

dying today as a result of drug resistance and super bugs. We hear a lot about the challenges of South East Asia, but our health professionals are confronting bacterial infections that are resistant to all currently available antibiotics.

Recently, the World Health Organization Director-General said "things as common as strep throat or a child's scratched knee could once again kill. Hip replacements, organ transplants, cancer chemotherapy and care of preterm infants would become far more difficult or even too dangerous to undertake" due to the rising threat of super bugs.

According to providers I've heard from, drug resistance is already a distinct problem in the front lines of our nation's health delivery.

For example, in one instance, a 15 year old girl got her ears pierced. Her earlobes swelled and got red. She went to the emergency room and was admitted for IV antibiotics. The infection was resistant to the usual antibiotics and she became septic and died.

There are many other cases in which minor injuries and simple procedures produce unexpected complications because of the emerging threat of drug resistance.

Because of the nature of this threat, I urge my colleagues as this heads to the floor and hopefully to conference, that no changes are made to the GAIN provisions to further limit incentives or reduce the list of pathogens. The truth is we do not know what the specific public health threat will be and once it is on top of us it is too late. We have to be prepared and part of this preparedness is getting our drug companies to develop drugs that may not be profit blockbusters but are necessary to help protect us from public health crises.

With the help of Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN, we have struck a careful balance. I strongly oppose any changes to the GAIN Act in an eventual conference with the Senate. I am concerned that any changes could create lopsided incentives that lead to unnecessary drugs or, alternatively, remove incentives and result in too few, if any, drugs.

I believe the GAIN Act as included in this bill, as well as the entire bill, are good policy. The FDA Reform Act deserves to be passed by the House and I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 250, 251 and 252. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 250, 251 and 252.

RECOGNIZING DR. SHETAL I. SHAH

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Shetal I. Shah,

MD, FAAP, who this year celebrates his fifth anniversary serving as Legislative Chairman for the Long Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Shah is a lifelong resident of Long Island after his parents, Dr. Indravadan C. Shah, MD, FACS and Dr. Saroj Shah, MD, FACOG emigrated from India over 40 years ago. Upon earning degrees from Princeton, Cornell, Duke and New York Universities, Dr. Shah returned to Long Island as a pediatrician and neonatologist, focusing his work on caring for vulnerable and critically-ill newborns.

In his capacity as Legislative Chairman, Dr. Shah has provided thorough analyses of health care policy proposals and their impact on the welfare of children on Long Island. He has served as a valuable resource on important topics such as immunization policy, research funding for child health, and children's health insurance coverage.

Dr. Shah's expertise was particularly valuable during the 111th Congress as House and Senate committees worked to draft the Affordable Care Act. Guided by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Shah ably assisted my office in understanding the impact of the various legislative proposals on children's health, providing a local context in which to frame my assessment and support of the final legislation.

In addition to providing intensive care to premature infants at Stony Brook Long Island Children's Hospital, Dr. Shah's immunization research and subsequent advocacy work has resulted in the passage of two New York State laws aimed at protecting newborns from influenza and whooping cough, both of which can be life-threatening to young children. He has been recognized as a "Physician-Leader" by the American Medical Association, is a former Fulbright Scholar, and has been honored by the American Association of Physicians from India.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Shah has been an ardent advocate for our nation's children and I thank him for his contributions to the policymaking process. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Dr. Shah on his accomplishments in the field of pediatric and child health and extend best wishes to him and his family on this celebratory occasion.

RECOGNIZING BATTLEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL'S ROBOTICS AND TECHNOLOGY TEAMS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Inspiring Leaders in Technology and Engineering, ILITE, Robotics Team at Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Virginia, for its outstanding performance in winning the FIRST Robotics World Championship.

Ninety thousand students from around the world competed in the FIRST Robotics competition. Battlefield's FIRST Tech Challenge team won the world championship title at the world championship in St. Louis, Missouri, this April, while the First Robotics Competition, FRC, team finished as a quarter-finalist. Both teams won awards at the regional and state

level prior to participating in the world championship.

I was pleased to visit Battlefield High School on May 21, and meet with students from the robotics team after their championship victory. Educating American students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, is critical to maintaining U.S. competitiveness, and I commend ILITE Robotics at Battlefield High School on their success.

The ILITE Robotics Team is coached by Professor Gail Drake, and is comprised of: Chris Blaylock, Gaelan Dean, Jon Gallion, Aaron Guo, Logan Hambrick, John Hitt, Jacob Hogan, Natalie Jones, Terri Jones, Joel Kaminski, Colin Kauv, Kent Komine, Jakob Kressel, William Lahann, Jaehoon Lee, Daniel Lopez, Jacob Maltbie, Joseph Melir, Alex Missar, Deanna Moser, Matt Moser, Sara O'Malley, Garrett Ormond, Wonsik (David) Park, David Powell, Rainier Rabena, Cary Reese, Melanie Sattler, Erik Seastead, Joanna Senseng, Clayton Shablom, Donny Shaw, Justin Shaw, Jordan Soriano, Evan Teitelman, Michael Toman, Logan Wilding.

ON THE OCCASION OF SUPER-INTENDENT DR. JOANN ANDREES' RETIREMENT FROM THE WEST BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. JoAnn Andrees, as she retires from her position as Superintendent of the West Bloomfield Public School System (WBPS), which she has held since 2008.

Dr. Andrees' tenure in primary and secondary public education exemplifies the passion and commitment of a true public servant. Throughout her time at WBPS, Dr. Andrees has held many different roles in the system from being a special education teacher to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. She has also served as a guidance counselor, Assistant Principal at West Bloomfield High School (WBHS) and Principal of Abbott Middle School and WBHS. With a career that spans so many perspectives within public education, Dr. Andrees has developed a dynamic and unique perspective that has given her the insight needed to design and implement many programs that have benefited not only the youth of West Bloomfield but also the broader community.

With her knowledge and leadership, Dr. Andrees has overseen the creation of a number of programs within WBPS. One such program that she created while she was Assistant Superintendent was a strategic plan aligning the curriculum of all schools within the WBPS system. Dr. Andrees also used her background in special education to create the Oakland Opportunity Academy, an adult postsecondary education program for individuals with special needs. With an eye toward providing all WBPS students with the environment to excel, she supported programs which have helped minority students close the education gap. Additionally, through partnerships she helped to forge with Ford Motor Company and Henry Ford Health Systems, the students of

WBPS have been provided greater academic opportunities in the fields of robotics and health sciences.

The results of Dr. Andrees' leadership speak for themselves. At a time of unprecedented uncertainty in our communities, she has guided WBPS to a deficit-free budget while leading the district's 800 employees. Furthermore, she has gone beyond good stewardship of WBPS and directly engaged with the West Bloomfield community to lead in the passage of a bond initiative to enhance WBPS' facilities and technology. During her tenure as Principal of Abbott Middle School, the school was recognized with a National Blue Ribbon of Excellence, the highest honor which can be bestowed for exceptional leadership in education. Dr. Andrees has received many other community awards including the 2012 MASA Winner's Circle Award, the 2012 Michigan Week Dr. Seymour Gretchko Youth Advocate Award and the 2012 Greater West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Community Excellence Award in Education.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. JoAnn Andrees has not only been a leader for quality public education in West Bloomfield; she has been its staunchest advocate and in doing so, has worked with other area leaders to build a thriving community. I admire her commitment to the virtues of public service and I know that her leadership will be fondly remembered by the thousands of students, families, teachers and staff have benefitted from her work in WBPS and the broader community.

RECOGNIZING DR. FRANK BURKE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired Stanislaus County administrator, Dr. Frank Burke, who turns 100 years old on June 19, 2012.

Frank was born June 19, 1912, in Denver, Colorado. He was the first child of Frank and Emma Burke, children of Irish immigrants who had fled Ireland's potato famine of 1846 and settled in Iowa. Frank spent his formative years in Oregon with his brother, Larry, and mother, Emma, who worked as an elementary school teacher in several small schools in the eastern region of Oregon.

Dr. Burke graduated from Gonzaga University in 1932, and after a variety of sales and merchandising jobs, moved to San Francisco. Under the urging of his aunt, a former school teacher, he enrolled in San Francisco State University to seek a teaching credential. In 1940, he married Dorothy Grennan and returned back to school at UC Berkeley, where he graduated with a Doctorate in Education in 1958.

Since 1939, Frank has had an exciting career that took him all over California as an elementary school teacher for Alturas Elementary in Modoc County and Mann Elementary School in Alameda County, to principal to assistant superintendent in Siskiyou, Contra Costa, and Stanislaus Counties.

Frank's final position was in Stanislaus County as the Director of Elementary Edu-

cation, where he was later promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Stanislaus County Office of Education.

Frank retired in 1975, but spent 16 more years supervising student teachers, working for Stanislaus State University as a college instructor, and working for the county office.

Frank was the recipient of Association of California School Administrators Region VII's Retired Administrator of the Year Award and continues to be very active in the Association of California School Administrators, ACSA, the ACSA Retirees' group, and the Exchange Club.

Frank currently resides in Modesto and is quick to jump into a discourse on improving education—providing stimulating opportunities to discuss new ways in which to help students learn and grow. Frank is committed to improving our community and is a frequent writer of letters to the editor of the Modesto Bee.

Frank was married for 63 years to Dorothy, who passed away in 2004. He has six children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Frank Burke for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions. Frank serves as an example of excellence to those in our community.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues an issue of great importance to the patient and provider community—the availability of critical diagnostic tests. On June 1, 2011, the Food and Drug Administration issued a draft guidance titled, "Draft Guidance for Industry and FDA Staff—Commercially Distributed In Vitro Diagnostic Products Labeled for Research Use Only or Investigational Use Only: Frequently Asked Questions."

As written, this draft guidance could jeopardize the future of personalized medicine and individualized treatment options for patients. I also want to note that when the FDA sought public comment on this draft guidance, the agency received correspondence from 54 organizations and individuals. Every comment received by the FDA expressed concerns about the draft guidance, and not one endorsed the approach.

For example, the Johns Hopkins University department of pathology surveyed laboratories at the university, and found that dozens of tests could be impacted by the guidance, including diagnostics for viral meningitis, and diagnosis of HIV infection in infants with infected mothers. Mayo Clinic indicated that certain important cancer diagnostics could disappear if this guidance is implemented as currently written. Public health laboratories, including those in my home state of California would lose their ability to identify and provide laboratory-based surveillance for diseases such as measles,

West Nile virus, eastern equine encephalitis virus, and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

When the academic community expresses such serious reservations, I believe it is important that FDA review and address these concerns. It is important for the Agency to work with all stakeholders, including the patient and provider communities, on a balanced approach before issuing its final guidance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during yesterday's three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 5651, H.R. 4201, and H.R. 915.

94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in tribute to the 94th Anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan this week.

Republic Day celebrates Azerbaijan's declaration of its independence from the Russian Empire in 1918, becoming the region's first Muslim democratic secular republic in Central Asia.

While that independence was short lived, from 1918–1920, the young Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan made tremendous strides, granting women the right to vote and laying the foundation for architecture and formal education for future Azeris.

But the new Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was soon occupied by the Soviet Union, losing the hard-won independence, and forced to become a republic in the U.S.S.R.

In 1990, as the U.S.S.R. crumbled, Azerbaijan regained its independence from the Soviets, ending a 70 year nightmare, but the journey to freedom was a bloody one.

In January 1990, referred to as "Black January" by Azeris, the Soviet army crushed peaceful demonstrations in the streets of the capital Baku.

On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament restored its country's independence for the second time in a century and weeks later adopted their Constitution.

A valuable international ally, Azerbaijan was among the first nations offering unconditional support to the United States in the war against al Qaeda, providing a safe transit route to resupply our troops in Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan leads the Central Asian area in regional economic cooperation and is a key player in European energy security matters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in thanking the people of Azerbaijan for their friendship and in congratulating Azerbaijanis around the world on the anniversary of Republic Day.