

RECOGNIZING BOULDER COUNTY AIDS PROJECT ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Boulder County AIDS Project, BCAP, and to honor their commitment to those in my community who are affected by HIV/AIDS. They are a model for advocacy and an invaluable asset to our community.

BCAP began in 1985 when two people volunteered two afternoons a week to answer a single borrowed telephone line. As the acronyms HIV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, became household terms, and as the stigma about what was termed a "gay cancer" relaxed, the name of the organization was formally changed to the Boulder County AIDS Project.

BCAP has grown to include twelve staff members and over 300 volunteers. These volunteers work together with staff to serve those in the community who are infected with or affected by HIV and to educate the public about HIV and AIDS. In 2004, 368 HIV-infected individuals received services from the caseworkers and volunteers at BCAP; 17,000 youth and adults heard presentations by the BCAP Speakers Bureau, over 500 received HIV antibodies testing and counseling, and thousands of people attended BCAP's AIDS awareness events. The dedication demonstrated by BCAP staff and volunteers is a praiseworthy example of how to make a difference.

As with all great causes and organizations in today's society, their merit stands before the blind eye of a restrictive budget. Despite the success of BCAP, many difficult obstacles affect the center. Changes in the federal response to HIV/AIDS impact their ability to provide evidence-based, scientifically-researched HIV prevention programming. Colorado state budget cuts affect BCAP's ability to meet the increased need for services in an economic climate of decreasing resources.

In response to these challenges, BCAP recently adjusted their prevention programs to focus on access to HIV-antibody testing and early access to HIV care. BCAP and the Boulder County Public Health Department estimate that 30 percent of the population in BCAP's service area are HIV positive and are unaware of it. To address this issue, BCAP will purchase a van to be equipped as a mobile HIV testing facility. This will allow BCAP to meet one of its strategic goals of enhancing its HIV-antibody testing program while reducing a significant barrier to access and care—the access to easy testing.

Even in the midst of struggle and looming challenges, the Boulder County AIDS Project goes above and beyond the call of duty to provide for those infected with HIV or affected by AIDS. Their dedication to this honorable cause has given dignity and comfort to individuals living with HIV and AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking the Boulder County AIDS Project for their efforts in this commendable cause.

HONORING DR. ROBERT SMOTHERMAN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual from my home district. Dr. Robert Smotherman, school superintendent of the Bardstown Independent School System, is retiring this month, bringing his distinguished career as an educator to a close.

Before becoming Superintendent in 1983, Dr. Smotherman spent a 9-year tenure as principal and assistant superintendent in the Kingsport, TN school system. He earlier taught in schools in Atlanta, Birmingham, and Nashville. During his 22 years as superintendent, Bardstown Independent Schools has been a catalyst for many Kentucky firsts including first in the state to create a private educational foundation to raise money for the school district; the first district to offer an educational program for all 3- and 4-year olds regardless of economics or special needs; the first district to mandate school uniforms; and the first district in Kentucky to move to a year-round calendar at all schools. He has also been a tireless advocate, throughout his tenure, for effective Adult Education. The current program offers a wide range of educational opportunity and the GED program, producing over 150 graduates annually.

Dr. Smotherman has been a consistent recipient of academic and community honors including being named one of the "Top 100 Superintendents in America" by Executive Educator Magazine, the Kentucky Department of Education's "Good Apple" Award, the American Legion Award for Educational Excellence, and the Jenson Award from the National Association for Year Round Schools, recognizing his outstanding leadership in a movement that he helped to organize. Dr. Smotherman served on the NAYRE Board of Directors and was later elected President of the national organization, the first Kentuckian to hold that position. In 2003, Dr. Smotherman was named to the Bardstown-Nelson County "Hall of Fame."

I applaud Robert Smotherman's accomplishments in public education, an occupation of great responsibility and ever greater reward, motivating young people to recognize and develop their talents and abilities. On behalf of so many in the Bardstown area, I would like to express my profound appreciation for his service and inspiration to the countless men and women who have benefited from his generosity and vision.

It is my great privilege to recognize Robert Smotherman today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his many achievements as an educator. His unique dedication to the development and well-being of young people and the communities they now serve make him an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and respect.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3057) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, this bill is far from perfect, but I think it deserves to be passed.

The bill provides important resources to help our allies in the struggle against international terrorism and against the narcotics trade. For example, it includes economic assistance for Afghanistan at the requested level of \$430 million, \$205 million above last year's level, but includes a new provision that withholds \$225 million of the total until the Secretary of State certifies that the national and local governments in Afghanistan are fully cooperating with the U.S.-funded narcotics eradication and interdiction efforts. The bill also includes \$220 million for military assistance for Pakistan to support their efforts in hunting terrorists along the Afghan border, as well as \$347 million—\$111 million above last year—for International Narcotics Control.

Some of the other high-priority items in the bill include much-needed assistance to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria—\$131 million more than the President's request and \$502 million more than in fiscal year 2005.

The Peace Corps is funded at \$325 million, \$8 million above fiscal 2005, and the bill includes provisions to provide for a greater role in oversight of U.S. taxpayer contributions to international organizations.

Of course, the bill is far from perfect, and I do not agree with all its priorities. I voted for a number of amendments that would have improved it and regret that not all of them were adopted.

I also voted against some amendments, including two that dealt with the sensitive subject of extradition from other countries of people accused of crimes in the United States.

One of those amendments, by my Colorado colleague, Representative BEAUPREZ, calls for cutting off any assistance to a country that refuses to comply with a request to extradite a person charged with killing a police officer in the United States.

Killing a policeman is a very serious matter, and I am a cosponsor of a bill (H.R. 2363) to authorize much more severe penalties for such fugitive killers of a peace officer—including any Federal, State, or local police officer.

However, I voted against the Beauprez amendment after receiving a communication from the District Attorney in Denver. He is currently working to complete the extradition from Mexico of a fugitive wanted in connection with the murder of a Denver police officer and has indicated that Congressional threats to reduce assistance as a way to bring pressure on the Mexican authorities run the risk of being counterproductive. I am not opposed to using leverage, including our foreign assistance programs, to insist that other countries extradite

wanted fugitives, but the District Attorney's comments persuaded me that adoption of the amendment at this time could make it harder for the District Attorney's efforts with Mexico to succeed.

On balance, while the bill is not all that I would wish in all respects, I think it deserves approval and I will vote for it.

SUPREME COURT DECISION IN
CASTLEROCK V. GONZALES

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, we have heard much discourse today about two decisions handed down by the Supreme Court yesterday that addressed the constitutionality of displaying the 10 Commandments.

This is an important issue, but I believe that another case handed down yesterday, *Castle Rock v. Gonzales*, deserves serious attention as well.

Let me begin by saying that I am deeply disappointed with the Supreme Court's decision in *Castle Rock v. Gonzales*. In that case, the Court revealed a policy that strikes fear and sadness in the hearts of domestic violence victims and those of us who fight on their behalf: victims do not have a federal constitutional right to due process when they seek enforcement of their protective orders.

Jessica Gonzales's story elicits anger and sadness. Jessica Gonzales's relationship with

her husband was dangerous and abusive. Knowing the threat he posed to her and her children, she mustered a tremendous amount of personal strength and obtained a protective order against her husband from the State of Colorado. She went through this arduous process believing that the state and local authorities would come to her aid if her husband violated the order. She did not think she would have to beg and plead with them to enforce it.

She was wrong. The *New York Times* reported today that:

For hours on the night of June 22, 1999, Jessica Gonzales tried to get the . . . police to find and arrest her estranged husband . . . who was under a court order to stay 100 yards away from the house. He had taken the children, ages 7, 9, and 10, as they played outside, and he later called his wife to tell her that he had the girls at an amusement park in Denver.

Ms. Gonzales conveyed the information to the police, but they failed to act before Mr. Gonzales arrived at the police station hours later, firing a gun, with the bodies of the girls in the back of his truck. The police killed him at the scene."

Mr. Gonzales murdered their daughters after Ms. Gonzales spent hours trying to get the police to pay attention to her plight. This should never have happened.

A protective order without guaranteed enforcement does not protect victims. It puts them in the position of being victimized over and over again.

Domestic violence victims are already among the most vulnerable in our system. When they have children they are trying to protect, that vulnerability is compounded. Vic-

tims and their families rely on protective orders as one of the only tools they have to escape violent homes and relationships.

We need to make sure that they know that a court-issued protective order, accompanied by a hearing and court appearance in front of their abuser, is worth more than the paper it is printed on.

Recently, I introduced legislation that has received bipartisan support. H.R. 2947 seeks to require domestic violence education programs in high schools to teach teenage victims of dating violence about the legal options available to them as they seek to extricate themselves from abusive relationships.

I want this legislation to have its intended impact: that more teenage victims will have the knowledge that they are not alone in their struggle to end abusive relationships and that there are legal processes available to aid them in this process.

These young people, and every victim seeking the same assistance, need to know that the legal steps in place will actually protect them.

We cannot change the Supreme Court's decision, but we can do our part to prevent Jessica Gonzales's horrific situation from replicating itself across the nation.

First, we can pass my legislation, H.R. 2947. Second, we can strengthen and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act before it expires on September 30th of this year. These victims deserve no less.