

and the US Army. Eaton Corporation, which produces truck components in Galesburg, Michigan, has successfully worked with the Army over the past several years to develop specialized torque-modifying differentials for the HUMVEE to improve the vehicle safety. Phase I and II of the project was structured to first adapt commercial Eaton side-to-side torque modifying differentials to HUMVEES. These programs have proven very successful in quantitatively demonstrating improved vehicle safety by increasing mobility and stability on rough terrain and drastically reducing vehicle rollovers. Prototype systems will be delivered to the Army for additional testing in May 2008. Military-hardened systems will be subsequently designed.

The third and final phase of the program is to develop a front-to-rear transfer case to modulate the driving torque between the front and rear axles. In conjunction with the side-to-side system developed in Phases I and II, this will provide the soldier with the ultimate system for HUMVEE stability and mobility through complete 4x4 active torque management.

Amount: \$1,600,000.

Financial Breakdown:

Allocation of Funds

15% = \$240,000—Model hardware function and vehicle maneuvers.

25% = \$400,000—Materials-modifications to transfer case and addition of differential.

10% = \$160,000—Preliminary Bench test and vehicle functional tests.

50% = \$800,000—Labor-Design/procure hardware, develop preliminary controls software.

Justification for the use of taxpayer dollars: This program addresses a key military need for tactical wheeled vehicle stability and mobility. The technology will greatly improve soldier safety and survivability and mission effectiveness. Eaton Automotive is a commercial company serving non-military customers. Taxpayer dollars are requested for this program to adapt Eaton commercial technology to military vehicles.

2. Advanced Digital Hydraulic Hybrid Drive Systems.

Department: Defense.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Eaton Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 26201 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI.

Description of Request: The objective of this project is to develop and demonstrate a hybrid hydraulic drive system on military 4x4 vehicles. This compact drive system will enable vehicles to be operated more safely and effectively on even the harshest terrains, and also save a substantial amount of fuel. Having seen firsthand the challenges vehicles currently face with respect to immobilization, rollover or forced-slow speeds due to weight, the value of such a system is very apparent. The additional weight of important armor results in increased problems with maneuverability, so the reduced weight of the new hybrid system. In addition to reducing the weight of the drive system, this project will also increase fuel efficiency by roughly 60 percent. The increased fuel efficiency will provide clear logistical benefits by increasing vehicle range and decreasing vehicle re-fueling requirements. This is not at the expense of vehicle performance, however, as the reduced weight will actually add to vehicle traction and performance.

Amount: \$2,000,000.

Financial Breakdown:

Allocation of Funds

20% = \$400,000—Advanced component testing—Full Authority Pump Motor demonstration.

20% = \$400,000—System Testing—Lab scale test for insertion advanced technologies.

10% = \$200,000—Materials—Full Authority Pump Motor & Next Generation Accumulators.

50% = \$1,000,000—Labor—Design to develop a retrofit system, Next generation accumulators proof of concept, Develop detailed vehicle model, Develop supervisory control architecture, Develop preliminary controls software.

Justification for the use of taxpayer dollars: This project will dramatically increase fuel efficiency in military vehicles, and hence, provide logistical benefits as well as preserve fuel. The new hybrid system will also reduce vehicle weight, which will add to vehicle performance and allow for vehicles to carry increased armor or supplies.

TAIWAN DESERVES PARTICIPATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that on August 14, seventeen of Republic of China's diplomatic allies requested that the United Nations General Assembly include a supplementary item in the agenda of the 63rd session to "examine the fundamental rights of the 23 million people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to participate meaningfully in the activities of the United Nations specialized agencies."

I join my colleagues on the Hill in voicing my support for Taiwan's request. Taiwan has been denied participation in the conferences, mechanisms and conventions of the United Nations and the specialized agencies since 1971, thereby creating a major breach in the operations of the United Nations system. This has been a gross injustice that needs to be corrected. Taiwanese people deserve a voice in the UN specialized agencies for a number of reasons. Taiwan's population is larger than two thirds of the UN member states. Taiwan has a vibrant economy. Taiwan is a democracy. Taiwan wants to provide a positive feedback to the international community. Taiwan's meaningful participation in the specialized agencies would help promote peace and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Madam Speaker, the tension cross the Taiwan straits has been eased since May 2008, and leaders of Taiwan and the People's Republic have shown a willingness to settle their dispute. This thawing of relations has been warmly welcomed by the international community. It is my hope that the PRC will favorably respond to Taiwan's request with goodwill and flexibility. Only by allowing Taiwan to participate meaningfully in the specialized agencies can the UN principle of universality be fulfilled and regional peace and prosperity be ensured.

GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support S.J. Res. 45, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. This bill will help protect the Great Lakes by ensuring that water taken from the Great Lakes does not exceed the rate the lakes can be naturally replenished.

Lake Michigan is, without question, the most treasured resource to residents in States that border it and is our "Grand Canyon," something in which we take enormous pride. In addition to its sentimental value, the Great Lakes, including Lake Michigan, serve as an important resource, providing 20 percent of all the surface water in the world. Despite their size the Great Lakes are a fragile resource. Only 1 percent of the water in the Great Lakes gets replenished by snow and rainwater every year.

As a result, the Great Lakes have been put in jeopardy by efforts to divert large portions of water from the Great Lake basin to support business efforts throughout the midwest and Canada. The Compact will prohibit new or increased Great Lakes basin diversions to outside the region, except under special circumstances to provide public drinking water. It will also require all Great Lakes States to develop water resource inventories and efficiency programs, and give public notice of large proposed new water uses. Finally, it will establish uniform standards across the Great Lake States for evaluating new in-basin uses of Great Lakes water. These all are good practices of stewardship of the Great Lakes, and will allow us to preserve the Lakes, while at the same time exercising intelligent use of it as a natural resource.

The Great Lakes Compact has been approved by the Governors and State legislators of all eight Great Lake States, the U.S. Senate and the Bush administration. I believe that it is vital that the House joins them in supporting the Compact. Doing so will protect the people and environment of the Great Lakes by ensuring that the uses of its resources are done in a deliberate and consensual manner between the Great Lakes States.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. I stand with

millions of families, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and individuals in gratitude to this Congress, led by chief sponsor, Representative PATRICK KENNEDY, who have joined forces in a bipartisan manner to help those suffering from mental illness. Today, we tell Americans from all walks of life that we understand that mental illness is just like any physical illness, we understand the difficulties you have been facing, and we are here to end discrimination against patients seeking treatment for mental illnesses.

One out of every five adults in the United States suffers from mental or substance abuse disorders, which according to the Wall Street Journal, cost our economy \$550 billion last year. Of course, treating mental illness is not about dollars and cents. It's about lives which are ruined and lives which are lost. Last year one, more than 30,000 Americans committed suicide from untreated depression and 150,000 Americans died as the direct result of chemical addiction. When people are not properly treated, or not treated at all, our Nation as a whole suffers.

H.R. 6983 permanently reauthorizes and expands the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 to provide for equity in the coverage of mental and substance use disorders compared to medical and surgical disorders. The legislation ensures that group health plans do not charge higher copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, and impose maximum out-of-pocket limits and lower day and visit limits on mental health and addiction care than for medical and surgical benefits. As under current law, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, and the Internal Revenue Service may penalize health plans for discriminatory practices under the bill and individuals may bring a private right of action to receive covered benefits.

Discrimination on all counts must be eliminated in this country. This bill takes a giant step in the right direction. I am grateful to our leadership for moving this bill which is sure to help millions of Americans.

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 in strong support of the Paul Wellstone-Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

This important bipartisan piece of legislation would not have been possible without the vigorous advocacy of the late Senator Paul Wellstone and the continued dedication and commitment of Senator Wellstone's family.

In addition, I want to thank Congressmen KENNEDY and RAMSTAD as well as Senators KENNEDY and DOMENICI. Without their tireless efforts, this bill would not be before us today.

Mental illness and substance abuse affects millions of families across this country.

Without treatment, those suffering from mental illness and substance abuse often struggle to hold a job or make ends meet.

Today, approximately 44 million Americans suffer from mental illness, but only one-third receive treatment.

A key component of this problem is that private health insurers generally provide less coverage for mental illnesses and substance abuse than for other medical conditions.

A 2002 Kaiser Family Foundation study found that, while 98 percent of workers with employer-sponsored health insurance had coverage for mental health care, 74 percent of those workers were subject to annual outpatient visit limits, and 64 percent were subject to annual inpatient daily limits.

H.R. 6983 amends the Employer Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) to prohibit employer group health plans from imposing mental health or substance abuse treatment limitations, financial requirements, or out-of-network coverage limitations unless comparable limitations requirements are imposed upon medical-surgical benefits.

The out of network coverage provisions are particularly important.

Under this provision, if a health plan permits individuals to go to an emergency room for a medical condition without prior authorization; or an out-of-network hospital or treatment center at network rates for a medical condition, then the plan must apply the same rules to an individual suffering from a mental illness or substance disorder.

In addition, the bill does not require group health plans to provide any mental health or substance abuse coverage.

However, if the group health plan does offer mental health and/or substance abuse benefits, there must be equity between mental health and/or substance abuse coverage and all comparable medical and surgical benefits that the plan covers.

As a result, more Americans will be able to access affordable mental health and substance abuse benefits.

Nothing in H.R. 6983 is intended to preempt stronger state mental health and substance abuse parity laws.

The Committee on Education and Labor has analyzed each state's mental health and substance abuse law; it is our understanding and intent that this legislation will not preempt any of these laws.

In other words, a state law that may contain broader or more favorable mental health and/or substance abuse benefit requirements will not be preempted.

Finally, this bill directs the Department of Labor to provide information and assistance to individuals, employers, and states in order to help them comply with the requirements of this law.

H.R. 6983 enjoys broad, bipartisan support.

And, I would particularly like to recognize the dedication and commitment of Paul Wellstone's family to getting this bill passed. We know how important this issue was to Paul and it is in his memory that we take this vote today.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for the Paul Wellstone/Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

It is time to end the stigma and provide fair coverage to those in need.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to add my tribute to two fine Alabama Congressmen, BUD CRAMER and TERRY EVERETT. Through the years, I have had the pleasure of working with these outstanding lawmakers. They have been friends to me both personally and professionally. They have exhibited the best of this institution—looking after the interests of the people they represent and ensuring our Nation has a strong economy, strong foreign policy, and strong national security.

They, like I, represent rural areas of our country. There are few of us serving in Congress who have the privilege of representing predominantly small town America. Typically, we rural Congressmen and women bond together on rural matters, working across party lines to ensure the interests of rural America are best represented in the laws we make in Washington. Both BUD and TERRY have worked on behalf of rural people, not only in Alabama but across our country.

BUD and TERRY have also worked for a strong national defense. I have worked with TERRY on the Armed Services Committee, and I have always been honored by his commitment to our men and women in uniform. BUD, too, has been a stalwart supporter of our troops and of the NASA community in Northern Alabama.

While I am sad to see BUD and TERRY leave the House, the institution has been strengthened by their service. I hope they enjoy the next chapter in their lives.

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, as a proud cosponsor of this bill I urge its approval by the House.

The bill will extend through fiscal year 2012 the highly successful grant program for armor vests for law enforcement officers.

The program was originally established in 1998 through enactment of legislation sponsored by Colorado's Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. Since then, over 11,900 jurisdictions have participated in the program, with \$173 million in Federal funds committed to support the purchase of an estimated 450,000 vests.

For example, in fiscal year 2007, 60 separate jurisdictions in Colorado received more than \$352,000 to assist with the purchase of 1,883 vests.

And while of course the most vests were purchased by the largest law enforcement