

Through legislation such as the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act, Congress sends a message about people with disabilities—that they matter, that they can and do make valuable contributions to society. That is a message that LEAP and so many disability rights advocates send every day.

LEAP is deeply committed to empowering people with disabilities in the workplace through specialized skill development programs, at home through independent living training, in the medical system through access to the best medical care, and in so many other aspects of society. LEAP's Disability Employment Training Program, in particular, aligns with the goals of Christopher and Dana Reeve, who fought so hard for integration and acceptance for those with disabilities in our communities. LEAP has an 80 percent success rate in employment training and placement and has a tremendous impact on the community, recognizing the many talents of people with disabilities and the potential to be productive citizens.

Once again, I rise to express my support for H.R. 1727, and to honor Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1727, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A LONG-TERM CARE AWARENESS WEEK

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 133) supporting the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 133

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has reported that approximately 60 percent of individuals who are over the age of 65 will need some kind of long-term care services and at some point more than 40 percent of such individuals will require nursing home care;

Whereas in 2005 the Government Accountability Office projected that by 2040 the number of individuals in the age group of individuals who are 85 years of age or older, which it finds is the age group most likely to require long-term care services, is projected to increase more than 250 percent from 4,300,000 individuals in 2000 to 15,400,000 individuals;

Whereas the Internet site of the National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information notes that the Medicare program does not generally pay for most long-term care services that are needed and that the Medicare program pays for skilled nursing facility services only after a recent hospital stay, that Medicare beneficiaries generally pay more than \$118 in daily coinsurance begin-

ning on the 21st day of coverage and coverage ends after 100 days, and that the Medicare program does not cover a stay in an assisted living facility or adult day care;

Whereas an AARP study in 2006 found that 59 percent of people in the United States who are 45 years of age or older overestimated the level of coverage under the Medicare program for nursing home care and more than half of such people who are 45 years of age or older indicate they believe such program provides coverage for assisted living, which it does not;

Whereas the 2006 AARP study concludes that given the already high costs related to long-term care and the projected growth in the size of the older population in future years, it is essential for people in the United States to learn more about the costs of long term care, about ways to prepare for and pay for long term care, and State and community resources that are available to assist in these challenges;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office has reported that broad-based misperceptions regarding the Medicare program's level of long-term care coverage significantly contributes to the lack of personal preparation of people in the United States for the financing of long term care and advises that the government can play a significant part in enhancing personal preparedness by educating people in the United States about the scope of coverage of long-term care under public programs such as the Medicare program;

Whereas people in the United States have a right to know what long-term care coverage is available to them so that they are able to make informed retirement choices;

Whereas the first phase of the Department of Health and Human Service's pilot program to raise awareness regarding planning for long-term care obtained a less than 8 percent response rate by consumers requesting information in selected States;

Whereas in 2002 the Government Accountability Office reported that less than 10 percent of the elderly population in the United States and a lower percentage of those aged 55 to 64 years of age in the United States have purchased long-term care insurance;

Whereas the Department of Commerce indicates that savings as a percentage of after tax income declined from approximately eight percent in 1990 to less than zero since 2005;

Whereas in 2005 the Government Accountability Office reported that spending on long-term care services solely for the elderly is projected to grow at least two-and-a-half times and could grow almost four-fold to \$379 billion in 2050;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office has reported that many people in the United States have neared impoverishment by depleting their assets to pay the significant costs of their long-term care;

Whereas AARP reports that an estimated 44,400,000 individuals who are 18 years of age or older provide unpaid care to another adult and others have estimated the value of such unpaid services to be approximately \$257 billion annually;

Whereas advance planning by family members will help to protect caregivers' health, financial security, and quality of life;

Whereas our Nation's long term care challenges will significantly impact women, who make up more than 58 percent of people in the United States who are 65 years of age and older, and greater than two-thirds of people in the United States who are 85 years of age and older;

Whereas encouraging people in the United States to anticipate and plan for their future long-term care needs will help them achieve greater health and financial security, as well

as greater independence, choice, and control over the services they need in the setting of their choice; and

Whereas a long term care awareness week has been observed during the first full week in November, which in 2007 will be the week of November 4th through 10th: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week;

(2) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue working to educate people in the United States about long-term care; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to recognize such a week as an opportunity to learn more about the potential risks and costs associated with long-term care and the options available to help meet their long-term care needs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and exclude extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 133, supporting the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week. Long-term care is an often overlooked part of the continuum of care for many Americans, and many of us find ourselves ill informed and ill prepared to make choices for our own long-term care needs and those of our loved ones.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, long-term care represents a variety of services that include medical and nonmedical care for people who have a chronic illness or disability. Most long-term care is to assist people with the activities of daily living, such as dressing, bathing, and using the bathroom. It is important to remember that you may need long-term care at any age. The need for support and health services for persons who have diminished capacity for self-care is projected to strain both public and private resources.

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 133 calls for public education about the need for long-term care so that people of all ages throughout our Nation are better prepared to meet their own long-term care needs. Planning for long-term care requires us to think about possible future health care needs. Making the right decision about long-term care requires us to look at all of the options before us and to make informed decisions.

I want to recognize and thank my colleague from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN) for introducing this resolution and carrying it to the floor. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 133, supporting the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week. As designated, the first week in November is designed as the opportunity to educate Americans on the likelihood of one needing long-term care. Additionally, greater education is needed as to what types of long-term care programs are available and what the various costs of services are. Families should take this opportunity to discuss the options to help plan and pay for their future.

We know the baby boomer generation is now becoming eligible for Social Security, so it is sort of a wake-up call for what it will be, not just for having some financial independence, but what it would be and what it means to take care of dealing with their health care and the notion of rising health care costs. So the sooner one prepares, the better off they will be when they reach that age.

Madam Speaker, health care costs are increasing, people are living longer, and I think we have a real responsibility here to educate constituents who need to become actively involved in ways in which they can provide for their own future of health care, as well as the care of their family member. I stand in support of this and ask my colleagues to support the resolution as well.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4½ minutes to the bill's author, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN).

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Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 133, a bipartisan resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Long-Term Care Awareness Week during the week of November 4 through 10, 2007. I would like to thank Chairman DINGELL and committee staff for moving this resolution to the floor, and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) for yielding to me once again.

I would like to urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan resolution which I introduced with the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), along with the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON).

I am proud that this resolution has earned the support of AARP, Families USA, the Alzheimer's Association, the National Council on Aging, the Amer-

ican Council of Life Insurers, the Association of Health Insurance Advisors, and America's Health Insurance Plans. They have come together in recognizing the immediacy of the need to raise awareness about planning for long-term care needs.

This resolution is part of my commitment to addressing the many challenges associated with long-term care. Designating a week to focus on long-term care is one meaningful step we can take.

Our Nation needs to address these issues sooner rather than later so that Americans are anticipating and fully prepared to meet their long-term care needs.

Studies show that many Americans don't have a clear perception of what long-term care costs and to what extent long-term care is covered by public programs.

Experts have projected strong growth and demand for long-term care services as the baby-boom generation grows older and have emphasized the related challenge of paying for long-term care services.

The Department of Health and Human Services has reported that approximately 60 percent of people over the age of 65 will need some kind of long-term care services.

The Government Accountability Office has reported projections of significant growth in spending on long-term care services for seniors such that spending could approach \$379 billion by 2050.

Our Nation's long-term care challenges will have a particularly significant impact on women, who make up more than 58 percent of Americans over the age of 65 and greater than two-thirds of people 85 years of age or older.

Yet when it come to preparing to meet these costs, many Americans are not adequately prepared. For instance, a 2006 AARP survey on the cost of long-term care found that 60 percent of people age 45 and older said they believe Medicare will pay for extended nursing home stay, which it does not. And more than 50 percent of people age 45 or older said they believe Medicare covers assisted living, which it does not.

And private-pay costs for this kind of care continue to go up. In South Dakota, the average cost of a year in a private room in a nursing home is \$53,000, and a double-occupancy room averages well over \$47,000. According to one recent national survey, a year in a private room in a nursing home averages more than \$74,000, and a double-occupancy room averages nearly \$66,000 a year.

An essential step in meeting the challenges posed by long-term care needs and costs is raising awareness about planning for long-term care.

Education will help people understand the likelihood of needing long-term care, the types and costs of available services, and the options to help

plan and pay for those services. The more people know, the greater opportunity people have to plan for their future and the more likely they are to receive the services they need in the setting of their choice.

That's the motivation for this Long-Term Care Awareness Week resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution. By passing it today, supporting the goals and ideals of Long-Term Care Awareness Week during the week of November 4 through 10, we can take another step forward to prepare our constituents and the Nation to meet the already high cost of long-term care and the growing challenges ahead.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the lead sponsor and a true champion of this effort in the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my friend from New York for yielding me this time.

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 133 because many Americans lack protection from catastrophic long-term care expenses related to chronic illnesses and disability. And worse yet, most families assume that Medicare will actually pay for these long-term care services, while it generally does not; and oftentimes they find out in the midst of a family crisis when a loved one is ill, placing intensive emotional burdens as well as financial burdens on families.

I want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman HERSETH SANDLIN, for working with me on this and really for being a champion on this issue. She and I have worked together, and we have had some success in persuading HHS and Social Security to clarify these widespread perceptions.

I am hopeful that the passage of this resolution will encourage Secretary Leavitt, President Bush and the future administration to discuss this critical retirement security issue with the American people. A recent poll found that the majority of voters want to hear more about plans on how we will deal with this problem, and they desire more information on this. And that perception out there that exists that Medicare covers this is a real problem. The more we can get this information out to the American people, the greater the service we will be doing to help them deal and to cope with these problems.

We clearly must do more to expand coverage for long-term care, to assist family caregivers, particularly those coping with the onset of chronic conditions such as Alzheimer's disease. So I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 133.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, let me commend the gentlelady from South Dakota and the gentleman from Louisiana for bringing this to the floor.

I think what they said is totally accurate in the sense that as our population lives longer and lives more healthy lives, along with that comes an understanding and an obligation to begin preparing for those long-term health care needs as part of their retirement.

As I mentioned before, baby boomers officially begin to receive, for those early retirees, Social Security in just a few months. That population, as we know, is large. I just think the more we can emphasize and educate the people of this country on what their options can and should be as they retire, the better off we will be when that day arrives.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I too want to add my words of congratulations to the bill's authors, the gentlewoman from South Dakota and the gentleman from Louisiana.

I know from my own personal experience you are never fully prepared for having to make some of these choices on behalf of loved ones, and it can happen at any time. We are going to be very well-served by the passage of this bill to increase awareness among people of all age groups about the decisions and options they have. We have to understand that long-term care is part of the continuum of health care in this country. More education is needed. I recommend its passage.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 133.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 448) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Cancer Research Month, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 448

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research, the oldest and largest scientific cancer research organization in the United States, was founded on May 7, 1907, at the Willard Hotel in Washington, DC, by a group of physicians and scientists interested in research to further the investigation and spread new knowledge about cancer;

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research is focused on every aspect of high-quality, innovative cancer research and is the authoritative source of information and publications about advances in the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer;

Whereas since its founding, the American Association for Cancer Research has accelerated the growth and dissemination of new knowledge about cancer and the complexity of this disease to speed translation of new discoveries for the benefit of cancer patients, and has provided the information needed by elected officials to make informed decisions on public policy and sustained funding for cancer research;

Whereas partnerships with research scientists and the general public, survivors and patient advocates, philanthropic organizations, industry, and government have led to advanced breakthroughs, early detection tools which have increased survival rates, and a better quality of life for cancer survivors;

Whereas our national investment in cancer research has yielded substantial returns in terms of research and advances and lives saved, with a scholarly estimate that every 1-percent decline in cancer mortality saves our national economy \$500,000,000,000;

Whereas cancer continues to be one of the most pressing public health concerns, killing one American every minute, or a dozen people worldwide every 60 seconds;

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting on April 14–18, 2007, was the world's largest and most comprehensive gathering of leading cancer researchers, scientists, and clinicians engaged in all aspects of clinical investigations pertaining to human cancer as well as the scientific disciplines of cellular, molecular, and tumor biology; carcinogenesis; chemistry; developmental biology and stem cells; endocrinology, epidemiology, and biostatistics; experimental/molecular therapeutics; immunology; and radiobiology/radiation oncology; imaging; prevention and survivorship research;

Whereas, as part of their Centennial, the American Association for Cancer Research has published "Landmarks in Cancer Research" citing the events or discoveries after 1907 that have had a profound effect on advancing our knowledge of the causes, mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer; these landmarks are intended as an educational, living document, an ever-changing testament to human ingenuity and creativity in the scientific struggle to understand and eliminate the diseases collectively known as cancer;

Whereas more than 60 percent of all cancer occurs in people over the age of 65, and issues relating to the interface of aging and cancer, ranging from the most basic science questions to epidemiologic relationships to clinical and health services research issues, are of concern to society;

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research is proactively addressing these issues paramount to our aging population through a Task Force on Cancer and Aging, special conferences, and other programs which engage the scientific community in response to this demographic imperative; and

Whereas May would be an appropriate month to recognize as National Cancer Research Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Cancer Research Month to support the American Association for Cancer Research in public education efforts to make cancer research a national and international

priority so that one day the disease of cancer will be relegated to history; and

(2) the House of Representatives—

(A) congratulates the American Association for Cancer Research on its 100-year anniversary: "A Century of Leadership in Science—A Future of Cancer Prevention and Cures";

(B) recognizes the invaluable contributions made by the American Association for Cancer Research and its quest to prevent and cure cancer and save lives through cancer research; and

(C) expresses the gratitude of the people of the United States for the American Association for Cancer Research's contributions and the progress in advancing cancer research.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 448, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Cancer Research Month.

Preventing and ultimately finding a cure for cancer is a major public health challenge. The resolution before us calls for the establishment of a National Cancer Research Month, a time to bring public awareness of the nearly 200 forms of cancer and bring hope and a cure that cancer research provides. Providing a National Cancer Research Month will remind us that basic, clinical, epidemiological, and behavioral research are integral to identifying causes and developing strategies for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cures for cancer.

This resolution also highlights the contributions of the American Association for Cancer Research, an organization that has been on the forefront of cancer research for more than 100 years. The American Association for Cancer Research was founded in 1907 by a group of 11 physicians and scientists interested in cancer research.

As the oldest and largest scientific organization in the world focused on every aspect of high quality, innovative cancer research, the American Association for Cancer Research has established a reputation for scientific breadth and excellence as premier researchers in the field.

Today, the American Association for Cancer Research accelerates progress towards the prevention and cure of cancer by promoting research, education, communication, and advocacy