

AIDS research. They also contributed to the invention of the polio vaccine—a fitting end for the cells of a woman who had been a vocal advocate for polio eradication. To date, some twenty tons of these cells have been grown.

The achievements these cells have made possible are undeniably thrilling, but we cannot forget the dark side of this story: that the cells were taken without Henrietta Lacks's consent, that her family was not told for many years what had been done, and that such practices were not uncommon. Lacks was just one of many individuals of that era whose right to consent to procedures performed on her own body was taken away in the name of scientific advancement. Had her cells not been so unusual, her story would likely not be known.

Today we not only honor Henrietta Lacks and her legacy, but we also remember every forgotten individual who because of racial discrimination or poverty was subject to some form of medical injustice. Her story contains at once the greatest heights and most shameful depths of which medicine is capable, and only in acknowledging both can we hope to pursue a world for our future generations that strives for both knowledge and justice.

This more just world requires that we work for access to health care for all, regardless of socioeconomic status. One of the greatest outrages of Henrietta Lacks's story has been that while the medical industry makes millions from advances she made possible, members of her own family have struggled to afford care, and have never been able to benefit from the medical discoveries made. As we fight for solutions to these injustices, I pledge to remember Henrietta's family's words, "We are asking each of you to be her voice." On behalf of the 5th District of Virginia, I thank Dr. Ronald Pattillo of the Morehouse School of Medicine for his support for the tombstone dedication and the Lacks family for their dedicated efforts to telling her story and ensuring that future generations will know that we have Henrietta's immortal cells to thank for countless discoveries made and lives saved.

HONORING HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston, Maine on its 100 year anniversary and its subsequent consecration.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston, Maine was founded in 1910. As a small church on Lincoln Street in downtown Lewiston, it was established to serve more than 3,000 Greeks in the community who were drawn to the area by jobs in the Bates and surrounding mills. As the mills began to close in the 1950's, the Greek residents migrated south to the Massachusetts mills, and the population of Holy Trinity reduced significantly. Despite this drop in population, a new church was built in 1977 on Hogan Road, and Holy Trinity continued to be known as a pillar of civic leadership in the area.

On Saturday May 22, 2010, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church celebrated its 100th

Anniversary. On the following Sunday, they consecrated their 33-year old church building, marking a commitment to Greek Orthodoxy in Lewiston for generations to come. Greek Orthodox churches are consecrated just once in their lifetime, usually after a milestone has been met to ensure that the building is a permanent part of the parish. Archbishop Metropolitan Methodios chose the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston as one of only two consecrations he would preside over in 2010.

From 2000 to 2008, Holy Trinity, largely under the stewardship of Fr. Ted Toppses, extended its outreach past Lewiston to the surrounding areas and expanded its membership by fifty families. Always a vital part of Lewiston, the Church continues to address the spiritual and social needs of the surrounding communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the centennial and consecration of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston and all of the contributions they make to the communities in the greater Lewiston and Auburn area.

ON INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA ON ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on its 35th anniversary.

CITES was created in 1973 to ensure that international trade in wild plants and animals does not threaten their survival. CITES entered into force on July 1, 1975 and thus will celebrate its 35th anniversary on July 1, 2010. Launched with a few signatory nations, CITES has now 175 parties that have an international obligation and responsibility to protect our planets' endangered animals and plants. Nearly 5,000 species of animals and 28,000 species of plants are protected by the Convention against over-exploitation through international trade. Adherence to these protective measures has proven to have benefited the conservation of animals and plants worldwide.

Unfortunately, more and more species are at risk of extinction and international trade, both legal and illegal, has exacerbated the dangers. International wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars per year and to include hundreds of millions of live plants and animals and derived products such as food products, leather and fur, ornamentals, medicinal, and timber. Such high levels of exploitation of and trade in wild animals and plants, together with other factors such as habitat loss, are capable of bringing some species close to extinction.

Between 1979 and 1989 more than 600,000 African elephants were killed for their ivory, cutting the continent's population in half. Nevertheless, poaching has continued with an estimated 38,000 elephants killed annually and

23.2 tons of poached ivory seized since 2007. As sea ice declines, polar bears will not be able to adapt to a terrestrial-based life resulting in increased mortality, reduced reproduction, increased human-bear conflicts, and overall drastic decline of populations. Several sharks have been severely depleted with declines as high as 99 percent in some areas as a result of the high demand for their fins and meat. Overfishing, increased consumer demand and inadequate enforcement of infractions have led to historically low populations of bluefin tuna.

Every two to three years the parties of CITES meet at the Conference of the Parties to review the status of species in danger of extinction and establish trade restrictions. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in March 2010. Several proposals were submitted during the summit, some of them ensuring better protections for endangered species, others trying to downlist species and re-open trade. While proposals to downlist elephant populations in Tanzania and Zambia were successfully defeated, several proposals to establish stronger protections for the polar bear, eight sharks, the bluefin tuna and other species were unfortunately rejected. I am saddened to see that economic interests have prevailed over species conservation, risking to bring species close to extinction. This is unacceptable.

My resolution will congratulate the Convention on its 35th anniversary and recognize the important contributions it has made since its establishment in regulating international trade in endangered species and protecting endangered species worldwide. It will also applaud the Convention's recent leadership in protecting elephants in Tanzania and Zambia. Lastly, the resolution will urge all parties to the Convention to collaborate effectively to curb excessive exploitation of species for international trade and, in particular, to adopt stronger protections for the polar bear, sharks, bluefin tuna and other endangered species at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2013.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a moral obligation to protect endangered species and their natural habitat. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to the diversity and stability of our environment. We must continue to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of both human beings and the world's most incredible species.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting wildlife and environmental conservation across the globe by supporting this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. COLLINS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Robert J. Collins, Superintendent of the Grossmont Union High School District, which I have the pleasure of representing.

Bob Collins has served the Grossmont Union High School District with distinction for

the past 3 years, and I wish him nothing but the best as a new chapter in his life begins.

Prior to his service in Grossmont, Bob was a 39-year veteran of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Throughout his career Mr. Collins served as a social studies teacher, leadership advisor, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent, Superintendent of District One and Chief Instructional Officer for Secondary Schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

In November 2007, Bob became superintendent of the Grossmont Union High School District, where he established a singular focus for the district: the academic and personal success of every student. He has excelled in working with local leaders, while creating targeted programs to address the social and emotional needs of students; recognizing that student achievement is not just a classroom issue.

Restoring public confidence in schools has been a continuing theme of his administration that has been marked by significantly increased standardized test scores, greater parent engagement, and strong community and business relations. His efforts and the programs he developed have been recognized at the local, State and national levels and are models in many other schools and districts. His honors include being recognized as Principal of the Year in the State of California in 1989.

Madam Speaker, let us all applaud the 43-year service that Robert Collins has provided to our San Diego and Los Angeles communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the many achievements of this great public servant.

BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION, RISK REDUCTION AND AWARE- NESS ACT OF 2010

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2010 today, which will help provide accurate, evidence-based information to pregnant and breast-feeding women about medications, chemical exposures, foodborne illness and other exposures associated with birth defects or health risks to a breastfed infant.

Women who are pregnant or breast-feeding often have difficult questions, such as if they should continue taking medications for chronic diseases, or whether they should get vaccinated against H1N1 or the seasonal flu. The bill would establish a grant program to revitalize the national network of pregnancy risk information services (PRISs), more than half of which have closed over the last decade due to lack of funding. Over 70,000 women seek information from these essential services each year.

The legislation, which has been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, March of Dimes, the Organization of Teratology Information Specialists, Spina Bifida Association, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and Allergy and Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics, would also

call for a national information campaign to help increase public awareness among health providers and at-risk populations. I hereby submit for the RECORD letters of support from these organizations.

There is nothing more important than protecting our children, and this legislation will help expectant and breast-feeding mothers to obtain clear, accurate information about the potential risks of medications, illnesses, and other exposures during pregnancy and breast-feeding, helping them to both avoid risks and improve healthy behaviors like taking folic acid. Unfortunately, research shows that up to half of pregnant women are not counseled by their health care providers about the potential risks of medications they may be taking, and programs to provide this information have been closing due to state and local budget cuts. This legislation will finally help mothers and health care professionals access critical information to help them ensure their babies are healthy, and I urge my colleagues to support our efforts.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS,

May 18, 2010.

Hon. ROSA DeLAURO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DeLAURO: On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I would like to share our support for the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act.

Each year, about one in every 33 babies in our nation is born with a birth defect. Birth defects can be caused by genetic factors, environmental exposures, or a combination of the two. For the vast majority of birth defects, however, the cause remains unknown. Research continues to reveal important new information about the causes and prevention of birth defects.

The Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act seeks to provide a resource for pregnant women who have questions about whether certain medications, infections, or chemical or environmental exposures might cause or increase the risk of a birth defect, or pose a risk to a breastfeeding baby. The bill would support the provision of pregnancy and breastfeeding information services to women and health care providers seeking information about known or suspected risks. Breastfeeding mothers will receive information about how potential risks should be weighed against the significant benefits of breastfeeding. These services will address an important need as our understanding of birth defects and their prevention continues to evolve.

The AAP deeply appreciates your commitment to preventing birth defects and educating the public about potential risks. We are pleased to support the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the health of all our nation's children.

Sincerely,

JUDITH S. PALFREY,
President.

MARCH OF DIMES FOUNDATION,
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 30, 2010.

Hon. ROSA DeLAURO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DeLAURO: On behalf of more than 3 million volunteers and 1,400 staff of the March of Dimes Foundation, I am writing to express support for the "Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act of 2010." As currently drafted, this bill authorizes funding to conduct a national media campaign, enhance surveillance and research on exposures that may lead to adverse birth outcomes such as birth defects or prematurity. It also authorizes funding to develop best practice guidelines to improve infant health.

Each year, an estimated 120,000 infants are born with major structural birth defects and one in five infant deaths is due to birth defects, which are a leading cause of infant mortality. It is important to ensure that the public—especially women of childbearing age—and health care professionals have access to clinical and evidence based information about exposures during pregnancy and the period of breastfeeding, because it is an important way of helping to decrease the incidence of birth defects and improve infant health. Unfortunately, studies show that up to half of pregnant women are not counseled by their health care providers about the potential teratogenic effects of prescription drugs that they are taking. Pregnancy risk information services can help to address the problem by making available to women information about the potential impact of exposure to medication, illnesses of others, and environmental agents that can affect the developing fetus and infant.

Thank you for your leadership on this very important issue, Representative DeLauro, we look forward to working with you on this and other issues central to the health and wellbeing of children in communities across the nation and around the world.

Sincerely,

DR. MARINA L. WEISS,
Senior Vice President.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
HEALTH CENTER,
West Hartford, Connecticut.

Hon. ROSA DeLAURO,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. DeLAURO: As the coordinator of the Connecticut Pregnancy Exposure Information Service, I want to express my deep appreciation for your willingness to introduce legislation that would establish a program to fund pregnancy risk information services such as ours. As you know, over the past decade, more than half of the state services across the country have closed due to state budget constraints, and those remaining have experienced severe cuts. We simply are not able to reach all the women who need counseling on exposures that may pose a risk to healthy pregnancies. Without a Federal program to support pregnancy risk information services, it is unclear if we can continue to operate. Pregnant women and their health care providers NEED INFORMATION about exposures that pose a risk to pregnancy or breastfeeding infants. Thank you for recognizing this need and for introducing legislation to assure that we can continue to serve the public.

I am an officer of the Organization of Teratology Information Specialists and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you briefly in New Haven and take a photo with you for our newsletter.

Again, thank you so very much for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

SHARON VOYER LAVIGNE.