

overall, national strategy and to the long-term research investments needed for this effort to succeed.

To further this important research, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. This bipartisan legislation was introduced again this Congress by Representatives LOWEY, MYRICK and CAPPS.

Madam Speaker, this bill would create a competitive, peer-reviewed research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. It is modeled after the successful peer-reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense. A key component of this bill is inclusion of consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process.

Let's continue to fight the war on breast cancer, and invest in getting the answers to eradicating this disease, in honor of all our mothers. Pledge your support today, by joining me in co-sponsoring the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, and in working towards enacting it this year.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL UOFL DAY

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I have the distinct privilege of rising in recognition of National UofL Day, which honors the University of Louisville for its outstanding academic achievements, tremendous growth in recent years, and exceptional contributions to the Louisville community.

In the last decade we in Louisville saw unprecedented strides for our premier University, as it grew into one of the foremost research institutions in the country.

At Louisville's Jewish Hospital, doctors on the UofL faculty implanted the nation's first successful artificial heart and performed the first three hand transplants, while Louisville scientists Ben Jenson and Shin-je Ghim discovered the first cervical cancer vaccine, and three year-old Chase Ford became the first child to regain the ability to walk after a spinal cord injury using ground-breaking rehabilitative therapy, developed by UofL researcher Susan Harkema.

Due to these and other accomplishments, the school has experienced the most growth in National Institute of Health funding of any institution, and the number of endowed chairs at the University has more than doubled.

UofL's student body has seen their average A.C.T. scores increase by nearly four points and the graduation rate rise by over 10 percent.

The University's commitment to the betterment of our community manifests itself in every facet of Louisville life, from its alliance with Project Women to its work with Partnership for a Green City to the new Signature Partnership Initiative, which will provide resources to areas of the city that need them most.

The landmark Cardinal Covenant program, which made UofL the first public higher learning institution in Kentucky to promise a debt-

free education to students from low-income families, reaffirms a commitment that I share with the University: providing a world-class education to all capable, hard-working students.

Though the recent achievements are astounding, President James Ramsey continues to set goals for the future that are loftier still. Under the leadership of Dr. Ramsey, the pursuit of excellence can be seen each day in the students, faculty, administration, and alumni and the competence with which they chart the school's course guarantees many more milestones in the coming years.

And so, for the great distance that has already been covered, and for displaying the vision and capability to excel in the future, I am proud to share the Cardinal spirit by recognizing National UofL Day and thanking the University of Louisville for all it has done for our community.

ON THE IMPROVING HEAD START ACT OF 2007

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the The Improving Head Start Act of 2007. For 40 years, Head Start has provided comprehensive child development, literacy, and family services to more than 20 million pre-schoolers from low-income and working poor families. It is unquestionably the most effective early childhood development program ever developed.

Head Start graduates are less likely to need special education services, to be left back a grade or to get into trouble with the law. They are more likely to go on to college and to have professional careers.

At a time when there is an overwhelming need in our country for quality, affordable early childhood education, we can all understand how powerful this legislation could be. I hope we can all understand our shared obligation today—not only to maintain this incredibly effective program, but to help it reach more children in need.

As time goes by, we continue to learn more and more about the development of young children—their language development, their social-emotional development, even their brain development—and it all points to the fact that quality education and early engagement, from both parents and teachers, are essential for our kids' success.

That is why this legislation is so important. It will increase funding for Head Start teacher and staff salaries and professional development, strengthening training and technical assistance. And it will re-evaluate and update Head Start's current standards and assessments based on the best science.

We are going to increase accountability by devising a new system of application review that assesses program quality and leads to re-competition of low-quality centers. We are going to boost cooperation between Head Start and state and local child care programs to increase full-day and full-year services. And we are going to allow programs to convert portions of their grant for use for Early Head Start, which serves children under three years old.

Ultimately, though, this legislation is about expanding access to Head Start for more than 10,000 additional children. Ten thousand more children who will be given the tools to perform significantly better on a range of cognitive, language, and social-emotional development measures. Ten thousand children for whom, studies show, there will be a higher degree of parental involvement in the home and at school. Ten thousand children with a real opportunity to thrive and succeed over the course of their entire lives.

I want to commend and thank Congressmen KILDEE, CASTLE, and Chairman MILLER for their leadership on this critical legislation.

Head Start is a strong and effective program. The growth and success of millions of American children and families is living proof. We have a responsibility to embrace their success, support it, and strengthen it for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed in arriving to the chamber earlier today during the recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON, to H.R. 1684, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. Had I been able to record my vote on this amendment, rollcall No. 314, I would have voted "aye."

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2188, THE KINSHIP CAREGIVER SUPPORT ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in the words of novelist, P.D. James, "What a child doesn't receive he can seldom later give." Our children are entitled to stable, caring homes; if we deny them what they truly deserve, we can anticipate a colder, more uncertain future for our nation.

This week marks the tenth anniversary of subsidized guardianship in Illinois, an innovative program that allows foster children to exit the child welfare system into permanent families while using federal funds to provide caregivers with the level of resources provided to adoptive families of children in foster care. To recognize this milestone, my colleague TIM JOHNSON and I introduced H.R. 2188, the Kinship Caregiver Support Act.

Modeled after the adoption assistance program, innovative programs in Illinois, and recommendations from the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, this bill provides kinship caregivers with the necessary resources to address their children's needs. The bill addresses gaps in existing foster care laws that withhold important supports from children living with relative guardians.

By enacting the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 and the Adoption Assistance and

Child Welfare Act of 1980, Congress recognized the need to align Federal incentives with the desired goal of providing abused and neglected children safe, permanent homes. Nearly half a million children make up our nation's foster care population, with more than one in four of these vulnerable children living with a grandparent or other relative. Unfortunately, federal financial assistance currently is available only to foster and adoptive families, with only a few states receiving a waiver to provide subsidized guardianship. However, adoption is not a viable option for many children to exit foster care. For example, courts explicitly rule out this permanency option for approximately 20,000 children in relative care each year. Moreover, adoption is not equally availed by families of all races and ethnicities, especially those in African-American and Native-American communities. Thus, subsidized guardianship is an important path to permanency for many abused and neglected children.

The current Federal guidelines also create financial disincentives to guardianship. Almost 19% of kinship care providers live in poverty, and 30% to 40% of children in foster care have chronic medical problems. Subsidized guardianship, like the federal adoption assistance program, provides needed support to these kinship caregivers to afford appropriate care for these vulnerable children. Terminating support to families once guardianship is established presents overwhelming hardships for these children and families that discourage them from leaving foster care. The limited federal support for guardianship is a critical roadblock to permanency for thousands of children, resulting in their remaining in the foster care longer than necessary and possibly aging out of the system without a legal family of their own.

With 10 years of experience under our belts, Illinois shows that subsidized guardianship works. Unfortunately, the subsidized guardianship waiver program expired in 2006. This means that no new states can benefit from the program, and, when the existing waivers for 15 states—including 10 Illinois—expire in the next few years, our children and thousands of children others will be denied this vital permanency option if new subsidized guardianship legislation is not passed.

So, the Kinship Caregiver Support Act allows states the option to provide guardianship assistance to relatives without a waiver. It also implements additional supports for kinship caregivers, such as establishing informational navigator programs to assist grandparents and relatives in accessing appropriate services and supports. Further, it allows states to establish separate licensing standards for relative foster parents and non-relative foster parents and requires state agencies to provide prompt notice to all adult relatives when children are removed from parental custody. The bill also extends innovative Illinois programs to the national level. For example, it expands eligibility for the Foster Care Independence Program so that education and training vouchers as well as independent living services are available to young people who exit foster care after age 14 to guardianship or adoption. It includes as eligible children who live in relative homes determined by the courts and State agency as meeting all applicable State safety standards other than licensure as well.

Subsidized guardianship is a bipartisan issue. Indeed, our bill is a companion bill to

that introduced in the other chamber by Senators HILLARY CLINTON and OLYMPIA SNOWE. Further, as you may recall, the reconciliation bill from the Republican-controlled 109th Congress would have extended authority for these waivers and removed the limit on the number of states eligible, providing further testament to the bipartisan nature of this issue.

As Forest Witcraft said, "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child. . . ." As policy makers, we have the ability and responsibility to make a difference in the lives of foster children. We must use that ability to make sure the downtrodden and neglected of today are the achievers and leaders of tomorrow. I encourage my colleagues to join me and Representative JOHNSON in supporting this critical bill.

ARTISTIC DISCOVERY COMPETITION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winner of this year's California's 32nd Congressional District Congressional "Artistic Discovery" competition and the contribution of all the people that made this event possible. As a Member of Congress, I am proud to support the artistic talent of our local youth by being part of "An Artistic Discovery."

This year students from 16 high schools in California's 32nd Congressional District submitted 186 pieces of work for Artistic Discovery. The winner of the competition was Jose Curiel from Arroyo High School, a resident of El Monte, California, for his piece titled "All Alone." Jose will be invited to Washington, DC, for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, and will have his artwork displayed in the Cannon Tunnel for 1 year. I am proud of Jose, all the runners up and honorable mentions, and all the youth who participated for sharing their talent with the community.

I would also like to thank the 2007 Artistic Discovery Committee for their support for the arts, for their dedication to California's 32nd Congressional District and their young talent, and for a successful "Artistic Discovery" competition. This event could not have been possible without the time and support of the 2007 Artistic Discovery Committee. This year's committee has truly set a standard with their hard work. I would like to recognize and thank this year's committee:

Denise Tornatore from the Baldwin Park Adult and Community Education School, who served as the Chair of the Committee; Carol Facciponti from Carousel Reality; Pascual Garrido from SCE Federal Credit Union; Irene Portillo from Project Amiga; Billy Rugh from Creative Planet School of the Arts; Michael Carney from AT&T; Elizabeth Bagwell from City of Hope; Kristen Pugh from City of Hope; Marianna Lake from the Valley County Water District; Dr. Ramon Zavala from Baldwin Park Unified; Marissa Castro from Southern California Edison; Helen Romero Shaw from the Gas Company; Nadia Andrade from UPS;

Shirley Batman from Bank of America; Michelle Bart from Helping Heroes Productions; Kevin McDonald from Foothill Transit; and, Debbie Guerra from AT&T Pioneers.

Just as important as the committee's dedication to California's 32nd District's "An Artistic Discovery" competition is the dedication of all the teachers of the participating schools. All our teachers deserve a big thank you for recognizing and supporting the talented students that participated in this event and encouraging them to submit their artwork. I thank all of our teachers for the work and generosity they give each and every day in the classroom. These submitted pieces of artwork are a testament to the energy, enthusiasm, encouragement and support that our teachers are providing.

The artwork that was submitted to California's 32nd District's artistic competition was awe-inspiring. I commend all the students who participated for using their talents in such a positive way and sharing those talents with others. I look forward to next year's "An Artistic Discovery" art competition and encourage all the supporters to continue with their good work.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BILL HARDISTY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, we often hear so much about what is wrong with America. I'd like to focus on what is right. And today throughout America, there are great teachers making a great difference in the lives of their students. As I often say, many people spend their lives building careers but teachers spend their careers building lives.

And few have done it better or longer than Mr. Bill Hardisty, the principal of Cassata High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

This year, Mr. Hardisty concludes a 37-year career in education. For two and a half decades, he served in the Fort Worth Independent School District as a coach, teacher and assistant principal. And for the past 11 years, he has served at Cassata. He started as associate director and in 2002, he was named principal.

Hardisty's service extends beyond our children's education. Before he taught in our schools, he defended our country. A marine who later served in the Army Reserve, Mr. Hardisty was the very embodiment of the noble Marine Corps motto: Semper Paratus. He was always faithful.

But it is his work as an educator that has touched the lives of so many future leaders. One of his students later served on my staff. Here is what he told me about Hardisty: "He taught with his heart. He knew that kids don't care what you know until they know that you care. Mr. Hardisty cared. And so his students listened and learned from him."

This is what teachers do: they shape minds and change lives. It was Yeats who wrote that education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire. Thanks to Mr. Hardisty, countless people are today living lives fueled by a flame lit long ago in his classroom.

Cassata High School will miss Mr. Hardisty. But it will never forget him. His leadership and his legacy will live on in the many students whose lives he touched.