download at AFC's website: www.aidschicago.org. Sections of the plan are also available separately. To receive a printed version of the plan, contact AFC Housing Manager Norma Samame at 312-922-2322 ext. 504 or at nsamame@aidschicago.org.

ABOUT THE AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

Established in 1985 to provide central leadership in the fight against the epidemic, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago promotes sound HIV/AIDS public policy, funds HIV/AIDS prevention and care projects, and, through its 135-member Service Providers Council, helps to coordinate the delivery of essential HIV/AIDS services.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT MEN AND WOMEN OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HAVE DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB OF DELIVERING THE MAIL DURING THIS TIME OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 257 and to honor the outstanding service provided by the men and women of the United States Postal Service since the terrorist attacks of September 11. I wish to express special appreciation for all

postal workers and their dedication to the mission of the Postal Service during this time of national crisis. Even as our homeland was besieged by terrorist attacks and devastating tragedy the United States mail service continued.

United States Postal Service workers are the unsung heroes of this nation. Come rain, snow, sleet, and now the threat of anthrax exposure our mail continues to be delivered with minimal interruption. Two postal workers have given their lives, four workers have contracted inhalation anthrax, and another three have contracted cutaneous anthrax and still our U.S. mail delivery continues. Who would have ever thought that these conscientious postal workers who were committed to doing their jobs would be front line warriors in this war against terrorism?

It is our duty in the Congress to ensure the safety and well being of these courageous and patriotic postal workers, just as we ensure the safety and well being of other federal employees.

As a nation we must salute the fine work of our postal workers and not take for granted their commitment to the mission of our United States Postal Service.

NORTHERN BORDER SECURITY

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, today I join a number of my colleagues in urging President Bush to address the severe shortage of inspectors along the Northern Border. This shortage is detrimental to individuals and businesses that operate across the border, and leaves our nation vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

The Northern Border is currently not secure. There are too many understaffed and unmanned points of entry to maintain security. While there are 128 points of entry along the Northern Border, only 64 are staffed 24 hours a day. When unmanned, many are "secured" simply by placing cones or signs in the road. That is hardly an adequate deterrent.

Although the Northern Border accounts for a little more than 40 percent of the points of entry into the United States, only 14 percent of Customs agents are currently assigned there. Clearly we need to increase the number of Customs agents and deploy significantly more resources on the U.S./Canadian Border.

While I am very concerned about security, I also know the impact that unmanned border crossings are having on business. Closed crossing points mean that trucks have to travel far out of their way to cross. The reduced numbers of open points of entry means longer lines, inconveniencing those crossing for business or pleasure.

I will be supporting an effort by Representative OBEY to add \$145 million to the Defense Appropriations/Supplemental bill to fulfill the U.S. Customs Service's emergency request for an additional 800 border security guards in the wake of the September 11 tragedy. It is unconscionable that we would not meet this need to ensure security along the Northern Border and provide Americans with the service they need to be able to conduct cross-border business and visits.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2500, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FY 02 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Conference Report. As chairman of the House Science Committee, I have jurisdiction over authorizing many pieces of this bill, including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Technology Administration.

All in all, this is a solid bill and I want to thank Chairman WOLF, Ranking Member SERRANO and their staff for their hard work and willingness to work with me and my staff.

I am particularly pleased with the level of funding provided for environmental conservation and education programs within NOAA. I am also pleased that this bill funds the Advanced Technology Program at NIST. That program is especially important today, in these difficult economic times, when the private sector is less willing to invest in new technology.

I am disappointed, though, that this bill doesn't more closely reflect the funding provided for some programs in the original House mark. For example, there are several programs at NIST that improve computer security and the protection of our nation's critical infrastructure that are especially important today as our nation faces the threat of terrorism. But while those programs were funded in the House bill, they have been cut in this one.

This bill provides \$3.25 billion for NOAA, which is about \$200 million more than last year and about \$200 million above the President's request. A total of nearly \$440 million of that goes for the Ocean, Coastal and Waterway Conservation Programs. These funds are critical because, today, our nation's coasts are more important, and yet they are more threatened than ever before.

One area of major concern for the Science Committee is climate change. I am pleased this bill provides \$150 million for climate change research and activities, including nearly \$8 million for the ARGO project. The ARGO float project is an international effort to provide researchers with critical information and lead to the better understanding of the role of oceans in climate. It also includes \$70 million as NOAA's contribution to the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

The bill provides \$15 million desperately needed for critical computer upgrades at NOAA and new supercomputer capabilities for the National Weather Service and for climate research. The bill also provides full funding for the new polar satellite program (NPOESS). These efforts will give our scientists and weather forecasters the tools to improve predictions and forecasts, which have a tremendous impact on our nation's economy and future.

And finally, I'd like to say a word about improving education, one of my main goals since becoming chairman. I want to thank Mr. WOLF and Mr. SERRANO for fully funding the many important education and outreach programs in