

**H.R. 493, TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT**

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 493, to prohibit discrimination based on genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment. Thanks to breakthroughs in science we are able to genetically test for potential health problems. This is information about "potential" health problems that an individual can use to reduce the likelihood of contracting an illness.

Awareness of potential health problems is the first step; but individuals still need health care coverage to access the proper testing and treatments.

During the 1970s, the sickle-cell anemia craze led to discrimination against African Americans and unnecessary public fear. To prevent this type of public fear and discrimination against any individual, this bill bars employers and health insurance companies from discriminating against an individual based on genetic information about potential health problems. The bill protects the consumer, by denying health insurance companies from setting higher premiums based on genetic tests.

Individuals should not be penalized because of their genetic make-up; this is something no one has control of. Just because an individual is Hispanic and a likelier candidate for heart disease, should not lead to a higher insurance premium based on the results of a genetic test. Higher premiums are unrealistic and harmful to American families that already are struggling to pay for health care coverage for themselves and their children.

Parents should not skip out on vital fact-finding genetic tests about potential health problems because of fear of loss of health care coverage or loss of their job.

We need to protect our families and protect their health care coverage. I urge my Colleagues to support H.R. 493.

**HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. ZENIA CHERNYK**

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Dr. Zenia Chernyk of Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania for her many years of service to the Ukrainian people and to the Ukrainian-American community. Throughout the years I have worked closely with Dr. Chernyk, I have seen up close her dedication and unbridled energy that has resulted in tremendous accomplishments.

Originally born in Ukraine, Dr. Chernyk lived in Poland during her childhood years and attended the Medical School of Wroclaw University. In 1964, she was invited to work on kidney and pancreas transplant research at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia. Since this

time, Dr. Chernyk has worked closely with the Ukrainian Embassy, members of Congress, and national and international organizations and institutions to advocate on behalf of the healthcare needs of Ukrainian children with specialized medical needs.

For the past 17 years, Dr. Chernyk has been the Chair of the Healthcare Program of the Ukrainian Federation of America. Through this program, Dr. Chernyk has overseen the development and implementation of a variety of healthcare programs in Ukraine, including the education of healthcare providers and increasing the level of medical technology and research support available to Ukrainian healthcare programs. In addition to this position, Dr. Chernyk also serves as the director of Project Lifeline, a healthcare reform project aimed at establishing rural practice clinics in Ukraine. These programs are a valuable asset in the efforts to improve the quality of healthcare for the children of Ukraine and the Ukrainian community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Dr. Zenia Chernyk for her tireless efforts and service to Ukraine and the Philadelphia area Ukrainian-American community. May her continued service be an inspiration to us all.

**TRIBUTE TO CLARE M. ALBOM**

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Clare M. Albom a consummate leader in physical education, safety, senior and women's issues in eastern Connecticut. On April 26, 2008, Clare passed away.

Clare was born in Ellington, Connecticut, on June 17, 1919. She attended Rockville High School and subsequently earned a B.A. in health, physical education and recreation from Arnold College in New Haven. After graduation, Clare moved to Pasadena, California, and assumed a position with the Aerojet Engineering Corporation, drafting blue prints for jet engines. After 2 years in Pasadena, Clare and her husband, Milton, returned to Rockville to raise a family.

Following the birth of her three children and the untimely death of her beloved husband, she began teaching with her alma mater, Rockville High School. For 15 years, she remained dedicated to girls' physical education at Rockville High School, teaching sports curriculum and forming the Girls' Athletic Activities Club (GAAC). The GAAC, which was a huge success, offered girls in the community an unprecedented opportunity to explore interests in individual and team sports. In 1971, the GAAC received national accolades, when the program was recognized as the most outstanding in the U.S.

Over the course of her career, Clare worked with the Connecticut State Department of Education, evaluating the quality of physical education programs across the State and conducting teacher workshops. Highlights included serving as a master bowling clinician for the Lifetime Sports Education Project and conducting bowling workshops for special education teachers with the acclaimed Kennedy In-

stitute. Her work in physical education has also been solidified in physical education textbooks and national manuals.

In addition to her work in the physical education community, Clare was a passionate advocate for children's safety. Between 1970 and 1979, she served as the supervisor of Health, Elementary and Girls' Physical Education in the Vernon school system. In 1974, she developed a safety education program which was recognized at the State level by the Connecticut Safety Commission. In 1978, she produced a film on bus safety, "Alert and Alive," which also received State recognition by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles and national recognition at the National Highway Transportation Convention in Washington, D.C.

After retiring, Clare was asked by the Vernon mayor, Marie Herbst, to head up the Vernon Senior Center, which at the time was a very small program. Clare transformed the center into one of the most successful municipal senior centers in Connecticut. The center sponsored group trips in the U.S. and abroad, started "The Golden Steppers" dance program, a golf league, a bridge club, holiday events—the list goes on. Even more importantly, the center became an advocate in Vernon, the State capital, and Washington, DC, to create innovative assistance for seniors—ConnPACE, circuit breaks property tax relief and improvements to Social Security and Medicare.

As a State Representative for the town of Vernon I had the privilege to know and work with Clare for the last 22 years. She was a tireless advocate for the center, but even more importantly, for her progressive, compassionate vision of the Vernon community.

Madam Speaker, Clare lived an extraordinary life. Her advocacy and leadership roles in often overlooked issues, including girls' physical education, children's safety and opportunities for senior citizens, improved the lives of our friends and neighbors in Connecticut and across the Nation, and would change the status quo for future generations. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing her life and legacy and offering condolences to her family.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WILL TOWNSVILLE**

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Will Townsville, who was named the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their Club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and state level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to

home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the Club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3–5-minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the Local Youth of the Year award, Will moved onto the state level competition, where he refined his essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Will was an extremely qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. He served as President of the Greater Newark Boys & Girls Club's Keystone Club for 2 years. At school, Will participates in a variety of activities, including boys' basketball and baseball, Leaders of America, and the yearbook committee. Will volunteers with the Jefferson Finance Awards committee and Adopt-A-Family.

Once again, I commend Will Townsville for being named as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on April 24, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the following rollcall votes: Rollcall 220, rollcall 221, rollcall 223.

I would have voted "nay" on the following: Rollcall 222.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CLEAN AIR CHAMPIONS

#### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mrs. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize many of Sacramento's outstanding individuals and businesses as members of the Sacramento community gather at the 32nd Annual Clean Air Awards Luncheon hosted by Breathe California of Sacramento Emigrant Trails. The men and women being honored this afternoon are dedicated to the success of Sacramento and have worked tirelessly to advance the region's environmental conditions. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these fine Sacramentans.

Gary Federico and the Federico Beauty Institute will be presented with the "Business Award." Gary has partnered with Sacramento Municipal Utility District to implement a recycling program, changed his light bulbs to energy efficient compact fluorescent lights, established a photovoltaic carport system, and installed occupancy sensors to save energy. These changes will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 165,643 pounds, which is equivalent to annually removing 14 cars from the road. Gary and the Federico Beauty Institute are an example of how even individuals and small businesses can truly make a difference.

Tony Powers is receiving the Clean Air "Individual Award," for his tireless dedication to air quality by focusing on bicycle-friendly alternatives to driving. Tony has worked with the City of Folsom to build a new Lake Natoma Crossing and has inspired people to trade in their cars for bicycles. Tony has made bicycling easier and safer for the Sacramento community. Due to his efforts, Sacramento is ranked among the top 10 cities in the Nation for bicycle commuting.

The Natomas Unified School District is receiving the Clean Air "Government Award" for its dedication to air quality and energy-saving techniques. These techniques include solar panel use, conversion of school buses to biodiesel, synthetic turf playing fields and promoting walking and bicycling to school with the Safe Routes to School program. This program reduces traffic and encourages safe driving. The Natomas Unified School District has also been designated as the State's only "Climate Action Leader" due to their participation in voluntary greenhouse gas emissions reporting programs.

The Clean Air "Regional Award" will be presented to the Million Mile May Program. This program challenges individuals in the Sacramento Region to not only bike to work, but also to use their bicycles for their errands and leisure time as well. So far this year, over 2,500 individuals have pledged to ride over 600,000 miles and this number continues to rise. In 2007, the Million Mile May Program nearly reached its 1 million mile goal and saved nearly 19,000 gallons of gasoline. I would like to commend this program for its dedication to promoting clean air and exercise.

9onF is being awarded the Clean Air "Smart Growth Award" for their work in developing more eco-friendly homes in the Sacramento area. These homes feature state-of-the-art energy performance combined with environmental responsibility. They come equipped with geothermal heating and cooling systems, the SMUD "Solar Smart" Program and they are LEED-for-Homes certified. This project improves air quality in building design and construction materials as well as in its location. 9onF is built within walking distances of restaurants, stores, entertainment venues, and employment bases.

Keelan Shaw-Connelly is receiving the Clean Air "Youth Leadership Award" for her involvement in air quality issues. Keelan joined the Breathe California Youth Advisory Board as a freshman in high school and has done a wonderful job giving her peers a voice in all of the organization's outreach activities. Now as a Sacramento Country Day School junior, Keelan has become a role model for others. Active in her community, Keelan organized a tree planting day at Arcade Middle School, bringing together student volunteers from Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the Clean Air Champions, I am honored to recognize these individuals and businesses for their contributions to the environment and to the Sacramento region. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their unwavering commitment to our region.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALAN S. WEYMAN

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding public servant, Alan S. Weyman, as he completes more than 39 years of continuous service within the civilian leadership of the Department of Defense. He began his public service life in naval shipbuilding in 1969 as an engineer in training in the New Construction Program Office for the USS *Virginia* Class Cruiser and is ending it as NAVSEA's Executive Director for Surface Warfare. Throughout his career, he worked tirelessly to serve America and our Navy.

Mr. Weyman joined NAVSEA in 1979 as Assistant Program Manager for New Construction. In 1987 he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service and assigned as the Deputy in the Gas Turbine Combatant Ship Program Office where he shared responsibility for fleet support and modernization of all non-Aegis gas turbine ships, acquisition of FFG 7 Class ships, and execution of the Australian and Taiwanese foreign military sales programs.

He was designated as Director of Corporate Operations at NAVSEA in June 1995. While in this position, Mr. Weyman successfully led the organization through a continuing downsizing and restructuring of monumental proportions. Under his leadership, the organization reduced by 45 percent to meet downsizing workforce goals, with minimal mission impact and involuntary separations. Mr. Weyman was a natural leader in this Navy initiative, educating the organization and developing actions to meet a major budget reduction of \$1 billion over 5 years. Through his determination, Mr. Weyman developed a plan to eliminate any negative impact on the fleet, core equities, or mission organizational objectives. The process he developed has been adopted as the standard for the Navy.

In 1999, Mr. Weyman was assigned to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (R,D&A) as the Executive Director for the Program Executive Officer for Theater Surface Combatants which consisted of nearly 400 managers, engineers, logisticians, and financial managers. He was directly responsible to the PEO for the development and execution of a wide variety of Navy programs, including *Arleigh Burke* Destroyer Class shipbuilding, Navy Area and Theater Wide Ballistic Missile Defense, the AEGIS program, and life cycle fleet support of the 115 surface ship combatant fleet.

As Executive Director, New Construction-Current Ship Fleet Support and Inactive Ships, he was instrumental in the successful restructuring of the PEO organization, phasing out PEO Theater Surface Combatants, primarily responsible for the Aegis Shipbuilding Program, and standing up a new organization, PEO Ships, that is responsible for all surface ship shipbuilding and modernization. He initiated an integrated Fleet Support Group for all surface ships and executed that structure within the Commander Fleet Forces Command SHIPMAIN initiative.

Mr. Weyman has far exceeded expected results of his duties as Executive Director for In-