

RECOGNIZING TIBOTEC THERAPEUTICS FOR CONDUCTING THE GRACE STUDY, A GROUND-BREAKING HIV CLINICAL TRIAL FOCUSED ON WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Tibotec Therapeutics, part of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies, for demonstrating continued innovation and corporate responsibility in the fight against HIV/AIDS by conducting the groundbreaking GRACE study. GRACE, which stands for Gender Race and Clinical Experience, is the largest study to date in treatment-experienced women with HIV to examine gender and race differences in response to an HIV therapy. Findings from this historic study were recently presented at the International AIDS Society conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

In the United States, women are increasingly affected by HIV/AIDS, accounting for more than one quarter of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses, with African American and Latina women representing seventy-nine percent of women living with the disease. People of color, both women and men, have been historically underrepresented in clinical trials in the United States, and HIV/AIDS disproportionately impacts our African American and Latino communities. In my home State of Illinois, there are over 35,000 people living with AIDS: African Americans represent 50% of these cases, and Latinos represent 13%. In terms of new HIV infections, African American women are infected at a rate fifteen times higher than white women, and Latino women are infected at a rate almost four times as high as white women.

In recent HIV studies of treatment-experienced patients, women accounted for less than 11 percent of the patients being studied, on average. This trial was designed to help overcome some of the barriers, identified by the advisors, which have historically deterred women and people of color from participating in clinical studies, including stigma, lack of child care, transportation and personal support systems. Based upon advisor and community input, study participants could obtain assistance to cover costs associated with their participation in the study, including funds for travel and childcare, as well as food vouchers. Through innovative strategies like these, the GRACE study was able to enroll nearly seventy percent women, sixty percent African Americans and twenty-two percent Latinos. I am proud to say that two of the study sites in this historic clinical trial are located in my congressional district.

Results of the GRACE study showed that there were no statistical differences in the safety, tolerability or effectiveness of the HIV regimens used in the study between male and female participants, or for people of different ethnicities. Importantly, from my perspective, the GRACE study clearly showed that, with the appropriate commitment from the trial sponsor and input from affected communities and providers, clinical trials can, indeed, enroll

meaningful numbers of women and racial and ethnic minorities.

With the GRACE study, Tibotec Therapeutics and Johnson & Johnson continue to demonstrate their leadership and corporate social responsibility as innovators and leaders in the pharmaceutical industry. I commend them for their continuing commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS and for their leadership in addressing the disproportionate impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on women and people of color.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PHILADELPHIA BRANCH OF THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding cultural organization that has served thousands of young Americans in the Philadelphia area.

On October 24, 2009, the Philadelphia Branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association will celebrate its 60th anniversary. This organization has encouraged three generations of youth to become productive American citizens. Members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association are proud of their national heritage and support the land of their ancestors in its quest to join Western democracies as an independent state.

Throughout my time as a Member of Congress, I have worked closely with members of the Ukrainian American community, including the Ukrainian Federation of America and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, to strengthen the ties between the United States and Ukraine. It gives me great pleasure today to recognize the Ukrainian American Youth Association for its work toward that same end.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Philadelphia Branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association for its support of and service to thousands of Ukrainian American youth over the past sixty years.

HONORING CRUSADER CLINIC ON ITS 37TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the jewels of northern Illinois, Crusader Community Health of Rockford. Crusader Community Health is a remarkable community-based, not-for-profit health center whose mission is to provide quality, primary health care to people in need in the Rock River Valley. Crusader Community Health systems is part of a network of more than 1,200 federally qualified health centers in the United States serving 18 million people. These centers are doing tremendous work providing care to the medically disenfranchised in this nation. Crusader is the

backbone of our regional community's health care safety net, delivering high quality primary and preventive care for over 40,000 patients each year regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

This year, Crusader Community Health is celebrating its 37th anniversary as one of the top community health centers in the nation. Crusader has been lauded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and will soon be featured on the National Medical Report program of National Public Broadcasting for its positive impact on the local community. Nationally, the community health centers program has been recognized by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as one of the most highly effective federal programs in existence.

Madam Speaker, I wish to extend my recognition and strong support of Crusader Community Health systems in Rockford, Illinois. Since its founding in 1972, Crusader Community Health has served my fellow citizens in northern Illinois with access to affordable and high quality medical and dental care. I am proud to support Crusader Community Health because I know many of my fellow citizens would be without health care if it were not for the dedication and professional excellence of the staff, board of directors and volunteers associated with this terrific local organization. Crusader is a great example of the effectiveness of the community health center program in this nation. This system of care saves lives and deserves continued public support. I am honored to recognize Crusader Community Health and its personnel here in the United States Congress today.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Department of Energy—EERE
Requesting Entity: Montana State University-Bozeman, 207 Montana Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717

Description: Montana Algal BioDiesel Initiative—Algae, third generation or advanced biofuels, use photosynthesis to transform carbon dioxide and sunlight into oil. Algae can grow in water and on land, even land not suitable for food production. Even CO₂-rich emissions from fossil fuel (coal) burning powerplants can be used as feedstocks to support the growth of algae that produces biodiesel. The effective use of high temperature CO₂-rich exhaust gases (including the geothermal environments in Yellowstone) also produce algae that can flourish at high ambient temperatures. Currently, there are both practical and economic obstacles to increased use of biofuels from algae, but early research is promising. The funds requested would be used to advance the development of biofuels

from algae, especially from coal plant emissions and exhaust gases.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Department of Energy—EERE

Requesting Entity: Montana State University-Bozeman, 207 Montana Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717

Description: Wind Turbine Development—The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) works to strengthen the United States' energy security, environmental quality and economic vitality in public-private partnerships. It supports this goal through enhancing energy efficiency and productivity; bringing clean, reliable and affordable energy technologies to the marketplace; and making a difference in the everyday lives of Americans by enhancing their energy choices and their quality of life

This project addresses those issues through (a) research on durability and damage tolerance of wind turbine blades, (b) efforts to promote commercialization and manufacturing, with attention to cost reductions, and (c) site development activities. The wind turbine blade materials and manufacturing studies will help develop cost-effective wind turbine electrical power generation. This in turn will provide an electric power distribution throughout Montana to stimulate economic development. An infrastructure is already in place to immediately help the wind turbine industry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, on October 20, 2009, I missed rollcall votes numbered 790, 791, and 792.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 790, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide for an exclusion from Red Flag Guidelines for certain businesses; No. 791, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Gulling Street in Portola, California, as the "Army Specialist Jeremiah Paul McCleery Post Office Building;" and No. 792, supporting the increased understanding of, and interest in, computer science and computing careers among the public and in schools, and to ensure an ample and diverse future technology workforce through the designation of National Computer Science Education Week.

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HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Tibotec

Therapeutics, part of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies, for demonstrating continued innovation and corporate responsibility in the fight against HIV/AIDS by conducting the groundbreaking GRACE study. GRACE, which stands for Gender Race And Clinical Experience, is the largest study to date in treatment-experienced women with HIV to examine gender and race differences in response to an HIV therapy. Findings from this historic study were recently presented at the International AIDS Society conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

In the United States, women are increasingly affected by HIV/AIDS, accounting for more than one quarter of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses, with African American and Latina women representing seventy-nine percent of women living with the disease. People of color, both women and men, have been historically underrepresented in clinical trials in the United States, and HIV/AIDS disproportionately impacts our African American and Latino communities. In my home state of Texas, there are about 73,000 people living with AIDS, and Latinos represent almost one-quarter of these cases. There are over 5,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in San Antonio, and many more in the surrounding counties. In terms of new HIV infections, Latina women are infected at a rate almost four times as high as white women.

Through innovative strategies, the GRACE study was able to enroll approximately seventy percent women, sixty percent African Americans and twenty-two percent Latinos. The trial was designed to help overcome some of the barriers which have historically deterred women and people of color from participating in clinical studies, including stigma, language and cultural barriers, and lack of child care, transportation, and personal support systems. Based upon advisor and community input, study participants could obtain assistance to cover costs associated with their participation in the study, including funds for travel and childcare, as well as food vouchers. I am very proud that one of the study sites in this historic clinical trial is located in my congressional district.

Results of the GRACE study showed that there were no statistical differences in the safety, tolerability, or effectiveness of the HIV regimens used in the study between male and female participants, or for people of different ethnicities. Importantly, from my perspective, the GRACE study clearly showed that, with the appropriate commitment from the trial sponsor and input from affected communities and providers, clinical trials can, indeed, enroll meaningful numbers of women and racial and ethnic minorities.

With the GRACE study, Tibotec Therapeutics and Johnson & Johnson continue to demonstrate their leadership and corporate social responsibility as innovators and leaders in the pharmaceutical industry. I commend them for their continuing commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS and for their leadership in addressing the disproportionate impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on women and people of color.

DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, on October 13, I was unable to speak in favor of or cast a vote in support of H.R. 3476, a bill I introduced with the gentleman representing the congressional district to the east of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District, Representative GARRETT.

H.R. 3476 would reauthorize the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission for another 10 years.

The Citizen Advisory Commission, CAC, was first proposed in 1988 by Congresswoman Marge Roukema in an effort to establish a more open dialogue between National Park Service, NPS, employees working the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, DWGNRA, and the surrounding local communities. Communication between these two parties is valuable in maintaining a healthy DWGNRA for generations to come.

The CAC allows the communities' experiences in—and knowledge of—the Delaware Water Gap to strengthen National Park Service decisionmaking in the National Recreation Area. Park officials are provided with a unique perspective on issues as varied as sustaining or preserving historic structures, to protecting wildlife and forests, to improving public safety and preventing or mitigating flooding along the river.

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area preserves almost 70,000 acres of land along the Delaware River's New Jersey and Pennsylvania shores. This majestic area is popular not only with local residents, but also for tourism due to activities such as hiking, fishing, camping, swimming, and boating.

Part of ensuring that this beautiful area straddling the border between Pennsylvania and New Jersey is preserved for future generations is reauthorizing the CAC, which plays an invaluable role in assisting the NPS to protect, preserve, and expand the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

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HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2997—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture—SRG

Requesting Entity: Montana State University-Bozeman, 207 Montana Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717

Description: Invasive Plant Management—Non-native invasive plants are the primary environmental threat to western wildlands. These