

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING THE WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, on May 4–6, 2002 more than 1200 students from across the United States visited Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People. . . The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that the class from Incline High School from Incline Village represented the State of Nevada in this national event. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People. . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals of our government in the aftermath of September 11th. These ideas identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

Independent studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) showed that students enrolled in the We the People. . . program at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken." Further, in a voting and civic participation survey of program alumni, 82% reported voting in the November 2000 election. In contrast, the National Election Studies reported a 48% turnout in the November 2000 election among Americans aged 18–30. This provides ample evidence that when students gain valuable knowledge about fundamental American val-

ues, they are more likely to participate in political life.

The class from Incline High School diligently conducted research and prepared for their participation in the national competition. I commend these young "constitutional experts" on their work for and commitment to the We the People. . . national finals. They represent the future leaders of our nation.

D.A.R.E. GRADUATION, BERLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the students and staff of the Berlin Township School District on the occasion of their D.A.R.E. graduation, which took place on March 25th, 2002. I was honored to speak at the graduation ceremony, and I would like the names of all the D.A.R.E. graduates, officers and teachers recognized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Instructional Staff.—Cathy Conicella, Kathy Arent, Judi Knopke, Denise Conn, Karen Okulanis, Sherie Troendle, Monica King, and Fabian Brown.

D.A.R.E. Officers.—Sgt. William Hill, Officer Rob Murray, and Officer Gary Sheehan.

Supervisor of D.A.R.E.—Robert E. Jackson, Jr.

Support Staff.—Oretta Thomas, Charlotte Cohen, Joan Mondile, and Mary Suards.

FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

D.A.R.E. Period 1.—Christopher Brooks, Melanie Dotts, Aarina Eleazer, Kelsey Greager, Kyle Greis, Joseph Hartshorne, Maria Lioliakis, Patrick McElroy, Ryan McElroy, Kelsey Odegaard, Stefani Pelly, Patrick Perez, Brittany Stalder, Lauren Strain, and Rebecca Swift.

D.A.R.E. Period 3.—Mejbah Ahmed, Anthony Cassario, Nathaniel Culbreath, Richard Fisher, Brianna Garrison, Scott Howard, Alexander Jannini, Ciarra Jones, Charles Lowe, Shawn Lowe, Maria Luciana, Matthew McDermott, Christina Peidl, Kaitlin Richards, Kelly Rodrigues, Tiffany Rodriguez, Alexander Rubolin, Jenney Sabin, Tenia Stansbury, and Tonya Toomer.

D.A.R.E. Period 5.—Matthew Bodanza, John Brecker, Amir Furlow, Brittnay Hallowell, Kyle Laganella, Kimberly McKelvey, Marissa Pigliacelli, Margaret Reilly, John Ryan, Christian Smith, Sabrina Smith, Steven Smith, Tomasa Sotelo, Leisl Steinbach, Shanee Thornton, Ashley Tortu, Scott Tretina, Miranda Ulmer, Brandan Wall, and Michael Williams.

D.A.R.E. Period 6.—Kerrin Anderson, Christie Asquith, Henry Birkenheuer, Natalie Bossard, Donald Bowman, Chelsea Callahan, Vincent Carbonaro, Charles Dewland, Diana Gastelum, Christopher Hollimon, Nicole Jewell, Jiamas Johnson, Amanda Kearns, Nicholas Labbree, Daniel Messick, Mirinda Petersen, Daniel McCready, Michele Prudo, Amber Punihaoole, Monica Roohr, Logan Ryan, Kamal Uddin, and Bianca Vera.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 126, due to an illness in the family I had to be in my district. If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 126.

STUDENT LOAN RATE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak out against the Administration's proposal to change the federal student loan consolidation rates.

Last week it was reported that college loan rates could tumble to roughly 4 percent after July 1. A student with \$20,000 in debt would be able to save \$5,000 on a 20 year repayment plan with a fixed rate of 4.13 percent.

Just as millions of Americans are preparing for large savings on their student loans, the Administration decides to pull the rug out from under their feet by coming out with a proposal that prevents them from locking in low interest rates.

It seems as though this Administration wants to prevent students from moving ahead, after falsely leading them to believe that they would not be left behind.

Due to the efforts of Democrats in both bodies of Congress, the Administration was forced to withdraw their proposal. I am pleased that we were able to prevent this potentially devastating proposal. However, I am still angry that the Administration would try to finance their initiatives at the cost of students struggling to get ahead.

I encourage my colleagues to oppose any future measures that would make it more difficult for America's students to afford a college education.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY BAILEY, WARREN, FCI FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Nancy Bailey, who retires on Saturday, June 1, 2002, after 27 years of distinguished service in our nation's correctional system.

Her rise through the ranks from her beginnings as a Correctional Officer in 1974 through various administrative positions within

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Bureau of Prisons to her role as Warden of both Federal Correctional Institutions Safford, Arizona, and Fort Dix, New Jersey, is indicative of her commitment to the correctional system and the management of those in her care.

A Public Information Officer, Bureau of Prisons Auditor, Public Speaking Instructor and member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, Warden Bailey's involvement in the community plays an important role in her life. In her free time, she enjoys antiquing, gardening, reading and volunteering in the community.

Nancy and her husband, Jacob, plan to relocate to Gloucester, Rhode Island, where she will teach Criminal Justice at a local college, sharing her decades of experience in the field with those just beginning a lifetime of service in the field of law and justice.

I congratulate her on her many years of commitment to public safety, and wish her a retirement filled with health, happiness and dreams come true.

HONORING COMMISSIONER DARRYL D. PERRYMAN FROM CAMDEN, ALABAMA

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join The National Organization of Black County Officials, Inc (NOBCO) in honoring an outstanding leader in Alabama's Third Congressional District. On April 26th, Commissioner Darryl D. Perryman from Camden, AL, received the award for Outstanding County Official 2002 by NOBCO.

NOBCO Chairman Webster Guillory presented the award to Perryman during its Eighteenth Annual Economic Development Conference held in Biloxi, MS. When asked about his reward, Mr. Perryman humbly replied that he was in the business of helping people and doing the duties of an elected official.

I feel that it is necessary to recognize the success of our public officials in order to encourage future leaders of Alabama and the United States; therefore, I stand up before the United States Congress and America today to congratulate Mr. Perryman on his success as a public servant of Alabama and to thank him for all he has done for the great state of Alabama and its Third Congressional District.

MEDICATION ERROR PREVENTION ACT OF 2002

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, in late 1999, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a major report on medical mistakes entitled "To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health Care System." This eye-opening study found that errors by health care professionals may result in the deaths of between 44,000 and 98,000 people in the United States every year, and injure countless others. Shockingly, more people die

from avoidable medical errors each year than from highway accidents, breast cancer, or AIDS.

Congress reacted swiftly to the IOM report. Some members of the House and Senate, including myself, introduced bills to implement the report's recommendations, and hearings on medical errors were held in various committees. But Congress sometimes has a short attention span. Despite the flurry of activity at the beginning of 2000, by the close of the session other health care debates had crowded out the medical error issue and no further action was taken on medical errors.

We cannot let another year go by without doing something about medical errors; therefore, I am reintroducing a medical errors bill and this time I plan to see it through to enactment. If the IOM estimate of the fatalities that result from medical errors is remotely close to accurate, Congress cannot wait another year to act.

According to the IOM, most medical errors do not result from individual recklessness, but from basic flaws in the way hospitals and other health care systems are organized. For example, deadly mistakes have resulted from stocking the patient-care units in hospitals with certain full-strength drugs that are toxic unless diluted. Confusion over similarly-named drugs is another major cause of medical mistakes: studies have shown, for instance, that confusion over the similarly-named drugs "Cefuroxime" and "Cefotaxime" accounted for numerous errors in the administration of these drugs.

Other errors result from the increased complexity and specialization of health care treatment. When a patient is treated by different doctors for different ailments, a particular practitioner may not have complete information about all treatments the patient is receiving, and may prescribe medication that is incompatible with other medications the patient is taking.

In recommending ways to reduce errors, the IOM focused on the need to encourage efficient and comprehensive reporting systems so that health care professionals can benefit from the experiences and "best practices" of their colleagues. Other sectors of the American economy have established coordinated safety programs that collect and analyze accident trends—such programs are commonplace, for example, in the transportation field. Yet there are few centralized systems for gathering and disseminating information on medical errors. For this reason, in my legislation, I specifically advocate for the use of MedMARx—a national, Internet-accessible reporting system designed to reduce medication errors in hospitals. This system allows hospitals to anonymously and voluntarily report, track, and monitor their medication errors, to identify trends, and to pinpoint problem areas. In order for systems like MedMARx to become successful though, participating hospitals and health care professionals must know that they can report problems encountered in clinical practice without endangering their careers. But according to the IOM, a major obstacle to the full implementation of medical error reporting programs is the threat that the reports themselves will be disclosed in civil litigation.

Naturally, hospitals are reluctant to generate documents that will be used against them in adversarial proceedings, so IOM called for enactment of an evidentiary privilege in federal

law against the disclosure of information provided to medical error reporting systems. In the legislation, I would protect the confidentiality of data on medical mistakes where the information is collected and analyzed solely for the purpose of improving safety and quality. Without this protection, hospitals and health care professionals fear that information reported might ultimately be subpoenaed and used in lawsuits against them, thereby discouraging their participation.

The time to act is now. Patients are literally killed by medical errors every day, yet Congress has not done anything to ensure that the IOM recommendations that could significantly reduce these tragic mistakes are signed into law. Working together, we can reduce medical errors and improve the quality of patient care in the United States.

HONORING WORK DONE BY PARTICIPANTS IN STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING AT UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this spring at the University of Vermont. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

UNDERAGE DRINKING

APRIL 8, 2002

MATT ALDEN. Good morning. Thank you, Congressman Sanders, for this opportunity. As I stand before you today, first I'd like to share a few facts about underage drinking.

According to the 2001 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 69 percent of Vermont students have consumed alcohol. 58 percent of Vermont seniors have had at least one alcoholic beverage in the past month. More importantly, one-third of our Vermont eighth-graders have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days. One out of four Vermont seniors binge-drink monthly, meaning they have consumed more than five drinks within a two-hour timeframe. 32 percent of Vermont seniors ride with a driver who has been drinking. 50 percent of young adult crashes in Vermont were alcohol-related, and half of those who died had been drinking. According to the 1999 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, half the Vermont seniors are sexually active. This may not seem relevant, but one-third had consumed alcohol before engaging in such activities. Underaged drinking costs society \$216 per man, woman and child in America, so therefore, we are not only losing human lives, we are also incurring more and more debt because of this problem. And lastly, according to the Mother's Against Drunk Driving national survey, approximately 100,000 American deaths were alcohol-related. This is two times more than the population of Vermont.

As you can see, Vermont really has a problem with underaged drinking. Today I propose three solutions that will help Vermont's problem. My first two solutions come from the Vermont Youth Summit to Prevent Underaged Drinking. This was the first statewide summit held in America. Myself