

academy supports a diverse population, with 46 percent of students coming from outside the city of Chicago and 5 percent from outside the State. Nearly half of the students rely on financial aid and scholarships to attend this marvelous institution. The Chicago Academy for the Arts demonstrates an incredible commitment to higher education, with 97 percent of students continuing onto top colleges and conservatories.

The Chicago Academy for the Arts shines as a beacon for students pursuing both strong academic and artistic training so that they can become the future leaders in their disciplines. I congratulate them on their impressive accomplishments, and I hope they break a proverbial leg on Saturday.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my alma mater Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville, where I graduated with my MBA in 1997, on its 50th anniversary.

The University currently serves nearly 13,500 students from 101 Illinois counties, 43 other U.S. States, and 46 nations. Since its inception, the institution has directly influenced the rate of individuals earning 4-year degrees in the St. Louis Metropolitan area of Southern Illinois, up from 3 percent in Madison and St. Clair counties in 1957 to 20 percent today. The University contributes roughly \$356 million to its regional economy, according to an Economic Impact Study released in May 2006, and more than 37,000 alumni live in the region and contribute to the economy.

Over the last 50 years the institution has played a major role in elevating the quality of people's lives, as well as their earning potential in Illinois. Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville has conferred more than 90,000 degrees in its history, with more than 75,000 alumni. The institution helped more than 8,000 people in the East St. Louis area and surrounding communities in the year 2006 through services, training opportunities, and programs at the SIUE East St. Louis Center.

Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville has been ranked two consecutive years among U.S. News & World Report's America's 15 Best Colleges, along with Harvard University, MIT, and other prestigious institutions, for its Senior Assignment Program and integrative learning experience required for all seniors prior to graduation. The University's Senior Assignment Program also was ranked as a model for learning assessment in the country by the American Association of Colleges & Universities in January 2007. The School of Dental Medicine, rated among the top dental schools in the Nation, is the only dental school in Illinois outside Cook County and the only dental school within 250 miles of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The dental school provides more than \$50,000 in free oral health care to children annually through Give Kids a Smile Day and more than \$30,000 annually in care to low-income and uninsured patients who otherwise might go untreated.

After finishing fourth nationally in the U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup among NCAA

Division II schools in 2006, the institution is now currently in the process of moving its quality intercollegiate athletics program forward to NCAA Division I status.

I am pleased to congratulate Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville on its 50 years of accomplishments.

THE SAFE CLIMATE ACT OF 2007

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to join over 125 of my House colleagues in reintroducing the Safe Climate Act.

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently announced, the fact that the planet is warming is now unequivocal. And the human role in this is no longer in debate.

The planet is at a crossroads, and it is time for us to choose to act.

I originally introduced this legislation just 9 months ago today.

At that time, I discussed how there are different approaches that can be taken to climate legislation. Some bills seek a symbolic recognition of the problem. Others are premised on what may be politically achievable in the near term.

The Safe Climate Act was drafted on a different premise: It reflects what the science tells us we need to do to protect our children and future generations from irreversible and catastrophic global warming. The bill has aggressive requirements to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. But the reality is, these are the reductions that scientists say we need to achieve to preserve a safe climate for future generations.

No one had yet proposed legislation that aimed to solve the climate crisis, and I wasn't sure how my colleagues and others would respond to this proposal.

However, in just 9 months, there has been remarkable progress in building consensus on this approach.

During the last Congress, I was pleased that 113 members decided to cosponsor my legislation. I was particularly delighted that Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI decided to endorse the bill.

Then in January of this year, a coalition of environmental groups and companies joined together in calling for emission reductions that are consistent with the reductions required by my legislation. This coalition, calling itself the U.S. Climate Action Partnership, is made up of Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar Inc., Duke Energy, DuPont, Environmental Defense, FPL Group, General Electric, Lehman Brothers, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, PG&E Corporation, PNM Resources and the World Resources Institute. And many others, including such diverse entities as states, American workers, small businesses, religious congregations and outdoors enthusiasts, are all urging comparable levels of emissions reductions.

All of these groups recognize an important truth—global warming is the greatest environmental challenge of our time, and we have a short window in which to act to prevent profound changes to the climate system. Unless

we seize the opportunity to act now, and act decisively, our legacy to our children and grandchildren will be an unstable and dangerous planet.

The science clearly tells us what we need to do—we must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, starting now and continuing over the next few decades. To achieve this, we have to grow our economy into a new and cleaner future. It's simply too late for legislative baby steps.

I have been working to address the threat of global warming for many years. Over 10 years ago, the science and the threat of global warming were clear. That's why I introduced the Global Climate Protection Act of 1992, which would have frozen U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide at 1990 levels. But Congress failed to act.

Now our understanding of global warming has only grown stronger. We're actually experiencing the effects of climate change today. And they are not good.

As the earth warms, its ice is melting. From the glaciers in Glacier National Park, to the snows of Kilimanjaro and the Larson B iceshell in Antarctica, ice that has been here since the last ice age is disappearing or already gone. Accordingly, sea levels will rise, posing enormous challenges for our coastal communities. The permafrost supporting towns and roads in Alaska is melting rapidly, and the summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is diminishing each year. These are changes we can see with our own eyes.

The seasons are changing—maple sugar producers in Vermont are tapping trees earlier, plants are flowering earlier, and birds are migrating earlier. These changes are happening across the globe. And with warmer weather come bugs that are no longer being killed by the winter cold, such as the beetles that are destroying forests across the Southwest and Alaska.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently confirmed that we have already observed climate-related changes in extreme weather including droughts, heavy precipitation, heat waves and the intensity of tropical cyclones. The year 2005 broke hurricane records, and America experienced the devastating results of just a few such storms with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The scientists have been proven right about global warming, over and over again, across the planet. We should start listening to them.

Now they are telling us that we have about 10 years to act to avoid being locked into irreversible global warming on a scale that will transform the planet. The scientists have identified a global temperature rise of just 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit as enough to produce undeniably dangerous consequences, such as 20 feet or more of sea level rise, which would flood large parts of Florida and New York City, as well as huge population centers in other countries. And scientists have calculated the quantity of atmospheric greenhouse gases that would very likely cause such a temperature rise. The nations of the world must keep greenhouse gases below that level to avoid irreversible dangerous global warming.

The United States emits more greenhouse gases than any other country in the world—about 20 percent of the total worldwide. We simply cannot avoid catastrophic global warming without substantial cuts in U.S. emissions. Of course, every nation will have to do its part.

According to the best science, under any plausible scenario of future international actions to stabilize the climate, the United States will eventually need to reduce its emissions by about 80 percent.

Fortunately, we have some time to get there, as long as we start reducing our total emissions now. And that's what the Safe Climate Act does. It caps U.S. emissions in 2010, and then gradually reduces them by just 2 percent per year until 2020. This gives us over a decade to deploy the cleaner technologies that we already have but aren't using much, such as hybrid vehicles and wind power. After 2020, emissions must fall under the legislation by roughly 5 percent per year, as more advanced technologies, such as biofuels from waste materials and capturing carbon dioxide from power plants, become widely available.

The Safe Climate Act reduces emissions through a flexible, market-based emissions trading program, as well as complementary requirements for cleaner cars and more electricity from renewable energy and efficiency. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy would oversee these programs nationally, while States would retain their authority to act on the State level. In effect, the Safe Climate Act sets the targets and then unleashes market forces and American ingenuity to solve the problem.

This sounds ambitious, and it is. But it is also completely doable, once we decide to act. Look at what we've already achieved. In just over 30 years, from the passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970 to 2002, the total air pollution from all automobiles was reduced by over 60 percent. We achieved these reductions even as the total number of vehicle miles traveled increased by 160 percent and GDP grew by 166 percent.

From 1990 to 1996, in just 6 years, we ended production of key chemicals destroying the Earth's protective tropospheric ozone layer and shifted to substitutes. Those chemicals had been widely used throughout the economy in applications from air conditioning and refrigeration to solvents and fire suppression.

In each case, entrenched industries told Congress that changes of these magnitudes would be impossible to achieve without massive economic dislocation. And in each case, they were wrong.

Our Nation has made dramatic advances in technology that have transformed our lives. We can do it again in developing new innovations for transportation and energy production. The Safe Climate Act will give the market the incentives necessary to unleash American ingenuity and solve the problem.

We've ignored the threat of global warming for almost too long, but we still have an opportunity if we act now. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this critically important bill, and I urge the committee of jurisdiction to consider it without further delay. We must face and overcome the challenge of global warming, and the Safe Climate Act is the way to do it.

H. CON. RES. 62: SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, a National Children and Families Day will encourage families to embrace the qualities needed to raise happy and healthy citizens. For example, families teach children the lessons they must learn to live productive and prosperous lives. They care for children by giving them love, warmth, and encouragement while providing food, shelter, and financial support. Strong families build trusting relationships by demonstrating commitment to all the members of the family. This includes following through with promises, working as a team, open and honest communication about important decisions and reflections on the passing day. All families experience crisis, but strong and committed families use these experiences to learn and to grow. Family members should spend time together talking, reading, playing games, and participating in outdoor activities. They should always encourage each other and be involved in their neighborhoods and community, where the strength of our Nation starts. A National Children and Families Day will highlight these important activities in which families engage and their positive effects on our nation.

A National Children and Families Day also would focus our attention on the need for citizens and Congress to work toward ensuring that every child has a loving family. It is so unfortunate that there are millions of children in our country who do not have the ability to experience on a daily basis, a regular basis, or even an occasional basis the love and care of a stable family relationship. These include children who are involved in the child welfare system.

A National Children and Families Day will help members of Congress focus on ways to enhance and improve the quality of life for all children and families via the programs under our jurisdictions, whether by supporting family-friendly business policies, quality health care, or quality child care. Strong families help make a strong Nation.

While we honor the 4th Saturday of June this year in recognition of the importance of children and their families, it must not stop on one day. Every day families must work at keeping each other strong and loved. And we as a Nation and Congress as a body must never cease our support for the American family and the children that are the future.

TRIBUTE TO AIR EVAC LIFETEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Evac Lifeteam in its celebration of National EMS Week.

The Air Evac Lifeteam serves rural communities and has grown to be the largest inde-

pendently owned and operated membership-based air ambulance service in the United States since its creation in 1985. The company has transported more than 100,000 patients in need, serving as the critical link to improved response time and immediate access to medical care facilities for numerous rural communities across 11 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Illinois. There are five operational bases in Illinois located in Effingham, Marion, Mt. Vernon, Quincy and Springfield which are strategically positioned to serve over forty Illinois counties. Last year the Air Evac Lifeteam air lifted over 2000 critical patients to advance medical centers.

The Air Evac Lifeteam has 1500 employees with significant professional education and experience. A registered nurse and paramedic are on every mission. Registered nurses average 6 years of critical care experience, with a minimum requirement of 3 years experience. Paramedics average 10 years of active pre-hospital experience, with a minimum requirement of 3 years experience. All medical crew members are certified as well. The Air Evac Lifeteam pilots are skilled and certified aviators that meet Federal Aviation Authority approval and have flown, on average, of more than 5,700 hours.

The National EMS Week celebration will be held at the Effingham base on Thursday, May 24, 2007. There will be a meet and greet of EMS Political IDPH Leaders as well as a host of EMS crews, government officials, hospital administration and staff, local and regional media, plus a variety of Illinois healthcare providers.

I am pleased to congratulate the Air Evac Lifeteam on its accomplishments and its service to the rural communities. I also wish the Air Evac Lifeteam well for its week-long celebration and future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 157, 158, 159, I missed due to airline mixup and malfunction. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF RACHEL R. KLAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a moment today to recognize Rachel Klay, a devoted friend and dedicated public servant who retired from the United States Secret Service on January 19 of this year.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Rachel over the course of her 24-year career with the Secret Service—and I can say, with the utmost confidence, that she served our country with dignity and integrity every step of the way.