

Minnesota. I thank my colleague for introducing this resolution during Catholic Schools Week 2006.

Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing quality education for American youth. The mission of these institutions—to build solid foundations for lives of confidence, faith, and service—has had a tremendous impact in shaping family values and community life across the country, and particularly in my community in Western New York.

In my hometown, neighborhoods are often known by the names of their Catholic Schools and Parishes, and the many families that are active in Catholic schools are enriched by the values they espouse. Indeed, I have spent my life as a first-hand witness to the beneficial work of Catholic schools. My mother was a teacher at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and my two children, John and Maeve, are enrolled at St. Martin of Tours Catholic School in South Buffalo. My family and I are personally grateful for the contributions that America's Catholic schools have been making to families like ours, and American society at large, for more than four centuries.

Today, more than 7,700 Catholic schools and 160,000 Catholic school teachers nationwide are making valuable contributions to education and are playing an integral role in shaping a brighter, stronger future for our nation. Together, they will teach 2.4 million students, an astounding 99 percent of which will graduate and 97 percent of those graduates will go on to college. As these students become adults, their intelligence and character will benefit communities in Western New York and throughout the nation.

I thank the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for cosponsoring this week-long event and for helping to increase awareness for Catholic education across this great country.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in supporting this resolution, and I thank my colleague Mr. KENNEDY for his leadership on this issue.

STEPHEN AND MARY PETRILLA:
GET WELL SOON

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very special people while offering my prayers and warmest wishes for their quick return to full health.

Stephen and Mary Petrilla are 50 year residents of Hamilton Township—the largest municipality in my congressional district in central New Jersey. As teachers, parents and local residents, they live quiet but influential lives, earning the respect and devotion of their students, neighbors, and fellow parishioners at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Trenton, New Jersey. Their family and friends are inspired by their faith, kindness and commitment to helping others.

Mr. Stephen Petrilla is a veteran of the United States Army and was injured while

serving his country in the line of duty. He is a member of the American Legion, the DAV and the Elks.

For nearly 75 years, Mr. Petrilla dedicated his life to the field of education, helping children in either a teaching or administrative capacity. A former administrator for two training schools in New Jersey, his expertise and passion focused on special education, helping children with mental retardation and working to ensure that State and local governments did more to meet the needs of our precious children who face special challenges.

Mr. Petrilla organized and directed shelter workshops for challenged children across the State and later worked as a special education teacher in Lawrence Township and at Sister Georgine's Learning Center in Trenton. His inspiring commitment to helping children has been recognized through various honors including being named a Fellow in the American Association of Mental Deficiency and being featured in various Who's Who publications including Who's Who in the East, 1979, and Who's Who in Child Development Professionals, 1976.

Mrs. Mary Petrilla has been a constant source of love and support for her husband and her children, while also distinguishing herself in the teaching profession. After receiving her bachelor of arts degree at St. Joseph's, Mrs. Petrilla began working as a teacher eventually advancing her way to become one of the first female elementary school principals in the Pennsbury School District. She also taught adult education classes in Trenton while serving as a private tutor. For 20 years, Mrs. Petrilla served as a home instructor for Ewing Township Schools, helping children with illnesses who were physically or medically unable to go to school. She also served as a supplemental teacher for "English as a Second Language" and Basic Skills Instructor until her retirement in 1994.

Lots of children have benefited from the hard work, commitment, love and compassion the Petrillas each exuded on the job, in their careers in education. And it is important to note, that that same love, generosity, empathy, nurturing and mentoring was and remains a hallmark of the Petrilla home. They are the proud parents of five children and eight grandchildren and their family feels abundantly blessed. They have shared with me inspiring stories that truly capture their parent's extraordinary example of reaching out and helping others throughout their lives.

We join with their family and friends in thanking the Petrillas for dedicating themselves to successfully helping our community, and we offer our continued prayers for their comfort and full recovery.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will bring some sanity back to prescription drug marketing, and help bring down the astronomical costs of prescription drugs. The Prescription Drug Safety and

Affordability Act will force manufacturers to educate physicians instead of spending billions of dollars wining and dining them.

As Congress begins to investigate its own ethics, we should also shed some light on the immoral relationships between the pharmaceutical industry and physicians. Golf trips and lavish meals aren't just for Members of Congress. Though its hard to imagine, physicians may actually get more lobbying perks from the drug industry than Members of Congress do.

For far too long, the pharmaceutical industry has jeopardized patient safety and inflated prescription drug prices by using tax-deductible dollars to underwrite their so-called "physician education" efforts. According to a recent report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, JAMA, there is a clear conflict of interest when doctors become too cozy with pharmaceutical companies.

Drug companies annually spend about \$10,000 on every single physician in the United States trying to entice doctors to prescribe their drugs. That adds up to nearly \$8 billion in annual spending by drug companies marketing their products to physicians. It is not unusual for doctors to receive lavish meals, all expense paid "educational" trips to posh resorts, and lucrative consulting deals from pharmaceutical manufacturers. Every single dollar spent on these unnecessary gifts is tax deductible for the drug industry as a general business expense.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, PhRMA, pretended to discourage these improper marketing ploys by issuing conflict-of-interest guidelines in April 2002. After announcing the guidelines with fanfare, they then paid the American Medical Association to "educate" their members on these guidelines—that is, they gave doctors financial incentives to promote ethical guidelines that called for an end to financial incentives! It is obvious that PhRMA is not serious about ending the practice of giving financial incentives to doctors.

Regardless of what PhRMA may say, the marketing tactics are still working. It is clear from the JAMA study that self-policing won't work. "Although physician groups, manufacturers, and the federal government have instituted self-regulation of marketing . . . current controls will not satisfactorily protect the interests of patients."

Doctors swayed to prescribe a certain drug because of their financial ties to drug companies put their own personal interest above the health and safety of their patients.

This must stop now. My legislation will curb unnecessary spending physician gifts to the benefit of all patients.

The Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act is a simple way to ensure pharmaceutical companies' behavior matches their rhetoric. This bill eliminates the tax-deduction that pharmaceutical companies currently receive for spending on physician gifts. The bill specifically exempts free drug samples, as that is often the only means by which uninsured patients can get medications.

Unnecessary physician gifts from the drug industry unduly influence prescribing, increase drug prices and corporate profits, and endanger patients who get the wrong prescriptions for the wrong reasons. By removing incentives for pharmaceutical companies to lavish gifts of dubious public value on physicians, I hope

that pharmaceutical companies will either redirect those funds toward research and development of lifesaving drugs or reduce the prices of prescription drugs for seniors and all Americans.

The American Medical Student Association has endorsed the Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act. This group of future doctors—not yet beholden to the drug industry—recognizes the importance of this bill and the problems physician gifts cause in the doctor-patient relationship. I am pleased to submit their attached letter of support for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act. Prohibiting the drug industry from lavishing unnecessary gifts on physicians is a nonpartisan issue that should receive bipartisan support. If we can clean up Congress there is no reason we shouldn't clean up health care. It is time to stop using taxpayer dollars to fund marketing campaigns that put profits above patients.

AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT
ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION,
Reston, VA, February 1, 2006.

Hon. PETE STARK,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: On behalf of the 60,000 physician-in-training members of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), we would like to offer our strong support for the Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act. The impact of pharmaceutical marketing on the professional behavior of physicians is very concerning to the future physicians of America. AMSA has long advocated for physicians to protect their independence from the pharmaceutical industry.

We applaud the Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act as a way to reduce the financial incentives for promoting drugs. The pharmaceutical companies spent \$7.3 billion on detailing to doctors in 2004, more than twice what was spent in 1997. These gifts to physicians contribute to the high cost of medications for our patients. Taxpayers should not further subsidize this behavior through the deductibility of drug company promotions to physicians.

Gifts from the pharmaceutical industry have an eroding effect on the doctor-patient relationship. Numerous studies have documented how those gifts influence the prescribing behavior of physicians, often in ways that deviate from the recommended treatment guidelines. However, the most obvious evidence that gifts influence physicians in the fact that drug companies would not spend billions of dollars on pens, meals and honorarium if it didn't work.

Since 2002 AMSA has been entirely independent of funding from drug companies in our meetings and publications, and we have called for other physician groups to follow our lead. Last month the Journal of the American Medical Association published recommendations from leading academicians that academic medical centers—where physicians are trained—should be entirely free of pharmaceutical representatives, industry sponsored meals and free samples. We applaud the institutions of medical education for taking this step.

AMSA's PharmFree Campaign (www.amsa.org/prof/pharmfree.cfm) has been cited in major medical journals, making AMSA a leader in removing the pharmaceutical companies' influence in the practice of medicine. In 2005, AMSA launched the Counterdetailing Campaign where medical students teach physicians to use non-biased

sources of information about prescription drugs. Time magazine and USA Today have featured AMSA and our Counterdetailing Campaign. Through AMSA, medical students continue to lead the drive to protect the doctor-patient relationship from outside influences.

The Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act will remove the unhealthy influence of the drug industry from the practice of medicine. AMSA is proud to support your efforts and leadership in this issue. If we can help in any way, please contact Chris McCoy, Legislative Affairs Director at 703-620-6600 x 211.

Sincerely,

LEANA S. WEN,
National President.
CHRISTOPHER P. MCCOY,
Legislative Affairs Director.

TRIBUTES TO BARBARA JAEHNE,
TRACY BRAINARD, CATHY
BOUDREAU, CELIA SZELWACH
AND KENDALL JONES

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2006

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize five extraordinary women whose diligence and determination have led them to pinnacles of their chosen professions. Despite their numerous successes, it often is the case that their contributions are never recognized.

One goal of my Women In Business Initiatives is to highlight positive role models, engage them in the community and applaud their worthy contributions. To achieve this end, I asked my constituents to nominate a business woman whom they believed deserved recognition.

A woman whose compassion and charity has been invaluable in lifting others to greater heights. These women represent the very best our State and Nation has to offer. It truly is an honor and a pleasure to serve as their Representative in Congress.

Woven from unique backgrounds, their histories share a common thread—a refusal to allow obstacles placed in their way by outdated thinking or unpredictable circumstance to delay the pursuit of their dreams.

A wife, a mother, a medical professional, and an active member of the community, Barbara Jaehne could have found equal success as a juggler if her passions had not led into the field of medicine. Currently, Jaehne serves as chairman of the board of speech language in the Department of Pathology and Audiology at the Florida Department of Health.

Her work managing two offices in Venice and Englewood and her involvement with initiatives to improve the lives of the hearing impaired have not confined Jaehne to professional pursuits. The Republican Executive Committee of Sarasota County, as well as the Manatee Community College, is one of the varied organizations on whose behalf she volunteers her energy and her time.

Tracy Brainard is literally the ground-breaker of this distinguished group. In her role as office manager, Brainard is an integral member of the team at Coastal Construction Southwest, a construction company owned and administered by women. Coastal Construction

President Evelyn Treworgy has made note of her “most unbelievable work ethic,” an invaluable quality in any field.

Recognizing the indispensable role she holds within the company, Treworgy has stated that Brainard is “respected, trusted and absolutely depended upon by not only the principals but also fellow employees.”

It has been said of Cathy Boudreau that she “works until all of her duties are completed” and her tasks are “always handled with complete professionalism.” If there were a key to Cathy's success, it certainly is the single-minded commitment she brings to every endeavor. From the front desk, where Boudreau began her career at the Palm Island Resort, to the office of the President, Boudreau has earned the high praise and respect of her colleagues and peers.

Another individual not content to limit her horizons, Cathy also functions as event and group planner and assistant to the director of sales and marketing.

In 2000, when Celia Szelwach launched her own company—Creative Collaborations Consulting—there were no surprised faces to be found. After graduating in 1990 from West Point, Celia earned distinction as a senior parachutist and subsequently, her captain's bars while she led relief missions in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

The skills which served her as a logistics specialist in the Army were an asset in her various roles with the Tropicana Corporation. Determined to positively impact others, Celia shares her entrepreneurial vision through her column for The Maddox Business Report, a Tampa Bay business magazine with a focus on diversity.

More importantly, Celia recognizes the power of her position as a role model within the Hispanic community. This commitment earned her recognition by the Girl Scouts Gulf Coast of Florida branch, which awarded her the President's Merit Award for service above and beyond expectations, particularly in the area of Hispanic outreach. It has been said of Celia that she possesses “tremendous personal strength and unlimited potential,” qualities which have sustained her through difficult life challenges.

Kendall Jones. In the words of her business partner, Anand Pallegar, Jones is “driven by the love of this community and a desire to make it better.” As editor of the S2 Report, the only free digital daily business news report in Sarasota and Manatee counties, Jones recognizes that the business community is hungry for information, yet starved for time. Her success in reaching a balance is evident in the publication's growing readership, not to mention the first-place award she received from the Gulf Coast Business Review for in-depth writing.

The audience Jones places the greatest priority on reaching is an audience of one—her daughter, whom she single-handedly raises. When she is not keeping the business community up to speed on events, Jones is busily trying to keep up with her daughter's Brownie troop.

As separate and distinct as the stories of these five successful business women may be, all serve to illustrate the power of the individual to reach a goal, the value of hard work and the necessity to never give in or give up.