

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today is Valentine's Day—a day when we celebrate matters of the heart. It is, therefore, quite appropriate that we recognize February as American Heart Month.

Over 61 million Americans—1 in 5 adults—have one or more types of cardiovascular disease (CVD). CVD is a leading cause of long-term disability. Since 1990, CVD has been the number one killer in the United States every year but one. Every 33 seconds an American dies of cardiovascular disease. Forty percent of all deaths in the United States and in my home state of Illinois are due to CVD. Although we used to think of CVD as a man's disease, it is now the leading cause of death for American women—and in 1999, more women than men died of CVD—over one half million deaths. This is a terrible health crisis that demands immediate attention.

According to American Heart Association President Dr. David Faxon, "For each minute that passes without defibrillation and CPR, the chance of survival for a cardiac arrest victim decreases by 7 to 10 percent. In order to battle this disease, more Americans have to arm themselves with the knowledge that is crucial to saving lives."

Let's mount a public awareness campaign so that Americans can reduce their individual CVD risk factors, and recognize and respond promptly to cardiac emergencies. If we can do this, we can really have a Happy Valentine's Day.

STEEL 201 REMEDY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today is Valentine's Day. But for thousands of American steelworkers whose jobs have been lost, this is a day filled with bitterness. I stand here today in protest of the low-priced steel imports that have ravaged the American Steel industry and the 3,800 LTV steelworkers in my district whose lives have been devastated as a result of these imports.

Today I urge the administration to take decisive action against the cheap imports that are destroying the U.S. steel industry. This is an industry that has been a cornerstone of our economy and national security over the last 100 years.

The administration, as part of its steel plan, has taken the important step of initiating a section 201 investigation to examine the devastating impact that steel imports have had on

the American steel industry. The International Trade Commission found, unanimously, that American steel companies and thousands of American workers and their communities have been seriously injured by these imports. I say, and know firsthand, that they have been devastating. The ball is now in the President's hands. He must decide what measures his administration will take to correct the wrong that has been caused by low-priced imports. I urge the administration, in the strongest possible terms, to impose strong and effective tariff-based relief. The President must impose a tariff of at least 40 percent against all foreign low-priced steel imports.

I urge the President to impose this tariff for at least 4 years, as the law allows. Most importantly, I urge the President not to waiver from his commitment to the American steel industry and its workers because strong tariff-based relief is the only remedy that can realistically assist the industry.

It is no secret that low-priced imports are due to excessive global steel production. The Department of Commerce has released a study showing that global steel overcapacity results from subsidization and anticompetitive practices around the world. We must not allow steel imports that originate from such distorted markets to destroy a vital component of our economy. We must not allow those foreign producers to destroy thousands of good American jobs and the financial security that those jobs represent. Families depend on these jobs. Cities and communities depend on these jobs. Workers in my district depend on these jobs.

Thousands of American steelworkers are anxiously awaiting a trade remedy decision in the current 201 investigation. Their future depends on strong and effective trade relief and an administration that will be unrelenting in reducing global excess steel capacity. I urge the President to impose a strong tariff-based remedy against all foreign steel imports over the next 4 years.

DOMESTIC STEEL INDUSTRY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the status of the domestic steel industry.

Our domestic steel industry is currently in a crisis situation. The fundamental cause of this crisis is massive foreign overcapacity, which has caused the United States to become the dumping ground for world excess steel products. As a result of this, since 1997, 31 steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, affecting over 62,000 American steel workers.

In my home State of Illinois, four steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, including Laclede Steel, which is in the congressional district I represent. Approximately 5,000 steel workers have lost their jobs in Illinois alone.

Last year, I joined my colleagues on the Congressional Steel Caucus in urging the President to implement a section 201 investigation by the International Trade Commission to determine if our domestic markets had been harmed by illegal dumping. In the fall, I testified before the ITC to express my concerns regarding the steel crisis. The ITC ruled unanimously that the steel industry had indeed been harmed.

While the ITC's decision was welcome, it didn't guarantee relief for the domestic steel industry. The ITC recommended the highest tariff rate of up to 40 percent for 4 years on all subject steel categories; however, it is up to the President to determine what type of remedy should be afforded to the industry. It is imperative that the President imposes the highest possible tariffs, rather than quotas, which will not be as helpful to the industry.

Without strong, decisive and quick action from the President, thousands more steel workers are at a very real risk of losing their jobs, at an economic time when our nation can least afford it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in asking the President to help our domestic steel industry by implementing tariffs on foreign steel. Anything less would be a disservice to the hardworking men and women who are counting on the President to stand up for them.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing February as American Heart Month.

Heart disease is the nation's leading cause of death. It is estimated about 1 in 5 American adults suffer from some form of cardiovascular disease, or CVD. Before I even finish this statement, two Americans will die of cardiovascular disease. By the end of the hour, we will have lost 120 friends, family members, neighbors and coworkers. By the end of the day, more than 2,600 Americans will die from CVD.

While heart disease is a problem for all racial, ethnic, and socio-economic groups, certain groups are disproportionately affected. For example, while heart disease affects only thirty percent of white males, forty percent of African American males will suffer. Minority women also have higher risk of cardiovascular disease.

Mr. Speaker, as troubling as these statistics are, there is great hope that we can win the battle against heart disease. Some of the major causes of heart disease—tobacco use, physical inactivity, obesity, high cholesterol and high blood pressure—can all be treated or prevented. According to the World Health Organization, one year after quitting smoking,

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the risk of heart disease decreases by fifty percent. Study after study concludes that moderate-intensity physical activity such as walking can substantially reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke. And new and improved pharmaceutical treatments can help people control their blood pressure and lower their cholesterol.

Mr. Speaker, by recognizing February as American Heart Month, we are raising awareness about heart disease, including its symptoms, its treatments, and ways to prevent it. The more Americans know about heart disease, the more likely they will seek treatment when they need it—before a heart attack strikes.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. LOIS CAPPs

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, on this day devoted to affairs of the heart I want to remind my colleagues that February is American Heart Month. Right now, over 61 million Americans are suffering from cardiovascular diseases. And by the time I finish this statement, another two Americans will have died from those causes.

This is why I introduced the Community Access to Emergency Defibrillation Act with Representative SHIMKUS and the STOP Stroke Act with Representative PICKERING. The Community AED Act would provide funding to localities for them to purchase Automatic External Defibrillators and place them in public buildings, so that emergency care for cardiac arrest is only seconds away. And the STOP Stroke Act will help states develop better stroke treatment programs because immediate treatment can make the difference between nearly total recovery and death.

Both of these bills were passed by the other body recently without objection and I hope that the House can also do so quickly. I urge my colleagues to support these and other efforts to address the scourge of cardiovascular diseases. Let's have a heart! Happy Valentine's Day!

STATEMENT REGARDING
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for initiatives to prevent cardiovascular disease.

While Valentine's Day gives us the chance to think about the people we love, it also is a good time to focus on the health of our hearts. Unfortunately, the hearts of Americans are a major source of illness, and we can expect 1 million of our citizens to suffer a heart attack this year. Approximately one in five Americans suffers from some form of cardiovascular disease.

Cardiovascular disease is both painful for families affected and costly for society: heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular dis-

eases cost the United States nearly \$330 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity in 2002, more than any other disease. Preventing these diseases could save families from loss and could save public resources by keeping people in the workplace and minimizing medical costs.

I applaud both the work of health care providers and researchers who fight these diseases and the efforts to raise awareness of cardiovascular diseases during American Health Month. I strongly support initiatives to educate Americans about cardiovascular disease and to encourage healthy lifestyles that will prevent or limit the incidence of these illnesses. We can do no less for the people we love.

THE KIDNEY DISEASE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS ACT OF 2002

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today with 15 of my colleagues to introduce the Kidney Disease Educational Benefits Act of 2002. This legislation is designed to improve patient outcomes by providing appropriate education before Medicare eligible kidney patients undergo dialysis.

Each year, approximately 80,000 Americans develop chronic kidney failure, or end stage renal disease (ESRD), and require either regular kidney dialysis treatments or a transplant to survive. Medicare covers dialysis for most Americans and requires that kidney patients receive information on treatment options, but not until the patient is under the care of a dialysis clinic. Studies have shown that earlier access to information about kidney failure and treatment options can reduce complications associated with dialysis and can improve patient outcomes and potentially reduce costs over the long term.

The Kidney Disease Educational Benefits Act provides reimbursement for up to six educational sessions performed by kidney care professionals. These educational sessions will consist of an overview of kidney function and complications that accompany kidney failure; information on hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and transplantation; discussion of payment for dialysis treatment and transplantation; and information regarding vascular access options.

Providing earlier access to educational services by qualified kidney care professionals will help ensure that Medicare eligible kidney patients receive critical information prior to undergoing dialysis or transplantation. This will improve the lives of those suffering from kidney disease. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues for their consideration and support of the Kidney Disease Educational Benefits Act.

RANDY GERBER: A MAN TO CALL
IN AN EMERGENCY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Gerber for his many years of

hard work, initiative and dedication to the advancement of rural emergency medical services in the Thumb of Michigan as Vice President of Mobile Medical Response, Inc., in Tuscola County.

Randy began his career in 1983 as a volunteer ambulance attendant with the Vassar Area Ambulance Service and soon became a licensed emergency medical technician and paramedic. During that time, Randy's superior work in treating the victims of emergencies was recognized on numerous occasions by the Saginaw Valley Medical Control Authority.

While Randy's top-notch skills on the front lines of emergency response earned him high praise, it has been Randy's leadership and innovation in his managerial positions, first as Assistant Director of Vassar Area Ambulance Service and the former Saginaw Mercy Ambulance and later as Regional Director and now Vice President of Mobile Response, Inc., that have cemented his unparalleled reputation in the field. Moreover, Randy's role as a state evaluator and instructor for new emergency medical technicians has further improved rural emergency medical services throughout Michigan.

Throughout his career, Randy has successfully and consistently identified needs and taken fast action to improve emergency services. He was instrumental in upgrading emergency medical services from basic life support units to advance life support units and in putting at least one paramedic and one emergency medical technician on each of the two units in Cass City and Caro. He also led efforts to bring automatic external defibrillators to Tuscola County for use by the fire and police departments, which significantly improved the odds for survival for cardiac arrest patients. Additionally, Randy has been a leader in expanding educational programs on child safety, injury prevention and other vital issues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Randy and his entire staff at Mobile Medical Response, Inc., for going the extra mile for the residents of Tuscola County. I am confident Randy and his staff will continue to answer the call.

THE DATE CERTAIN TAX CODE
REPLACEMENT ACT

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, since I have come to Congress, bringing fundamental tax reform has been one of my top priorities. While the tax reform community is free to debate what the best policy solution is, we all must come together and agree that the first step is to scrap the current tax code. In the 105th Congress, I introduced the Tax Code Termination Act to sunset the tax code which was passed in the House. In the 106th Congress, I introduced a similar bill which was again passed, this time by a vote of 229–187. The purpose of the legislation is to spark the debate and force Congress to take reform proposals seriously, and at the very least reauthorize the current tax code. In this Congress, I continued the effort by introducing the Date Certain Tax Code Replacement Act (H.R. 2714). With an Administration in place that is