

SMALLPOX VACCINE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives passed legislation authorizing a smallpox vaccine compensation program for first-responders. The legislation we passed today is an improvement over the legislation that the House rejected several weeks ago. Under the plan we passed today nurses, firefighters and other first-responders will not have to rush to be vaccinated in order to make an arbitrary deadline for compensation eligibility. First-responders who are permanently disabled as a result of the smallpox vaccine will receive a portion of their wages that is not subject to a lifetime cap. And first-responders who are out of work for more than ten days will receive reimbursement for lost wages from the first day of work that they missed.

These are important improvements. However, the program still falls short and I am disappointed that the Administration nickle-and-dimed first-responders throughout this process. The Republicans refused to guarantee these brave men and women who volunteer to take the smallpox vaccine to protect all of us in case of a bioterror attack at the same level of compensation that would be available to members of Congress if we are injured on the job. Nurses, firefighters, and police officers deserve a better law than this. Given that the risk of injury from the vaccine is several tens per million, and the Administration only expects to vaccinate several million, ensuring full and fair compensation would certainly have been affordable.

I want this program to work. I want first-responders to have adequate access to compensation so they feel comfortable about taking the smallpox vaccine. If this program is going to succeed, the Administration is going to have to make good on promises it made to us that it refused to put in the legislation. These promises include: assuring adequate funding so that states can provide appropriate education and screening of first-responders volunteering for the vaccine; indexing the annual cap on wage replacement to inflation; and allowing first-responders who are injured by the vaccine to deduct their compensation from their federal taxes. In response to concerns that the legislation does not allow for judicial review of compensation determinations, the Administration has said that the Secretary of Health and Human Services intends to run this program in a fair and generous way. Ensuring that these promises are fulfilled is a critical component of meeting that pledge.

I would like to thank Representative CAPPS, Representative DINGELL, Representative BROWN, Senator KENNEDY and others, as well as their staffs, for their commitment to this issue and for working with me for the last six months to improve this program so that first-responders will have some assurance that if they are injured by the smallpox vaccine, they will receive at least some measure of compensation.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW FISHER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Fisher, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in such scout activities as Camp Bartle and Philmont. Over the five years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 32 merit badges. Additionally, Andrew has held numerous leadership positions in his troop, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and Quartermaster. Andrew also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements with such awards as the Foxman in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, the World Conservation Award, and the 50 Miller Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Andrew prepared a landscaping and renovation project for a memorial to a fallen firefighter in Weston, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Fisher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLASS FROM
DULUTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2003, more than 1200 students from across the United States arrived in 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 U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by an act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from Duluth Central High School from Duluth will represent the State of Minnesota in this national event. These young scholars have worked conscientiously to reach the national finals by participating at local and statewide competitions. As a result of their experience they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The three-day We the People 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 are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

The We the People program provides curricula materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. The curricula not only enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, but it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop participatory skills necessary for students to become active, responsible citizens.

Independent studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) revealed 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." Another study by Richard Brody at Stanford University discovered that students involved in the We the People program develop greater commitment to democratic principles and values than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. Researchers at the Council for Basic Education noted,

"[T]eachers feel excited and renewed. . . . Students are enthusiastic about what they have been able to accomplish, especially in terms of their ability to carry out a reasoned argument. They have become energized about their place as citizens of the United States."

The class from Duluth Central High School is currently preparing for their participation in the national competition in Washington, D.C. It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government, ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for future generations to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People national finals.

TRIBUTE TO G. WILLIAM WARD

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate G. William Ward for earning the Blair County Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Advocacy and the National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award given by the Penns Woods Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Both awards will be presented to Mr. Ward at a dinner in his honor cosponsored by both award giving parties.

G. William Ward is a resident of Blair County, Pennsylvania and currently serves as the President and Chairman of the Board of Ward Trucking Corporation. During his tenure with Ward Trucking, he has accumulated an impressive list of professional achievements and

has always demonstrated a strong commitment to community service. In 1967, when Mr. Ward became the newly-elected president of Ward Trucking, he quickly established a strong presence in Blair County by opening a new Altoona terminal and maintenance hub as well as two new local warehouses. Just two years later, Ward Trucking celebrated the opening of a new general office complex, which made Altoona the official headquarters of the company. Under Mr. Ward's leadership, the trucking company has experienced numerous successes. In 1997, the Ward Trucking Corporation was inducted into the Blair County Business Hall of Fame for being an outstanding corporate citizen and being a "vital component of the continued thrust for the economic development and improved business climate in Blair County." Five years later, that sentiment still holds true today. Mr. Ward has been instrumental in the growth and strength of the Ward Trucking Corporation. During his tenure as President and Chairman of the Board, the company has more than doubled its workforce, grew revenue from \$7 million to more than \$96 million at the end of 2001, and expanded service from two to eleven states.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to being an excellent business advocate for the community of Blair County and surrounding areas, Mr. Ward is also a dedicated volunteer. He is especially involved with a nationally recognized community service organization, the Boy Scouts. He has served in numerous capacities, from a Den Leader to Vice-Chairman of the Camp Development Fund Campaign. Mr. Ward is an excellent role model and is always very generous with his time. Mr. Ward and his family are also very generous with financial contributions. They have a long history of donating, whether personally or through Ward Trucking, to a wide variety of worthy organizations in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating G. William Ward for receiving both the Blair County Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Advocacy and the National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. I encourage Mr. Ward to continue to strive to achieve new business goals and to also remain such an active and caring member of his community. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS SYRACUSE
UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to offer my congratulations to the 2003 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Champions, the Orangemen of Syracuse University.

These young men started the season unranked and became the number one team in the nation—marking the first time in college basketball history this impressive feat has been accomplished.

This success would not have been possible if not for the coaching abilities of Jim

Boeheim. For twenty-seven seasons, Coach Boeheim has been a constant in college basketball. From the inaugural Big East Conference season, through two heart-breaking losses in the championship games of 1987 and 1996, and even through prostate cancer surgery last season; Coach Boeheim has remained dedicated to his players. Over the years, Coach Boeheim and his staff have turned upstate New York from a blanket of white snow into a sea of orange and blue the whole state has embraced.

A perfect example of the state-wide support directed towards the Orangemen was embodied at the East Regional Finals held in Albany, NY, where thousands of Syracuse fans from around the state and country flocked to the Capitol Region. Albany gladly allowed them to make the Pepsi Arena their "Dome away from home."

I would like to recognize the individual members of the Syracuse team. The 2003 Orangemen team included: Gerry McNamara, Keith Duany, Hakim Warrick, Billy Edelin, Jeremy McNeil, Josh Pace, Tyrone Albright, Josh Brooks, Xzavier Gaines, Matt Gorman, Gary Hall, Ronneil Herron, and Andrew Kouwe.

There are two members of the team deserving special acknowledgement. The first is Craig Forth, the starting center of the team, who was born and raised in the 20th Congressional District, in East Greenbush, NY. In addition to having one of his best games in the National Championship against Kansas, Craig is also an outstanding student, maintaining a 3.86 GPA and being named a Big East Conference Academic All-Star.

Finally, I would like to recognize the Big East Freshman of the Year, the National Freshman of the Year, and the Final Four MVP, Carmelo Anthony. Carmelo has been one of the most exciting freshmen players in years. I am sure all Syracuse fans, including my colleagues from the NY delegation, would join me in asking Carmelo to consider "One More Year!"

HONORING TEXAS TECH'S MALE
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR,
LENNARD CHRISTENSEN

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lennard Christensen, who has been named Male Athlete of the Year of Texas Tech University.

Lennard began playing with the Texas Tech football team in 1999. In the fall of 2000–2001 he was named to the Big Twelve Academic first team. He excelled on special teams and always inspired his teammates with his positive attitude. Even though he was not a starter on defense, Lennard nonetheless earned enough respect from his teammates to receive many votes for Team Captain.

In addition to his dedication to Red Raider football, Lennard served as President of the Texas Tech Student Athlete Advisory Committee and the Big Twelve Student Athlete Advisory Committee. In 2001, he graduated

Summa Cum Laude from Texas Tech with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration and is currently maintaining a 4.0 in Tech's M.B.A. program. As if these accomplishments on the athletic field and in the classroom were not enough, Lennard is currently applying his many talents and work ethic in my office as an intern under the Texas Tech President's Congressional Intern Program for the Spring 2003 semester. He is a valuable asset to me and my staff under this program which enables students to learn firsthand about the legislative process.

It is with great pride and pleasure, Mr. Speaker, that I call to my colleagues' attention the outstanding achievements of this dedicated and motivated young man, who is has brought a great credit to his generation, his school and our fine State. Lennard is truly a born leader, whose future is bright. I am confident that he will continue to set lofty goals, and will not stop working hard to attain them. I congratulate him on this distinct honor and wish him all the best in the future.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter for the RECORD:

Hon. JACK KINGSTON,
*Chairman, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN KINGSTON: I am writing to ask your support for including H.R. 921, a bill I introduced, as an amendment into the base bill of the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.

My amendment requires that unused Congressional office funds from Members' Representational Allowances be returned directly to the Treasury at the end of the year for debt reduction. For the last several years, I have introduced this amendment to the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill regarding the use of unspent office funds. Taxpayers for Common Sense, Citizens Against Government Waste, the Concord Coalition, and Citizens for a Sound Economy have all supported this amendment in the past.

I believe that this amendment provides a good incentive for Members to spend taxpayer funds responsibly and lead by example in our efforts to reduce the national debt. Without this amendment, unexpended Members' Representational Allowances can be "reprogrammed" for other budget purposes, frustrating the frugal efforts of many Members. Let's keep practicing sound spending practices and keep us moving towards reducing our enormous national debt.

Since this amendment has continuously passed with strong support, I would like you to consider including it in the base bill. I have enclosed a copy of the amendment for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Brian Sutter on my staff at 5-3561. I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Member of Congress.