

we expect this doctor to treat the patient and to be responsible in prescribing medication.

The NASPER Act would take the guess work out of this situation. With a national electronic data bank, the doctor could simply access prescription information and determine what, if any, medication the patient should be given. The bill is consistent with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the patient would have to give his written consent before the doctor could access the data bank. Only the doctor or pharmacist who is currently treating the patient could request the information. Each request would have to be certified by the treating practitioner or pharmacist that the information is necessary for the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical treatment or to evaluate the need for such treatment for a bona fide current patient.

It is also important to note that as the population in our country ages, there will be more and more people who visit multiple doctors for various treatments. The NASPER Act would help doctors coordinate the medication their patient is receiving from other practitioners so that the patient does not experience an adverse medication reaction.

Currently 15 States have some type of Intra-state Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Two additional States are currently in the pilot stage of implementing such a program. A May 2002 General Accounting Office (GAO) study found that in States where a PDMP was in place, "the presence of a PDMP helps a State reduce its illegal drug diversion . . ." The same report also states that "the existence of a PDMP within a State, however, appears to increase drug diversion activities in contiguous non-PDMP States. When States begin to monitor drugs, drug diversion activities tend to spill across boundaries to non-PDMP States." In other words, those who want to scam the system know that they will have a difficult time doing so within a particular State, so they just move the problem across State lines.

The State of Kentucky has one of the most effective PDMPs in the Nation. However, there are a number of reports that show drug diversion problems, particularly in the area of oxycontin abuse, have increased in the contiguous States of Tennessee, West Virginia, and Virginia due to the presence of Kentucky's PDMP. I believe the only way we can truly address this problem is by coordinating our efforts across State lines.

The NASPER Act builds on the work that has already begun in the States. Under this legislation, individual States are permitted to set up their own PDMP to the exclusion of the Federal program created by the act, as long as the States submit the information required by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the Federal data bank. However, the NASPER Act recognizes that if we are truly going to address this problem, we need a Federal role to ensure that the States will be able to share the information across State lines. An interstate system would allow doctors to get the information they need to better serve their patients.

I would like to thank Chairman TAUZIN and the staff of the Energy and Commerce Committee for their assistance on this issue. The chairman has been very attentive to concerns that I and others have raised and I look forward to continuing to work with him on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, advances in technology have revolutionized health care delivery in this Nation. Isn't it time that we used this technology to better serve our citizens in the area of prescription drugs? I would ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

#### HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES: A CELEBRATION

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to appropriately draw attention to the contributions of our nation's prestigious Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and their proud tradition of educating and preparing African-Americans for the past 166 years.

This year, we celebrate these universities the week of September 14 to September 20, and I feel honored to participate in such a noble cause.

Over 100 Historically Black Colleges and Universities have been established in the United States. These institutions comprise only 3 percent of all centers for higher education in the United States, but account for 30 percent of bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans each year.

I am very proud that Bowie State University, the oldest of Maryland's four HBCUs is located in my district and I am privileged to represent the students, faculty and staff members who make great things happen on this campus. (There are three other HBCUs in MD—Morgan State in Baltimore City, Coppin State in Baltimore and the University of Maryland—Eastern Shore). Bowie State is the descendant of the first school opened by the Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of Colored People in 1865. BSU rightfully boasts a number of significant and praiseworthy statistics:

First nationally in graduating African Americans with master's degrees in computer science and information sciences;

Second nationally in graduating African Americans with master's degrees in psychology;

Third nationally in graduating African Americans with master's degrees in communications; Eighth, nationally in graduating minorities with master's degrees in psychology;

Fourth among HBCUs in granting master's degrees of all disciplines;

Fourth in extramural funding in the University System of Maryland (USM) with the highest percentage of increase in the System (48.1 percent) for the 2000–2001 fiscal year.

Ninth nationally in graduating all minorities with master's degrees in communications;

Thirteenth nationally in graduating African Americans with master's degrees;

Additionally, in 1995 BSU won an 11-year, \$27 million award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration/National Science Foundation to become one of the six national Model Institutions of excellence in science, engineering, and mathematics.

HBCUs provide a vital role in educating the next generation of our nation's leaders by extending to our students access to the best op-

portunities for personal and professional success. Most important, these schools champion the cause of equal access to education, access that is critically important during a time when fiscal constraints have burdened our state and ultimately our families, making affording higher education even more difficult for many Americans.

In fact, the Maryland Higher Education Commission recently announced that the number of Maryland college students on a waiting list for state-sponsored financial aid increased almost 50 percent this fall—at the same time, tuition and the number of college applicants has increased. Last school year 133,692 Marylanders filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the nationwide form that determines aid eligibility. That was up from 118,537 applications from Maryland in the 2001–2002 school year, a 12 percent increase.

Many historically black institutions are facing similar financial challenges, and regrettably, for some, closing has become a reality. The federal government must realize that Historically Black Colleges do not simply provide educational opportunities and benefits to African Americans, but educating our nation's young people, regardless of race, improves the aptitude of all of our people. The entire country has gained from these fine institutions of education, and with the help of the federal government, the youth of our nation will continue to be well educated for generations to come.

Congress and the President can acknowledge this by adequately funding the programs that support the efforts of these important institutions. The House of Representatives included \$224 million in funding for the Strengthening Historically Black Colleges program and the Strengthening HBCU Graduate Institutions for fiscal year 2004. This is a \$10 million increase in funding from last year, and as a member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, I will continue to support these programs and will fight for increased funding to help them continue their mission and tradition of educating African-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me this week in saluting the contributions of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which have been educating students for more than 100 years. I am grateful to the nation's HBCUs for their commitment to academic excellence for all students, including low-income and educationally disadvantaged students, and am especially proud of the four HBCUs in the state of Maryland.

#### RECOGNITION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY, INCORPORATED

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Electric Energy, Incorporated located in Joppa, Illinois. Electric Energy Incorporated has done an excellent job of providing energy to southern Illinois for the past fifty years.

I am very proud to have Electric Energy, Incorporated located in the 19th Congressional

District of Illinois. Construction first began on the Electric Energy, Incorporated Joppa location on February 15, 1951. Since the first synchronization on April 10, 1953, Electric Energy, Incorporated has been producing coal generated energy to serve the needs of southern Illinois.

I am proud to represent Electric Energy, Incorporated and to share in this special anniversary with them. I thank them for all they do to provide energy to southern Illinois and this great nation and wish them many successes in the years to come. Congratulations!

A TRIBUTE TO COACH DON  
WATSON

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Coach Don Watson. Don will be inducted into the Hinsdale Central Hall of Fame during a dinner in Hinsdale on Friday, October 3rd, and his former swimmers are planning a reception and reunion to honor him on Saturday evening, October 4th.

The sport of swimming has been uniquely woven into Donald Dale Watson's life. Coach, mentor and friend, this unique man has been dedicated to pursuing excellence in the sport of swimming for over 60 years. Don is being honored at a reception organized by his former swimmers and staff on October 4, 2003 in Hinsdale, Illinois. He will be accompanied by his family—wife, Jan, daughter, Ann, and son, Jon.

Don first became interested in swimming at the age of 13 and elected to join a swim team that practiced at the local YMCA in St. Louis, Missouri. Back in the 1940's swimming was not a popular sport. The decision to join a swim team would require hard work and dedication from the young athlete. Without any support from family or friends, Don was required to travel across town via bus to attend daily practices. Many evenings he would arrive home long after dark. Fortunately, his hard work and diligence were rewarded with a trip to the national YMCA senior championships where he was awarded the senior champion medal. In 1946, as a 14-year old high school student, he qualified to attend the Olympic Trials, but unfortunately missed earning a spot on the U.S. Olympic team by 0.00001 of a second. Once again, his hard work was recognized and he was awarded as the "1946 Olympic Trials Outstanding Young Athlete". Missing a spot on the Olympic team did not discourage Don, and he continued to train hard throughout his remaining high school years. He showed significant ability and was given a full athletic scholarship to attend the University of Iowa in Iowa City, where he twice earned NCAA Collegiate All-American honors.

Upon graduation from Iowa, Don married fellow swimmer, Janet Louise Watson, but was soon called to serve his country in the Korean War. After serving as a Navy corpsman on an aircraft carrier for three years, Don returned home and accepted a position as an assistant swimming coach at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, where he was blessed to work under the direction of his

mentor, Coach James "Doc" Councilman. While coaching at Indiana, Don obtained a masters degree in physical education. He then accepted a coaching position at Proviso East High School in Maywood, Illinois. Although the school's swimming program had been virtually non-existent, after three short years of dedication and countless hours of practice, Don led Proviso East to an impressive eighth place finish in the Illinois State meet.

In 1963, Don accepted a position as assistant swimming coach at Hinsdale Central High School in Hinsdale, Illinois. This decision would alter and mold the lives of many young swimmers in the Hinsdale community. After serving as assistant coach for two years, Don was promoted to head coach and the dynasty of Hinsdale swimming began. It was not long before people realized that this special and quiet man had an extraordinary gift for coaching and encouraging young swimmers. Don would go on to amass an amazing record of unmatched success in high school swimming.

As Head Swimming Coach at Hinsdale Central High School over the period 1965–1978, Don's coaching record is one of the most successful in American history. From 1967 to 1978, his Hinsdale Central teams won 12 consecutive Illinois state high school swimming and diving championship titles and achieved a phenomenal dual meet record of 163 wins, 3 losses. His team won the National Interscholastic High School championship title in 1970, when he was selected as the United States Swimming Coach of the Year. Don coached four Olympians. His swimmers set seven individual or relay world records. He was selected as the National Interscholastic Swimming Coach of the Year in 1977. The list of athletic accomplishments attributed to Don's leadership is nearly endless.

In 1978, Don retired from coaching at Hinsdale Central. After spending the majority of his life around a swimming pool, he was not ready to throw in the towel and escape the chlorine gas. Don accepted a non-coaching position at the University of Texas at Austin where he continues to serve as Director of the Texas Swimming Center, managing the physical facility as well as collegiate, national and international swimming events. In 2000, he received the Frank Erwin Award for his outstanding achievements and contributions to the sport of swimming in the State of Texas. At the age of 73, Don continues to swim daily. He especially enjoys working out with notables like Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, and federal judge Sam Sparks, who frequently swim at the Center.

As incredible and important as his coaching accomplishments are, Don is fondly remembered by his former staff, friends, and swimmers as a man deeply dedicated to the character development of boys and girls, young men and women. Besides pouring countless hours into their development as athletes, Don diligently invested into building each individual's sense of commitment, sacrifice, and hard work. Through their commitment to family, community and country, Don's many proteges continue to ably contribute to the quality of life throughout our nation.

Don Watson and his family also contributed greatly to my life. I was a graduate student at the University of Missouri, Columbia when Don visited our swimming facility. I was an assistant to Coach Tom Harabediaw. Don offered me a position at Hinsdale High School

as an assistant swim coach. His leadership and trust in his students garnered high school All Americans, state championships, and Olympic gold and silver medalists. I was made to feel part of his family and given a lot of responsibility as a young coach. I only left to join naval aviation and fight in the Vietnam War. Much of what Don Watson taught me about team work, caring for the people you work with, and the drive to win helped me both in the Navy and now as a U.S. Congressman. It pains me to not be able to join this celebration of a great man.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VOTING  
RIGHTS PETITION TO CONGRESS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Constitution Day to submit to Congress a petition from nearly 1,000 District of Columbia residents for voting rights in the Congress. I commend Joseph N. Grano, the leader of the Voting Rights Petition who has gathered the signatures of prominent Washingtonians contained in the petition. Full democracy and voting rights for the District of Columbia residents have been my chief goals since I was first elected to Congress. Joseph Grano has furthered the goal for DC residents through this petition.

Last year in the 107th Congress, a 9–0 Senate Committee vote sent my DC voting rights bill, No Taxation Without Representation, to the Senate floor for the first time in 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in acknowledging that the denial of full congressional voting rights is a denial of fundamental rights to District of Columbia residents.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VOTING RIGHTS  
PETITION TO CONGRESS, 2001–2002

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America: We, the undersigned residents of Washington, DC and citizens of the United States, respectfully petition for representation in Congress as is duly granted to all citizens residing in the fifty States.—Washington, DC, February 2, 2001–June 14, 2002.

PETITIONERS  
*Elected Officials*

Delegate, U.S. House of Representatives: Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Mayor, District of Columbia: Anthony A. Williams. Council of the District of Columbia: Linda W. Cropp, Chairman; Harold Brazil, At Large; David A. Catania, At Large; Phil Mendelson, At Large; Carol Schwartz, At Large; Jim Graham, Ward 1; Jack Evans, Ward 2; Kathleen Patterson, Ward 3; Adrian Fenty, Ward 4; Vincent B. Orange, Sr., Ward 5; Sharon Ambrose, Ward 6; Kevin P. Chavous, Ward 7; Sandy Allen, Ward 8.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners: Jacqueline Arguelles, 1A01; Mack A. James, 1A04; Regina Upchurch, 1A08; Lawrence T. Guyot, Jr., 1B04;

Statehood Delegation to Congress: Florence H. Pendleton, Senator; Paul Strauss, Senator; Ray Browne, Representative.

Board of Education of the District of Columbia: Peggy Cooper Cafritz, President; Julie Mikuta, District 1; Dwight E. Singleton, District 2; Tommy Wells, District 3; William Lockridge, District 4. Theodore B.