

offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3880, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement today, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SCLERODERMA

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 320) expressing the sense of Congress regarding Scleroderma, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. CON. RES. 320

*Whereas scleroderma is a debilitating and potentially fatal autoimmune disease with a broad range of symptoms which may be either localized or systemic;*

*Whereas scleroderma may attack vital internal organs, including the heart, esophagus, lungs, and kidneys, and may do so without causing any external symptoms;*

*Whereas more than 300,000 people in the United States suffer from scleroderma;*

*Whereas the symptoms of scleroderma include hardening and thickening of the skin, swelling, disfigurement of the hands, spasms of blood vessels causing severe discomfort in the fingers and toes, weight loss, joint pain, difficulty swallowing, extreme fatigue, and ulcerations on the fingertips which are slow to heal;*

*Whereas people with advanced scleroderma may be unable to perform even the simplest tasks;*

*Whereas 80 percent of the people suffering from scleroderma are women between the ages of 25 and 55;*

*Whereas scleroderma is the 5th leading cause of death among all autoimmune diseases for women who are 65 years old or younger;*

*Whereas the wide range of symptoms and localized and systemic variations of scleroderma make it difficult to diagnose;*

*Whereas the average diagnosis of scleroderma is made 5 years after the onset of symptoms;*

*Whereas the cause of scleroderma is still unknown and there is no known cure; and*

*Whereas the estimated annual direct and indirect costs of scleroderma in the United States are \$1,500,000,000: Now, therefore, be it*

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*

*That it is the sense of the Congress that—*

*(1) private organizations and health care providers should be recognized for their efforts to promote awareness of and research on scleroderma;*

*(2) the people of the United States, including the medical community, should make themselves aware of the symptoms of scleroderma and contribute to the fight against scleroderma;*

*(3) the National Institutes of Health should continue to take a leadership role in research efforts regarding the fight against scleroderma and should allow for broad dissemination of the information learned from such research; and*

*(4) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should consider additional methods to improve disease surveillance of scleroderma.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matter on House Concurrent Resolution 320.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is considering today House Concurrent Resolution 320, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) to raise awareness about a terrible disease, Scleroderma. House Concurrent Resolution 320 was reported favorably by the Committee on Energy and Commerce last week, and I encourage my colleagues to express their support for the resolution on the floor today.

Over 100,000 Americans are affected by Scleroderma, a chronic connective tissue disease that is debilitating and potentially fatal. Scleroderma is actually a symptom of a group of rare diseases that involve the abnormal growth of connective tissue.

Scleroderma is derived from the Greek word sclerosis, literally meaning hard skin. The symptoms include hardening and thickening of the skin, swelling and disfigurement of the hands, weight loss, joint pain, difficulty swallowing, as well as extreme fatigue.

With this wide range of symptoms, scleroderma is often difficult to diagnose. For some patients, these diseases cause hard, tight skin; for others, the problem is much greater, affecting blood vessels and internal organs like the heart, lungs, and kidneys.

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Scleroderma affects people of all races and ethnic groups, men, women and children. For some Americans affected by scleroderma, recovery comes with time. For many others, there is no treatment that controls or stops the progression effectively. While scientists at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases continue to learn more about scleroderma, unfortunately, they do not know exactly what causes scleroderma, and there is still no cure.

The resolution before us today recognizes the work of private organizations and health care providers to raise awareness about scleroderma and encourages Americans to learn more about scleroderma. The resolution encourages the National Institutes of Health to continue to play a leadership role in discovering new treatments and disseminating information learned from their research. Finally, the resolution encourages the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to consider how to improve disease surveillance of autoimmune diseases, including scleroderma.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, we are considering an important resolution today sponsored by my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ). I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of this legislation, which is intended to raise the profile of scleroderma, a debilitating autoimmune disease that affects around a third of a million Americans every year.

Diagnosis can be difficult in the early stages. Many symptoms of scleroderma are common to or may overlap those of other diseases. The disease is highly individualized. While scleroderma can show mild symptoms in some, it can also deliver a more life-threatening prognosis in others.

Scleroderma can show symptoms on the surface as in a skin rash or disguise itself by affecting the organs, the muscles or blood vessels. Diagnosis can require consultation with rheumatologists and dermatologists, in addition to blood studies and specialized tests depending on which organs are actually affected.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce last week passed this resolution unanimously. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that my bill, the Support Scleroderma Research bill (H. Con. Res. 320) has been scheduled to be considered in the suspension calendar today. The speed with which this bipartisan bill has traveled from the committee mark-up to Floor consideration is a testament to the importance of this bi-partisan and non-controversial measure.

Scleroderma is a chronic, often progressive autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues. The disease can manifest itself in two forms: localized scleroderma, affecting the skin and underlying tissue and systemic scleroderma, also known as systemic sclerosis, a potentially life-threatening disease that attacks internal organs including the lungs, heart, kidneys, esophagus and gastrointestinal tract.

The wide range of symptoms and localized and systemic variations of the disease make it especially hard to diagnose. In fact, the average diagnosis is made five years after the onset of symptoms. Once diagnosed, however, people with this incurable disease can only look forward to symptomatic relief.

More than 300,000 Americans suffer from scleroderma. More than 80 percent of them are women between the ages of 25 and 65 years old. Scleroderma is the 5th leading cause of death among all autoimmune diseases for women under 65 years of age. The estimated annual direct and indirect costs of scleroderma in the United States are \$1,500,000,000. In spite of these statistic and figures, we still don't know what causes scleroderma and we have yet to find a cure for it.

My bill seeks to move a step closer to finding a cure by bringing awareness to scleroderma and expressing our solid support for Federal efforts to fight this disease. As marked up last Thursday by the full Energy and Commerce Committee, this bill, among other things, expresses the sense of Congress that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) should continue to take a leadership role in research efforts regarding the fight against scleroderma and should allow for broad dissemination of the information learned from such research. The also believe that the Centers for Disease Control can, should, and must play a role regarding methods to improve disease surveillance of scleroderma.

Ideally, I believe that NIH should continue to play a leadership role in the fight of scleroderma by working more closely with private organizations and researchers and by funding research projects regarding scleroderma conducted by private organizations and researchers. I also urge NIH to hold a scleroderma symposium to bring together distinguished scientists and clinicians from across the U.S. to determine the most important priorities in scleroderma research and to support the formation of small workgroups composed of experts from diverse but related scientific fields to study this disease.

I would like to thank Chairman TAUZIN and Ranking Member DINGELL for their strong support for this resolution and their fast scheduling of it. I would also like to thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Congressman CHRISTOPHER SMITH of New Jersey, who has been a consistent and strong supporter of all initiatives on behalf of finding a cure for scleroderma, including an increase in Federal funding for research on scleroderma as being conducted by the National Institutes of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Skin Disease. I would also like to recognize the hard work of my Legislative Assistant, Annie Grace Toro, on behalf of this bill.

Finally, I would like to thank the Scleroderma Foundation and the Scleroderma Research Foundation for their dedication and hard work on behalf of all individuals suffering from scleroderma.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 320, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 513, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3880, by the yeas and nays; and

H. Con. Res. 320, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

#### RECOGNIZING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND TIMELINESS OF UNITED STATES-IRELAND BUSINESS SUMMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 513, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.R. 513, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 372, nays 0, not voting 60, as follows:

[Roll No. 381]

YEAS—372

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Andrews  
Armey  
Baca  
Bachus  
Baird  
Baker  
Baldacci  
Baldwin  
Ballenger  
Barcia  
Barr  
Bartlett  
Barton  
Bass  
Becerra  
Bentsen  
Bereuter  
Berkley  
Berman  
Berry  
Biggert  
Billakis  
Bishop  
Blagojevich  
Blumenauer  
Blunt  
Boehner  
Bonilla

Bono  
Boozman  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boyd  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Brown (OH)  
Brown (SC)  
Bryant  
Burr  
Burton  
Buyer  
Camp  
Cannon  
Cantor  
Capito  
Capps  
Capuano  
Carson (IN)  
Carson (OK)  
Castle  
Chabot  
Chambliss  
Clay  
Clayton  
Clyburn  
Coble  
Combest  
Condit  
Conyers  
Cooksey

Costello  
Coyne  
Cramer  
Crane  
Crenshaw  
Cubin  
Culberson  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (FL)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis, Jo Ann  
Deal  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeLay  
DeMint  
Deutsch  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle  
Dreier  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Edwards  
Ehlers  
Emerson  
Engel  
English  
Eshoo

Etheridge  
Evans  
Everett  
Farr  
Fattah  
Ferguson  
Filner  
Flake  
Fletcher  
Foley  
Forbes  
Ford  
Fossella  
Frank  
Frelinghuysen  
Frost  
Gallegly  
Ganske  
Gekas  
Gephardt  
Gilchrest  
Gillmor  
Gilman  
Gonzalez  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Gordon  
Goss  
Graham  
Granger  
Graves  
Green (TX)  
Green (WI)  
Greenwood  
Grucci  
Gutierrez  
Hall (TX)  
Hansen  
Harman  
Hart  
Hastings (FL)  
Hayes  
Hayworth  
Hefley  
Herger  
Hill  
Hilliard  
Hinchey  
Hinojosa  
Hobson  
Hoeffel  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hooley  
Horn  
Hostettler  
Houghton  
Hoyer  
Hulshof  
Hunter  
Hyde  
Inslee  
Isakson  
Israel  
Issa  
Istook  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
Jenkins  
John  
Johnson (CT)  
Johnson (IL)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (OH)  
Jones, Jo Ann  
Kanjorski  
Keller  
Kelly  
Kennedy (MN)  
Kerns  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind (WI)  
Kingston  
Kirk  
Knollenberg  
Kolbe  
Kucinich  
LaFalce

LaHood  
Lampson  
Langevin  
Lantos  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latham  
Leach  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Lofgren  
Lowey  
Lucas (KY)  
Lucas (OK)  
Luther  
Maloney (CT)  
Manzullo  
Markey  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (MO)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHugh  
McInnis  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
McKinney  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Menendez  
Mica  
Millender-  
McDonald  
Miller, Dan  
Miller, Gary  
Mollohan  
Moore  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)  
Murtha  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nethercutt  
Ney  
Northup  
Norwood  
Nussle  
Oberstar  
Olver  
Ortiz  
Osborne  
Ose  
Otter  
Oxley  
Pallone  
Pascarelli  
Pastor  
Paul  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Pence  
Peterson (MN)  
Peterson (PA)  
Petri  
Phelps  
Pickering  
Pitts  
Platts  
Pombo  
Pomeroy  
Portman  
Price (NC)  
Pryce (OH)  
Putnam  
Quinn  
Radanovich  
Rahall  
Ramstad  
Rangel  
Regula  
Rehberg  
Reyes

Reynolds  
Rivers  
Rodriguez  
Roemer  
Rogers (KY)  
Rogers (MI)  
Rohrabacher  
Ross  
Rothman  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Rush  
Ryan (WI)  
Ryun (KS)  
Sabo  
Sanchez  
Sandlin  
Sawyer  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrock  
Scott  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Shaw  
Shays  
Sherman  
Sherwood  
Shimkus  
Shows  
Shuster  
Simmons  
Simpson  
Skeen  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Solis  
Spratt  
Stark  
Stearns  
Stenholm  
Strickland  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Tancredo  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Tauzin  
Taylor (MS)  
Terry  
Thomas  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thornberry  
Thune  
Thurman  
Tiahrt  
Tiberi  
Tierney  
Toomey  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Udall (NM)  
Upton  
Visclosky  
Vitter  
Walden  
Wamp  
Watkins (OK)  
Watson (CA)  
Watt (NC)  
Watts (OK)  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Weldon (FL)  
Weldon (PA)  
Weller  
Wexler  
Whitfield  
Wicker  
Wilson (NM)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)

#### NOT VOTING—60

Akin  
Barrett  
Boehlert  
Bonior  
Borski  
Brown (FL)  
Callahan  
Calvert  
Cardin  
Clement  
Collins  
Cox