

preserve the quality of life for their citizens and still grow in a positive, more sustainable and livable fashion. It is our obligation as federal officials to make sure the federal role is similarly positive, complementary and preserves quality of life.

OVERVIEW—URBAN SPRAWL AND SMART GROWTH STUDY ACT

SUMMARY

Federal actions and projects can significantly impact the ability of States, Tribes and local governments to plan for and manage growth and urban sprawl. The Urban Sprawl and Smart Growth Study Act would help address these impacts in two ways:

(1) Direct the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to review how well federal agencies are considering the impacts their actions have on urban growth and sprawl; and

(2) Require Federal agencies to give greater weight to the input of state, local and tribal officials in considering these impacts.

BACKGROUND

One mechanism to address the federal role in sprawl is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Act requires federal agencies to analyze the social and environmental impacts of major actions and to take timely steps to avoid or minimize these impacts. A September 2000 GAO report, "Community Development: Local Growth Issues—Federal Opportunities and Challenges" identified this mechanism and noted that federal agencies could do a better job of reviewing projects for sprawl impacts.

What the bill does:

**Smart Growth Study:** The bill would require the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to review environmental documents of at least 15 federal agencies and examine how well they are considering urban sprawl and growth impacts of their projects.

**Public Participation:** In conducting this review, CEQ would be required to hold at least 5 public hearings throughout the country to gather public input on the adequacy of the review of growth and sprawl impacts of federal action or projects.

**Smart Growth Report:** CEQ would be required to issue a report to Congress on its findings and make recommendations on how federal agencies could do better in incorporating potential sprawl impacts in environmental reviews.

**Comments on Sprawl:** Agencies would be required to include written comments of sprawl impacts of federal actions or projects as part of Federal environmental documents.

**State, Local and Tribal Governmental Consultation:** In preparing environmental documents, federal agencies would notify affected state, local and tribal governments, who could then request that the agency conduct a more thorough environmental analysis under NEPA if the project would have an effect on sprawl. Federal agencies would be required to give great weight to such requests and document their decisions in writing.

What the bill does NOT do:

Amend or alter NEPA: The bill does not amend or otherwise alter NEPA and the rules and procedures adopted under this law.

Address the Totality of the Federal Role on Sprawl and Growth: The bill does not attempt to address the full range of federal policies and actions that can have effects on growth and sprawl; it focuses on the environmental analyses that are required under NEPA.

Overturn any particular Federal Action or Project: The bill does not overturn past Federal decisions, but would increase the coordination between federal actions and local efforts so that communities can preserve the quality of life for their citizens and still

grow in a positive, more sustainable and livable fashion.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPECIAL CHILDREN INCORPORATED

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Special Children Incorporated of Belleville, Illinois.

Special Children Incorporated is a not-for-profit organization which began in 1953 as "The Parent Group for Mentally Retarded Children, Incorporated", when a group of parents came together to address their concerns over a lack of appropriate education for children with special needs. After developing and holding classes in local churches and homes, a permanent site was constructed in 1971 at 1306 Wabash Avenue in Belleville. A 10,000 square foot addition was completed in 1993 to meet the expanding needs of the agency. This building was constructed completely from the fundraising efforts of parents and community volunteers.

Special Children, Inc. continues to provide services for individuals in the St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph and Madison county area. The mission of Special Children, Inc., is to provide educational and early intervention services to children developmentally and or physically disabled from birth through 21 years of age and to provide education and support to the parent/guardian in hopes that these children can continue to reside in the most supportive and least restrictive environments.

Mamie O. Stookey School is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education as a Non-Public Facility in the State of Illinois to educate trainable mentally handicapped and severe profound handicapped students. Special Children develops an individual education plan, which provides a comprehensive assessment of the student's health, education, and social needs. An interdisciplinary team trained to provide specialized pediatric treatment is provided, as is a low pupil-teacher ratio. Special Children also provides for an adaptive physical education program including swimming, bowling, and adaptive therapescrotoscrotoutic playground. Daily progress reports to the family/guardian of each student are given as well as linkage and coordination to other community resources.

The program has eight self-contained classrooms that provide individualized instruction in the area of motor skills, language and communications, socialization; self help skills of daily living, and pre-vocational activities. The program focuses on a developmental curriculum, which include a variety of support services; Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy consultation, adaptive physical education, social services, and nursing.

The family has the primary responsibility for the child's early learning environment. What happens in these early years is crucial to the child's success during the school year. Born of this belief and commitment to help parents of young developmentally delayed children do their job more effectively and enjoyably, the

PRIME/CARE program started in 1974. An Individual Family Service Plan (I.F.S.P.) provides a comprehensive assessment of the child and family's health as well as their education and social needs. An interdisciplinary team has also been trained to provide specialized pediatric treatment and case management. Special Children follows an interagency approach to treatment designed to enhance coordination and ease the transition between medical, social, and educational services in the community.

Special Children provides for comprehensive developmental assessment at referral and also schedules assessments by other professionals for coordination and individualized planning. They provide progress review and a program update every three months. All assessed, but not eligible, children are referred to appropriate community resources. Special Children Service teams represent these area disciplines; Special Instruction, Speech and Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Service Coordination

Additional Special Children Services include; PRIME (home based)—Weekly home visits, CARE (toddler Classroom), Parent Support Groups and a Parent Education Group. Special Children Inc. also serves Newborns Through Two Year Olds, primarily infants at risk for developmental disabilities as the result of prenatal, perinatal and neonatal factors; such as: severe respiratory distress, prematurity, seizures and feeding problems. Special Children also treats infants and toddlers with diagnosed medical disorders such as; Rubella, Tuberos Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Microcephaly and Down's syndrome. Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers with delayed development (25 percent or more) in one or more areas are also treated for analysis in: cognition, expressive language, receptive language, fine motor development, gross motor development and affective/social/emotional development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th Anniversary of Special Children Incorporated and recognize the work that they do in the community to benefit the health, safety and welfare of children.

THE DIETARY SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION ACT AND THE EPHEDRINE ALKALOID CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am re-introducing two bills that address an important public health issue: the safety of dietary supplements. Walk into any neighborhood drug store or discount store and you will find yourself surrounded by a variety of dietary supplements. Their labels tout promises ranging from "safe and easy" weight loss to increased muscle gain to lower cholesterol. However, dietary supplements are not subject to rigorous safety or efficacy standards and face only limited regulatory oversight under federal law.

My bills will protect consumers and increase the flow of information to the public. They will

give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority it needs to make informative and scientific decisions about the safety of dietary supplements.

The Dietary Supplement Information Act requires manufacturers, producers and distributors of dietary supplements to register with the FDA. They would be required to submit all serious adverse event reports to the FDA within 15 days. Supplement manufacturers and the FDA will work as partners to investigate and analyze these reports. To make sure that consumers know how to report an incident to the FDA directly, my legislation will require the FDA's MedWatch phone number and website to be printed on all dietary supplement product labels. If the FDA determines that a specific supplement may have serious health consequences, it can require the manufacturer to do a postmarket surveillance study to ensure that the product is safe.

Many of these dietary supplements contain ephedra, also commonly listed as ma-huang or ephedrine alkaloids. Sadly, a number of consumers, including some of my own constituents, have experienced adverse reactions after using ephedra-based supplements. Lured in by product claims of more energy, quick weight loss or improved athletic performance, consumers experienced depression, agitation, heart attacks, and strokes. In some cases, people have died after taking ephedra supplements. These severe effects demand increased public awareness, especially since the average customer profile includes young people.

The Ephedrine Alkaloid Consumer Protection Act gives consumers information about the potentially lethal side effects and drug interactions of ephedrine alkaloid products. First, it will require a standardized warning to be printed on the label. The bill will also make sure that consumers know how to report any concerns or adverse reactions by requiring the FDA's MedWatch phone number and website to be printed on the product label. Finally, the bill will protect our kids by prohibiting the sale of ephedrine to minors. No person under the age of 18 years old will be able to buy ephedrine products.

To ensure that this provision is enforced, products will be kept "behind the counter" so that sales personnel are more aware of the age restriction. Putting the product behind the counter will also make adults more aware of the risks associated with ephedra. If they have to ask for assistance to get the product, they will be more likely to read the warning label and talk to the pharmacist about possible side effects.

Since I first introduced these bills two years ago, momentum has clearly grown for improving consumer safety regarding ephedra. I have seen a growing number of organizations that are addressing the issue on their own. The American Medical Association and its Canadian counterpart recommend banning ephedra. The National Football League recently joined the ranks of the International Olympic Committee, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association in prohibiting ephedra use among their athletes.

Collaborating developments in the science community and courtrooms support these actions. A recent study conducted by the University of California at San Francisco reported that dietary supplements containing ephedra accounted for 64 percent of all adverse event reports related to dietary supplements. The emergence of "ephedra-free" products indi-

cates conflict within the industry, possibly a sign that the supplement industry is also slowly realizing the negative effects of ephedra. Allegations against ephedra supplement manufacturers include sloppy research practices, the omission or destruction of negative research data, study design violations, unreported adverse events, along with deception and fraud. In fact, last year a jury in Alabama awarded \$4.1 million to four people who suffered strokes or heart attacks after taking ephedra diet pills.

Despite the growing list of allies and evidence, there is still much work left to do within our own communities. Earlier this year, I received a compelling letter from a young woman in San Diego. She said,

"Being a 23-year-old woman, I am exposed to hundreds of diet pills and the need to be thin. One of my dear friends had a stroke from taking an over-the-counter diet pill. She went from a coma, to a vegetable, graduated to a wheelchair and now walks with a cane one year later. She is unable to go to school or work and cannot function as a normal 23-year-old."

"These dietary supplements are dangerous and harmful. People do not realize the consequences of these magical pills. They are given the notion that they are going to become this "model-type image" from taking supplements, but the adverse effects of them outweigh any benefits."

It is heartbreaking to think of how an innocent purchase irrevocably changed this young woman's life. Ephedra has opened eyes about the need for regulation of the entire dietary supplement industry. Ephedra is a symptom, a deadly symptom, of a larger issue, which is the lack of regulatory control over a multibillion dollar industry.

A change in the current law is critically needed. The FDA must be allowed to collect and distribute accurate information about dietary supplements. At present, its hands are tied. I want to make it very clear that my legislation will not ban dietary supplements. Rather, they offer a common-sense approach to giving the FDA the authority to regulate the industry while maintaining freemarket access. Consumers have a right to know what they are putting into their bodies. We cannot continue to stand on the sidelines and watch them suffer serious medical consequences from these products. Our young people and loved ones are at risk.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in swiftly passing these two bills into law.

#### THE COURAGE TO DREAM

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, risk and danger are constant companions of progress. And last Saturday morning, we were reminded again that progress at times inflicts a painful price.

Fate has called the brave crew members of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* home, and, here on Earth, we maintain our faith that they have now begun a far better journey—one of our Creator's design.

Words are small comfort today to those closest to this tragedy, the families and friends of Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Illan Ramon. A grateful Nation

mourns their loss and honors their courage and sacrifice.

We also offer heartfelt condolences to those left behind, especially the twelve children who have lost a mother or father. We pray that time, and a recognition of this great mission, provide some comfort and help to heal this wound.

The history of America is marked not only by sacrifice in the service of others, but by a yearning to explore, to discover, to progress . . . from the first permanent settlers in the new world at Jamestown . . . to the expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark . . . to the Wright Brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk . . . to Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon a mere 66 years later.

The crew of the *Columbia* now joins that pantheon of American heroes who had the courage to dream, as well as the willingness to turn their vision into reality.

Although they traveled millions of miles in space, they sought answers to the questions that lie closest to the human heart.

The most fitting tribute that we can pay to their legacy is to fulfill this solemn pledge: We will continue the work that you have advanced.

And we will do so with the realization that it is our responsibility to determine the cause of this tragedy and to minimize the risk to those engaged in the exploration of space and the unknown.

Our Nation has always risen to a challenge and overcome adversity through perseverance.

That is a measure of our greatness. And, today, that is the calling that our national character commands us to undertake and continue.

#### COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing a bill to authorize a program to help states, local governments, and private groups protect open space while enabling ranchers and other private landowners to continue to use their lands for agriculture and other traditional uses.

The bill, entitled the "Cooperative Landscape Conservation Act," is based on provisions that were previously passed by the House as part of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) but on which the Senate did not complete action. It is also similar to a bill I introduced in the 107th Congress.

I think the program that this bill would establish would be good for the entire country and it would be particularly important for Colorado.

In Colorado, as in some other states, we have experienced rapid population growth. That brings with it rising land values and property taxes. This combination is putting ranchers and other landowners under increasing pressure to sell their lands for development. By selling conservation easements instead, they can lessen that pressure, capture much of the increased value of the land, and allow the land to continue to be used for traditional purposes.