

W. Stuart Symington III, the Nation's first Secretary of the Air Force.

W. Stuart Symington was born in 1901 in Massachusetts. After graduating from Baltimore City College in 1918, Symington enlisted in the Army as a private and at age 17 became one of the Army's youngest second lieutenants. After World War I, Symington entered Yale University and graduated in 1923.

In 1938, after several years in the iron and electric manufacturing businesses, Symington accepted the presidency of Emerson Electric Company. During World War II, Symington transformed Emerson Electric into the world's largest builder of airplane gun turrets.

Symington resigned from Emerson Electric in 1945 to join the administration of President Harry S. Truman. When the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force was first created in 1947, Symington became the first Secretary of the Air Force. During his tenure, Symington worked hard to give the new United States Air Force (which had previously been part of the Army) respect, championing the United States Air Force Academy, and the success of the Berlin Airlift.

He served as Secretary of the Air Force from September 18, 1947 to April 24, 1950, after which Symington ran for and served four consecutive terms as a Senator from Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the memory of W. Stuart Symington, III. It is with great pride that I congratulate a fellow Baltimore City College graduate on his significant contributions to the United States Air Force and the Nation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I submit the following earmark disclosure and certification information for seven project requests I made included within the text of H.R. 2638, the "The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Regional Counter Drug Training Academy.

Project Amount: \$2.5 million.

Account: 01 Operating Forces Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Counterdrug Training Academy.

Address of Requesting Entity: 219 Fuller Road, NAS Meridian, Mississippi 39309.

Description of Request: NGB identified an FY2009 unfunded requirement of \$24.2M for Counterdrug Schools. Funding for NGB Counterdrug Schools is essential. Current Counterdrug (CD) Schools funding status impacts their ability to support DoD and Law Enforcement/Community Based Organization training and CNNTF support. Inconsistent funding has prevented CD schools from developing long-term training plans to maximize their capabilities. In FY2006, non-availability of funds forced one of the five Counterdrug

schools to shut down. Failure to correct this unacceptable trend will increase the Nation's ability to field an adequate number of law enforcement professionals dedicated to combating drug trafficking at the national, state, and local levels. With appropriate funding, CD Schools will also be better positioned to provide counter narcotics-based training programs critical to domestic law enforcement against Narcoterrorism.

The RCTA Meridian budget has shown little growth since FY2000, yet the costs associated with training law enforcement officers have increased by approximately 20%. The requested funding would restore training opportunities to the FY2000 level of approximately 5000 students per year.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill.

Project: Fitness Center Addition.

Project Amount: \$6.34 million.

Account: Military Construction; Navy & Marine Corps.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Naval Air Station, Meridian.

Address of Requesting Entity: 255 Rosenbaum Avenue, Meridian, Mississippi 39309.

Description of Request: This project would add to the existing fitness facilities in order to ease overcrowding. It will also upgrade mechanical and electrical systems, reduce maintenance costs, and provide space for military water survival training.

The Fitness Center is required to support 4078 active duty and reserve military, DoD and Contract personnel. The existing fitness facilities are incapable of meeting the present DoD Fitness Standards. Additionally, some of the facilities such as the gymnasium have significant roof leaks which contribute to maintenance, mold, and mildew problems.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: MQ-5B Hunter Tactical Unmanned Aircraft (UAS).

Project Amount: \$5 million.

Account: Op;A Other Procurement, Army; Tactical Unmanned Aerial Sys (Tuas)Mip.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: UAS Project Office, Redstone Arsenal, PM Tactical Concepts, UAS Project Office, SFAS-AV-UAS.

Address of Requesting Entity: Redstone Arsenal, AL.

Description of Request: The MQ-5B Hunter units provide Army Warfighters with real-time Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (RSTA) and Strike (Armed Reconnaissance) employing the Viper Strike munition.

The Hunter has now flown approximately 60,000 flight hours and nearly 30,000 hours in the OIF theater. The system has proven a proactive platform in winning the IED fight by providing "eyes" over the U.S. Army's main supply routes in OIF. Demand for the MQ-5B Hunter's day/night and Strike capability will remain high even as overall troop levels in a theater of action draw down.

Funding will (1) provide four new production or eight retrofit MQ-5B Air Vehicles to replace 'A' configuration Air Vehicles deployed with the 1st Armor Div Combat Aviation Brigade in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and (2) support

another unit scheduled for employment in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Simultaneous Field Radiation Technology (SFRT).

Project Amount: \$2.3 million.

Account: RDT & E, Defense-Wide; Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Navy, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Navy, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, North Charleston, South Carolina 29419.

Description of Request: Early research of Simultaneous Field Radiation Technology (SFRT) has provided initial findings that strongly indicate the potential for significant improvement over conventional antenna technology. Research conducted in 2006, and validated by SPAWAR, resulted in the transitioning of SFRT from a pure theoretical model and conceptual prototype. Preliminary tests with the National Guard and Coast Guard have generated a keen interest within DoD for assessment of SFRT in a multi-dimensional operations environment of networked manned and unmanned tactical and wireless systems.

The FY09 request is intended to provide the means to incorporate the technology baseline of SFRT with emerging technology as a new generation of advancements could significantly reduce antenna size and weight, minimize the negative effects of required antenna vertical polarity, and measurably enhance the performance of robots and unattended ground sensors.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Silicon Carbide Power Electronics for More Electric Aircraft (MEA).

Project Amount: \$3.2 million.

Account: RDT & E, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Air Force Research Laboratory, Propulsion Directorate AFRL/PRPE.

Address of Requesting Entity: Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433.

Description of Request: The Joint Strike Fighter Program has documented that Silicon Carbide (SiC) power electronics technology reduces weight and expense in technology for the MEA program. This technology is a key to the Air Force's high-temperature power electronics planning, as presented in the Air Force's planning chart. This project provides a strong base of funding to develop the core SiC high-temperature power electronics needed for the high-temperature engine and flight actuators on JSF and other platforms. SiC based power electronics have been identified as a critical technology to achieve high-speed Mach 2 and Mach 4 aircraft where temperatures required can be up to 350 degrees Celsius, twice the capability of conventional power technologies. This capability will enable improvements in the More Electric Aircraft program and provide substantial benefits for Long Range Strike aircraft programs, ensuring that the United States is able to protect itself quickly, and with improved safety for the war fighter.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: F/A-18 Expand 4/5 Upgrade for USMC.

Project Amount: \$7.6 million.

Account: Aircraft Procurement, Navy; F-18 Series.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Naval Air Systems Command.

Address of Requesting Entity: Patuxent River, Maryland 20670

Description of Request: FY09 funding will provide radar upgrades for 15 Marine Corps APG-73-equipped F/A-18s. Expand 4/5 allows for very high resolution radar maps to provide long range, all weather target recognition and precise target coordinate generation needed for precision weapons employment.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Silicon Carbide Electronics Material Productivity Initiative.

Project Amount: \$4.8 million.

Account: RDT & E, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Air Force Research Laboratory—Materials and Manufacturing Directorate Survivability & Sensor Materials Division (AFRL/MLPS).

Address of Requesting Entity: Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433

Description of Request: FY09 funding will enable significant reductions in the size and weight of a vast number of military electronic platforms and dramatically improve capabilities and performance at significantly lower costs. The program will accelerate semiconductor technology integration and development of a domestic second source of production capacity for silicon carbide (SiC) based materials and devices. These devices are required for high performance and high frequency power components for critical next-generation Department of Defense (DoD) systems. These systems include solid state power substations (SSPS) for future all-electric warships with Integrated Power Systems (IPS); hybrid electric military vehicles (HMMWV); high power naval surface radars for DD(X) and CG(X); and airborne radars for F22, F35, tactical UAVs, AWACS, JSTARS, and TPS-75.

H.R. 6983: THE PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

Over the years, there have been numerous hearings in DC and around the country at which individuals and their family members testified about the need for parity in the treatment of mental health and addiction conditions.

The final bill being considered today will eliminate most if not all of the abuses that

families across the country have testified about. The following are examples of many of the major inequities that the bill is designed to eliminate:

Emergency Care:

Dr. Gerry Clancy described seeking prior authorization for a suicidal patient. Wanting to confirm that this was a serious suicide attempt, the health plan reviewer asked whether the patient had a plan to take his own life. Dr. Clancy answered that the patient planned to shoot himself. He said the reviewer then went farther and said, "Does that person have a gun?" and Dr. Clancy answered "yes." Dr. Clancy said he could not believe the next question: "does the person have bullets?"

No family in America should have to face having to justify why a suicide attempt is a real medical emergency. The final bill would require plans to have the same requirements for prior authorization, terms and financial limitations, co-pays, deductibles and day and visit limits on emergency benefits for mental health and addiction treatment services as the plan has on medical and surgical emergency services covered under the plan.

Medical Necessity:

Michael Noonan, the father of a college-enrolled daughter who suffered from chemical dependence, testified about the struggle his family faced to access inpatient addiction treatment for his daughter. After his daughter encountered a series of escalating problems and relapses, her clinician recommended inpatient rehabilitation for her alcohol dependence. He contacted his insurance company and was told that his contract included a benefit for inpatient rehabilitation for substance use disorders with a \$200 deductible and 30 day coverage. In spite of confirming these benefits with his managed behavioral health care company, the authorization of his daughters' inpatient care was suspended after only five days of care. Mr. Noonan endured repeated denials, took out a home equity loan of \$23,000 to pay for treatments while processing appeals, and requested the assistance of his congressional representative in order to secure payment for the treatment of his daughter. His experience was echoed in the testimony of many others, like Xavier Ascanio, whose daughter Samantha was hospitalized for an eating disorder. "During the inpatient stay, the insurance company doled out pre-approval two or three days at a time. Imagine that hanging over you, both as a parent and as a patient."

Under the final bill, health plans are required to disclose upon request the criteria for medical necessity determinations and the reason for any denial made under the plan with respect to mental health and substance use disorder benefits to the participant or beneficiary.

Out of Network:

Xavier Ascanio testified how difficult it was to find a qualified provider in-network to treat his daughter for an eating disorder. He said that after dealing with a parade of providers who were not helpful, they finally found some who were knowledgeable and could really help. Unfortunately, the providers were not on any insurance company's PPO list.

Ms. Melinda Lemos-Jackson whose young son was diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder when he was 3 years of age testified, "Would you go to an internist for a heart condition or would you go to a cardiologist? I have placed the calls to the clinicians, who upon interview, don't meet my son's needs, I

have tried some of the in-network clinicians who clearly are not suitable. I've sometimes spoken to highly regarded folks who are actually on the list, only to find out that their practices are closed or they can't take a child like my son at this time, so we get the services our son needs and we learn to bring our checkbook and our Visa. Our health insurance is not accepted."

What Mr. Ascanio and Ms. Lemos-Jackson described are "phantom networks." "Phantom networks" are networks offered by plans that lack an acceptable number and array of providers that offer real options for help or hope for people with mental illness or addiction.

Ensuring equitable access to out-of-network benefits for mental health and addiction benefits is critical for making sure patients receive the care they need. A February 2007 RAND Corporation study looked at one health plan and found only 11.8% of patients accessing mental health benefits under the plan received care out-of-network. Moreover, a December 2007 study in Health Affairs on parity in the FEHBP found that parity legislation that does not extend parity to out-of-network benefits may have the unintended consequence of decreasing access to mental health and addiction treatment services altogether.

The final bill requires health plans to have the same terms and financial limitations on out-of-network benefits for mental health and addiction treatment services as the plan has on medical and surgical services covered under the plan. Plans must provide out-of-network benefits for mental health and substance use disorders in exactly the same manner as out-of-network medical and surgical benefits provided under the plan in order to be in compliance with this Act.

Wellness Plans:

Wellness plans can include information about diet, exercise, stress management and other forms of chronic disease management tools, but they are no substitute for mental health and addiction benefits. Increasingly, we have seen employee assistance programs that provide drug and alcohol treatment move to providing family counseling, stress management and other extremely helpful resources—but they are not a substitute for addiction treatment.

The final bill would prohibit a plan from changing its benefit design to a "wellness plan" to avoid compliance with the parity requirements of this Act.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual DSM:

Kitty Westin, the President of the Eating Disorder Coalition, spoke movingly about the need for full diagnostic coverage of mental illnesses. Anna Westin, Kitty's daughter, died at the age of 21 due to lack of access to care for her severe eating disorder. Despite having the "Cadillac" of insurance policies, Anna was repeatedly denied the treatment she needed. Eating disorders, like other diagnoses affecting children and youth, are often singled out for denial, a form of discrimination that led to the strong push in this legislation to require insurers to use the widely-accepted Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM), rather than allowing plans to pick and choose diagnostic coverage based on cost or bias.

The DSM is a diagnostic manual developed by the American Psychiatric Association, through an open process involving more than 1,000 national and international mental health researchers and clinicians. It is used by virtually all private insurance companies, along