

GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain why I voted against S. 2634, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, which authorizes \$82 million over three years for federally funded suicide intervention, prevention and treatment programs in public schools.

I most certainly empathize with those who have lost a loved one as a result of suicide. Many of us have been affected by this particularly painful form of tragedy, whether directly or indirectly. We need to do whatever it takes to reduce the number of suicides occurring each year in our Nation, and help the suffering realize that taking their own life is never the right answer. However, "whatever it takes" does not mean we take the role of suicide prevention out of the hands of friends and family and local health care providers and into the hands of the poorly-suited federal bureaucracy. Those contemplating suicide do not need help from the government—they need help from those who know them by name.

Mr. Speaker, no one can argue that this bill came before the House with anything other than good intention. Unfortunately, good intention doesn't always translate into good legislation. This bill costs taxpayers \$82 million over 3 years and creates two new Federal programs and a new technical assistance center, with virtually no mechanism to measure effectiveness or actual benefit of new services. Don't our loved ones deserve better, more direct care than that?

I think absolutely they do, and so do the experts:

In a December 2001 study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) entitled "Suicide in Teenagers" researchers concluded that "Suicide awareness programs in schools . . . have not been shown to be effective either in reducing suicidal behavior or in increasing help seeking behavior." Additionally, Dr. David Shaffer, an expert in the field of suicide prevention states: "My research at Columbia University, supported by grants from the Centers for Disease Control, suggests that case finding that involves giving lessons or lectures about suicide, either to encourage suicidal students to identify themselves or to teach other students or teachers how to identify the suicidal teacher is not effective and in some instances may even undermine protective attitudes about suicide."

Mr. Speaker, I voted against this well-intentioned but misguided bill out of compassion for those contemplating suicide who deserve love, support and treatment. Those who know them best and want the very best for them are the ones living with them, not inside the beltway.

## TRIBUTE TO WIGGSY SIVERTSEN

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today (Mr. HONDA, Ms. ESHOO and I) rise to recognize

the achievements of Wiggys Sivertsen, Director of Counseling for San Jose State University and co-founder of Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC), a four county Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) political action group celebrating 20 years of civil rights advocacy. Wiggys is retiring from BAYMEC this year.

Wiggys is currently the Director of Counseling Services and a visiting Professor in the Sociology Department at San Jose State University where she has been employed for the past 36 years. She is a graduate of Stephens College, San Jose State University and received her Master's degree from Tulane University in Social Work.

Wiggys became involved in addressing the problems of discrimination against gays and lesbians when she was fired from a position when the organization found out about her lesbianism. She has dedicated her entire professional life educating the public about the LGBT communities and fighting for their rights and the rights of all "at risk" communities.

BAYMEC was founded to educate and inform, and has raised its concerns with countless elected officials; lobbied Sacramento and the state on AIDS and LGBT civil rights; and worked with police, fire department, governmental, organizational, and a variety of community groups to further equality for LGBTs. BAYMEC continues to lobby for hate crime legislation, transgender issues, domestic partnership rights and civil unions, and to bring LGBT sensitivity to the forefront in the domestic violence field.

Wiggys has founded two other advocacy organizations: Advocates for Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth, which provides legal representation for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth who are discriminated against in the school system, and Open Mind Network, Inc. (OMNI), which is dedicated to educating organizations about lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

Wiggys has received the American Civil Liberties Union "Don Edwards Defender of Constitutional Liberty Award." She has also been named to the "The Millennium 100, Pillars of their Communities" by the San Jose Mercury News, and received the California State Special Recognition Award For Service to the Lesbian and Gay Community.

We wish to thank Wiggys Sivertsen for her tireless and loyal service to the cause of civil rights, and particularly the LGBT community. Though we will all miss her leadership in BAYMEC, the work of BAYMEC will move forward. Until all people are treated with dignity and respect, none of us can truly be free.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JEFF FLAKE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes 422 and 423. I was regrettably absent from the chamber on September 7th during the rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 422 and "yea" on rollcall 423.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERT'S  
BURGER BOWL**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a true Santa Fe landmark: Bert's Burger Bowl. Last month I joined with thousands of New Mexicans to celebrate this milestone as well as their claim to fame—the invention and commercial serving of one of New Mexico's famous foods, the green chile cheeseburger.

Staff t-shirts at Bert's boast, "Since 1954: One Location Worldwide." To stay in business that long, Bert's is doing something right. This is the home of the greatest green chile cheeseburger in the world—a claim that is not easily contested—perhaps best known for allowing their customers to have a burger their way or not at all.

The current owners of Bert's Burger, Fernando and Debra Olea, decided to change their prices on August 17 to 1950s prices as a way to thank their loyal customers. By the time the day was done, thousands of New Mexicans had lined up for 35-cent green chile burgers, 19-cent crinkle cut fries and 10-cent soft drinks. Incredibly, between 10:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m., Bert's served 2,000 burgers with only eight people working.

Bert's Burger Bowl, one of the last independently owned drive-in restaurants, was founded in 1954 by Bert Burtram, a World War II veteran, who operated the business 11 years before selling it to Fred and Barbara DeCastro. The Oleas bought Bert's in 1991 on the condition nothing be changed.

The most popular item on the menu has been and will remain No. 6—a chile/cheese burger. The eatery also serves burritos, Frito pies, fried chicken, chicken gizzards and chicken livers. Bert's is also known for its freshly made lemonade and limeade, as well as the cherry-lime drink and French Coke made with a dash of vanilla. Loyal customers, who dine under umbrellas on a sun-drenched patio overlooking Guadalupe Street, have kept Bert's in business all these years.

For the last half century, Bert's Burger Bowl has held a special place in the hearts of northern New Mexico residents and tourists. During the recent celebration, I met scores of people who told me their first job was at Bert's. Santa Fe Mayor Larry Delgado and his lovely wife Angie recalled how their very first date was at Bert's. Another customer reminded me that the establishment served as a backdrop for the 1971 movie "Two Lane Blacktop." For 50 years, Bert's has meant so much to so many.

As the only member of the New Mexico congressional delegation to serve on the House Small Business Committee, I know the important contribution enterprises like Bert's make to our economy. I salute Fernando and Debra and their employees for their hard work and dedication. It was truly my honor to join with them on this milestone. My best wishes for another 50 years of success.