

DEVELOPING NEW TREATMENTS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2002*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues news of an important development in medicine that is taking place in my district—the manufacturer of a new generation of HIV therapy. This complex, breakthrough therapy, called Fuzeon, generic name enfuvirtide, is the drug formerly known as “T-20.” Fuzeon is a new drug that attacks HIV in a new way, promising new hope for patients who have exhausted other therapies. Fuzeon is the product of groundbreaking medical research and cutting edge engineering and is an example of how the private sector is contributing to dramatic advances in healthcare and specifically in helping to manage the most devastating infectious epidemic in the recorded history of mankind.

In July, Fuzeon clinical trial results were presented at the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, the world's largest HIV/AIDS meeting. These studies included over a thousand patients with advanced HIV who demonstrated resistance to a majority of currently available HIV treatments and were nearing the end of their treatment options. These study results showed that Fuzeon had a significant impact in reducing HIV viral load and improving immune response in these difficult to treat patients. Fuzeon, once approved by the Food and Drug Administration, could be commercially available as soon as early 2003.

At present, there are 800,000–900,000 people living with HIV in the United States. Innovative HIV therapies, taken in combination “drug cocktails,” have allowed many of these individuals to live relatively healthy, productive lives. However, HIV is a formidable virus that can adapt to become resistant to existing treatments and is doing so. In fact, one of the biggest challenges facing people living with HIV today is an emerging resistance to currently available treatments. Fifty-one percent of AIDS patients are immune to at least two of the three available classes of therapies thereby severely limiting the treatment options available to them. Fourteen percent are resistant to all three classes and are left with no way to control the advancement of their disease. These patients are in desperate need of new options.

That is why Hoffmann-La Roche, the pharmaceutical company that introduced the world's first protease inhibitor and the first HIV viral load test, has partnered with the biotech company Trimeris Inc., a leader in HIV innovation, to develop and manufacture Fuzeon—a new generation of HIV therapy. Fuzeon will help to address the urgent and unmet needs of HIV/AIDS patients who have built up resistance to current therapies. This internationally anticipated and complex drug will be manufactured right here in the United States—in Boulder, Colorado. It requires the creation of one of the most complex drug manufacturing processes ever undertaken because the drug is far more intricate in its structure and development than any existing drug.

Roche and Trimeris are investing considerable resources to bring new therapies to peo-

ple living with HIV/AIDS. The importance of these discoveries and developments cannot be stressed enough. Breakthrough biotechnology advances in the worldwide fight against HIV/AIDS, produce vital life-saving alternatives for patients living with HIV. What these companies have learned from developing state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities for Fuzeon will also improve our nation's ability to develop and manufacture new therapies for other diseases.

The public sector has a role to play as well. I call upon my fellow colleagues to support funding of vital and fiscally prudent public programs that provide access to life-saving treatments such as Fuzeon. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) provides federal contributions to state run programs designed to provide innovative, life saving HIV drugs to low income, uninsured people living with HIV. I ask my House colleagues to include an increase of \$162 million for ADAP funding in the House Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill for FY 2003. Many states are experiencing budget problems, and demand is outpacing available resources for ADAP programs. From 1996 to 2001, the number of clients served nationally by ADAP programs has grown by 144 percent, with expenditures on drugs increasing by over 300 percent, and funding levels increasing at smaller rates. In my own state of Colorado, the ADAP has provided life saving HIV treatments to over 1,300 low income, uninsured people to date this year. Like other ADAPs, the Colorado program needs to respond to the increasing number of individuals seeking access to these treatments.

With this recommended increase in funding, we offer a real helping hand, send a message that the federal government encourages private investment in groundbreaking research, and meet our fiscal objectives.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BILLY C. HAWKINS

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2002*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Billy C. Hawkins upon his inauguration as the Twentieth President of Texas College, in Tyler, Texas, on September 20, 2002. Dr. Hawkins has proven himself as a dynamic and courageous leader, and has already instituted tremendous change at Texas College since he became President on December 1, 2000. Dr. Hawkins has secured accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for Texas College, developed a single parent program, developed an accelerated degree program, and helped to greatly increase enrollment at Texas College. These accomplishments portray the dedication and success of Dr. Hawkins. I work closely with Dr. Hawkins and I am proud to honor him on the occasion of his Investiture Ceremony as the Twentieth President of Texas College.

Dr. Billy C. Hawkins is a native of Kent, Ohio and graduated from Roosevelt High School. He was a great football player in high school and at 21 years of age, he became the youngest head football coach in Michigan history. He enrolled at Ferris State University where

he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Teacher Education. He then went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Education Administration from Central Michigan University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Michigan State University in Education Administration. In preparation for becoming a college president, Dr. Hawkins completed the Harvard Seminar for New Presidents.

Dr. Hawkins' achievements and experiences have well-prepared him for his current position as President of Texas College. He served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs/Professor at Mississippi Valley State University from March 1, 1999 to November 31, 2000, as Vice President for Academic Affairs/Professor at Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia from September 1995 to February 1999, as Acting Dean, Associate Dean, Assistant Dean/Full Professor in the College of Education at Ferris State University from 1985 to August 1995, and as Director of Educational Opportunity Program at the State University of New York at Morrisville College, Morrisville, New York from 1981 to 1985. Dr. Hawkins has authored two books—“Educating All Students (A Pathway to Success)” and “Reaching for the Stars.” He has been featured on national television and at regional and national conferences to discuss our nation's special education system.

Dr. Hawkins is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. In January 1999, he received appointment as a member of the Southside Virginia Business and Education Commission by former Governor James S. Gilmore, III, of Virginia. In August 2002, Dr. Hawkins was nominated by Secretary Ronald Paige of the United States Department of Education to serve on the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board to advise Congress regarding program progress for implementing construction financing on HBCU campuses. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce, the Tyler Economic Development Council, the Boys and Girls Club of Smith County, and the United Way. He is the proud father of two children, son Billy Jr. and daughter Marlana.

In closing, I want to share what his good friend Mr. Darrell Green, of the Washington Redskins football team, has this to say about him: “Dr. Billy Hawkins is a true leader in every sense of the word, and most importantly, my lifelong friend.” Mr. Speaker, I proudly honor Dr. Billy C. Hawkins today as he is officially inaugurated as the Twentieth President of Texas College.

HONORING THE SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2002*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the Santa Barbara Foundation on the occasion of their 75th anniversary. The Foundation has greatly enriched the Santa Barbara community as a whole and many organizations have greatly benefited from its generosity.

In 1928 Major Max Fleischmann made the initial contribution to the Foundation that has

since enhanced the lives of so many Central Coast residents. Since that first donation, the Santa Barbara Foundation has become an organization that provides grants and funds to projects within four fields of interest: Education and Personal Development, Health & Human Services, Culture & Recreation and Environment and Community Enhancement. The Foundation additionally promotes programs that expand opportunities for the less advantaged as well as those that will enhance the lives of youth. In fact, over the last 72 years, more than \$60,000,000 has been distributed in the forms of grants and student financial aid.

There are more than 550 similar foundations throughout the nation, and the Santa Barbara Foundation holds the distinction of ranking among the top 50 oldest and largest such organizations. A board of trustees and a staff of 12 make pertinent decisions and run the operation on a day-to-day basis. And of course, the Foundation could never operate as successfully as it does without the help of the over 100 volunteers that dedicate the most precious resource a non-profit could ask for—their time.

Santa Barbara is extremely fortunate to have an organization of this generosity in its midst. I would like to bestow my sincerest congratulations to the Foundation on its 75th anniversary and wish the organization the very best in the future.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. WEBER

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**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to Michael Weber and thank him for his many contributions to healthcare and public policy initiatives in Colorado and throughout the nation. As Mike retires from his position at Rocky Mountain HMO, let the record show that I, along with the people of Colorado, appreciate his leadership of healthcare and managed care in rural areas. His dedication and hard work is greatly respected and I am honored to pay tribute to him today in front of this body of Congress. Mike will long be remembered as an effective leader by all who worked with him in the healthcare industry, and he will continue to stand out as a leader in his home community of Grand Junction, Colorado.

During his time as CEO of Rocky Mountain HMO, Mike turned his company into the leader of rural area managed care, growing the company from a one-county organization serving 3200 members in 1975 to one serving over 128,750 statewide today. He was a five-term president of the Colorado Association of HMOs, served ten years on the Board of Directors of the American Medical Care and Review Association, and was a member of the National Task Force on Medical Management. Perhaps a more telling accomplishment is the respect shown by several governors of Colorado—his numerous panel appointments include the Colorado Cost Containment Commission, the Health Advisory Council, and the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

His involvement in the community has been outstanding as well. Locally, Mike served on

boards for the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, Mesa National Bank, Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, and the Mesa County Economic Development Council. Perhaps most importantly, Mike is married to his wife Jeannie, and has four children. As he retires from Rocky Mountain HMO, I look forward to him still playing an important role in his community and the healthcare industry because he is a great asset and brings a lot of talent to the table.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to rise today to honor this outstanding citizen before this body of Congress and this nation. Mike Weber has shown great dedication and leadership on local and state healthcare matters on up to nationwide issues. I am glad to extend to him my gratitude for all he has accomplished in his field and wish him all the best in his retirement.

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TRIBUTE TO COLORADO CLEAN WATER ACTION AND ITS CANVASSERS

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**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work of Colorado Clean Water Action and the outstanding efforts of many of the group's canvassers who work tirelessly to educate the public and improve the environmental quality of life for all Coloradans.

Clean Water Action is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of our environment and especially of our nation's water resources. In arid states like Colorado, water is a precious and scarce commodity. That makes the work of groups like Clean Water Action all the more important. Clean Water Action's efforts to enhance water quality not only benefit humans, they also benefit wildlife and promote a host of other environmental and economic values, such as productive agriculture, wetlands protection and recreation.

Here in Colorado, Clean Water Action has been led by Carmi McLean, an effective and passionate leader for the cause of the environment. Over the past three decades, Carmi has been involved in most if not all of the high profile environmental issues facing Colorado and the nation. She has been active in wilderness protection, reducing pollution and holding polluters accountable for their releases, fighting damaging rollbacks of environmental protection laws and programs such as Superfund, and, of course, in all issues related to water quality. Colorado Clean Water Action has also been involved in these and similar issues since 1989.

Recently, Colorado Clean Water Action has taken up the important cause of reducing the toxic discharge of heavy metals and acids from old, abandoned hardrock mining operations. These mines, which occur in the hundreds of thousands across the west, have caused impacts to a number of watersheds which oftentimes supply drinking water to many western communities. These releases also can have devastating impacts to the aquatic life of many streams and lakes, which further impacts recreation and the ecological

health of the lands affected by these sites. However, because those responsible for these abandoned, polluting mines cannot be found, most of these mines go on polluting. What's worse, because of the costs of cleanup and the risks of future liability exposure, many entities that would be willing to cleanup these mines are discouraged from taking steps to clean them up.

To address this problem, I have introduced legislation—H.R. 4078 “The Abandoned Hardrock Mines Reclamation Act of 2002”—to facilitate the cleanup of these mines by creating an abandoned mine cleanup fund and a special permit program that would encourage more federal, tribal, state, local and community efforts to clean up these languishing pollution sources. Carmi and her staff at Colorado Clean Water Action recognized the significance of this problem and the value that this legislation would bring to addressing it. As a result, she has made this issue and the need to address it a top priority for the efforts of Colorado Clean Water Action, including many hours of hard work by dedicated young people who canvass door-to-door in Colorado communities letting people know about this issue and what can be done to help address it.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to Carmi and her canvassers who have been spending the summer and fall of 2002 working on this issue. Specifically, I want to recognize the following people who have been working especially hard at Colorado Clean Water Action on the abandoned mine waste problem: David Scheck, Brian Dunn, Stoney Bergman, Greg Sobczynski, Katie Tegeler, John De Wees, Nik Haynes, Lindsay Bennett, Noel Jensen, Melinda Miller, Whitney Hanson, Whitney Gann, Eric Hale, Ana Cordova, Courtney Bennett, Amy Addison, Dewey Brown, and Fred Kirsch.

Mr. Speaker, the future of our democracy depends on the active involvement of our young people in the important issues facing our nation. I am pleased that these young people have taken a special interest in this issue and hope that they remain active on environmental protection as well as other issues of importance to them. I believe that it is important for us as leaders and elected officials to stop and take notice of the civic involvement of our young people, recognize the importance of it and encourage more such participation. I also want to thank organizations like Clean Water Action and people like Carmi McLean who provide leadership and an opportunity for young people to participate in our democracy. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young people and Colorado Clean Water Action for their great efforts.

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IN MEMORY OF ROBERT W. “RUSTY” NORTON

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**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we approach year's end, I often think back to dear friends that we have lost this year. One I especially loved, and miss, is the late Robert W. “Rusty” Norton of Longview, Texas, a beloved and outstanding citizen who passed away last January at the young age of 54. Rusty was a