

that. That's why we're trying to avoid differences and come together where we can agree, which is why I discussed the two other provisions which are bipartisan in nature and that the President has said he supports, which could, in a responsible fashion, allow us to continue the lower rates.

Mr. HOYER. I don't want to interrupt, other than to clarify.

As I understand the two options, one was the option of making additional—in the letter I read. Maybe I'm incorrect. If you can correct me.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, there were two options: One was the Federal employee pay-for in and of itself, the reductions in the size of the Federal Government, would have taken care of the pay-for, if you will, for the student loan issue. The other option was composed of two different provisions, both of which are bipartisan in nature and the President says he supports. One of those is to limit the length of in-school interest subsidies; the other was to revise the Medicaid provider tax threshold. It was those two components that comprise option two. That is my point.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his clarification.

Mr. CANTOR. I'm not quite sure about the note he made about our budget not balancing within the budget window. I would say to the gentleman, we understand that, but it is a plan that we could adopt that would provide a blueprint for getting us back on track as far as managing down the debt and deficit. And my point originally was, Mr. Speaker, there's been no such plan, there's been no such proffer from the President or the gentleman's side of the aisle.

□ 1310

So in order for us to move forward, we need participation from both sides. We can't just have one side providing a solution without the ability to get that solution put into place because the gentleman's party is in control in the other body and in the White House. So how do we go about trying to find commonality if there is no proffer of solution? That was my point, Mr. Speaker. And there has been no solution, balanced or not, provided by the other side.

And I would say lastly to the gentleman's inquiry about the appropriations process, we certainly maintain the position we'd like to see all of our bills brought to the floor through regular order, consistent with the Speaker's policy of an open debate that we have seen thus far in the appropriations bills. We had a successful completion yesterday, and we are continuing in the Energy and Water appropriations measure today and as we come back next week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information, and I want to say to the gentleman that I disagree that there is no plan. Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, did in fact have a plan, pre-

sented that plan, and it was voted on on the floor of the House. It did not prevail, but that is a plan which, frankly, was a more balanced plan from our perspective. Obviously, the House did not agree with that. But it is a more balanced plan that would have reached balance in fact more quickly, I believe, than the Ryan plan.

So we do have a plan. We presented that plan. We offered it on the House floor. I voted for that plan. The overwhelming majority of the party on this side of the aisle voted for that plan. So there is a plan, so I think the gentleman is not correct in saying that we haven't offered a plan. We have; the plan has not passed, the gentleman is absolutely correct on that. The Senate and the House have not agreed on a plan. I'm not sure that they will be able to agree on a plan. I think that's unfortunate, but perhaps we can agree on the appropriations bills.

We are hopeful that the appropriations bills will be agreed upon consistent with the agreement that we thought we had at the funding levels of \$1.047 trillion for discretionary spending. The bills that have been offered are closer to that number than I think we will find as later bills come, we don't know that, but that is the speculation. The Senate has agreed that we ought to mark up to that figure, but we haven't marked up to that figure in the appropriations bills. But if we complete the appropriations bills, as the gentleman says he wants to do, I think it would be good to do.

Is it the gentleman's perspective that we will mark to \$1.047 trillion or \$1.028 trillion? That's a \$19 billion difference, a substantial difference, we understand that. In the Senate, the Republicans and Democrats have agreed to mark to the higher number. Can the gentleman comment on whether or not at the end of the day we'll be able to get agreement on the agreement that we thought we had in the Budget Control Act?

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would just say to the gentleman, he and I have discussed this before in these colloquies, and I would suggest turning attention to a Senate that hasn't even begun considering its appropriations bills, to suggest that we would come to an agreement with the Senate, I think, you know, the Senate has got to really start to do its work as far as the appropriations process is concerned.

I yield back.

Mr. HOYER. I don't have a rebuttal to that, so I will yield back my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

HONORING KANSAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB BETHELL

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a true public servant from the great State of Kansas. Kansas State Representative Bob Bethell represented the 113th District in the State House and hailed from Alden, Kansas, not too far from the farm where I grew up. Representative Bethell served the people of Kansas in the State House for 14 years and was a staunch advocate for education, health, and long-term care. His distinguished career includes serving as mayor of Alden, as a pastor in his community, a school principal, and a director of college admissions. Additionally, Bob was a private business owner, operating long-term health care facilities.

I was saddened to learn of the tragic car accident State Representative Bob Bethell suffered while driving home from the Kansas legislature recently on Sunday, May 20. I served with Bob for 8 years in the Kansas House, and I always remembered him as a kind and caring man who never took himself too seriously—always wearing his trademark Mickey Mouse ties.

A true public servant. Bob, we're going to miss you.

BRINGING FOCUS TO TICK-BORNE DISEASES

(Mr. GIBSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, over the last district work period, my colleague PAUL TONKO and I hosted a conference to bring focus to better prevention, testing, treatment, and insurance coverage for victims of Lyme and associated tick-borne diseases.

This conference was constituent-driven. Over the past couple of years, I've heard from hundreds of constituents who were suffering from Lyme or who had family members of close friends suffering from this disease. Two of these constituents took the lead and organized this conference, Christina Fisk and Holly Ahern. They did a terrific job.

We had a dynamic keynote speaker, experts on the scope and the economic burden of Lyme, and a very encouraging presentation by Dr. Horowitz on a new approach for the diagnosis and treatment that identifies co-infections and other environmental hazards as the cause for chronic Lyme symptoms.

This approach could potentially unite the medical community, presently divided over whether chronic Lyme exists. We also received briefings on supporting doctors who treat chronic Lyme patients, protecting the blood

supply, new approaches to testing, and a dynamic summary by Dr. Leigner, which provides a comprehensive road-map for the way ahead.

Last year, I was proud to support an \$8.75 million increase for the better testing and reporting of Lyme, but much more needs to be done. I am submitting for the RECORD our conference materials, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this vital public health issue.

A FORUM ON TICK-BORNE DISEASES—
WHAT'S NEXT?

(at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY,
May 21, 2012)

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2012.

DEAR FRIENDS: Welcome to the Forum on Tick-Borne Diseases—What's Next here at Skidmore College. I am pleased that you took the time to attend what I believe will be an informative and thought provoking exchange of ideas from a variety of perspectives.

As a Member of Congress representing communities in the eastern part of New York State, I have received a number of requests over the past year asking me to look into the subject of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. Lyme disease and its co-infections are prevalent throughout the country, with the northeast section of the US suffering especially high incidence rates. My studies of the subject have revealed not only the unpleasant realities of the diseases and their impact on victims, but also the confusion and divergence of opinions surrounding the identification, understanding, and treatments of the diseases that are appearing with ever increasing frequency in all our communities.

New studies, including an important one conducted at SUNY Adirondack (State University of New York), indicate that Lyme disease may be far more prevalent than we had originally suspected. Additionally, other studies place the financial burden of the disease at levels much higher than we'd previously understood. It vs my feeling, and that of a number of my colleagues, that closer examination of the situation is not only warranted, but is absolutely necessary to understand the state of the science, the needs of the victims, and the opportunities for new initiatives. The goal is to create the forward momentum necessary to put efforts to fix these problems on a fast track and get some help for the victims of these debilitating diseases.

Based on input from this Forum and other sources, I intend to make sure that the Federal Government is doing all it can be reasonably expected to do to move forward on all aspects of this situation. I know there are a growing number of my colleagues in Congress who are committed to this as well. Together we will do all we can to achieve this goal. Thank you and God bless you for your personal commitment to this cause.

Very sincerely,

CHRIS GIBSON,
Congressman,
20th District, New York.

WELCOME

On behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to welcome you to the Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall in the Arthur Zankel Music Center at Skidmore College, for the LymeNEXT forum. Thank you for your participation.

We wish to extend our gratitude to Congressman Chris Gibson, who has recognized the impact that undiagnosed and untreated

Lyme disease and the associated tick-borne infections have had not only in his district, but also across the state and country. Congressman Gibson has taken a leadership role in encouraging forward thinking, collaborative problem solving, and the search for new ideas, to improve the lives of patients and families affected by Lyme and other TBDs. We all hope that this forum will inspire new initiatives in both the public and private sectors to advance these critical issues.

We are hopeful that LymeNEXT will be only the first of many such events that will lead to greater public awareness, better diagnostics, and effective treatments for these multifactorial, protean, and debilitating diseases.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINA T. FISK,
Co-Chair.
HOLLY AHERN,
Co-Chair.

Organizing Committee: Steve Bulger, District Director for Congressman Gibson; Steve Borgos, Logistics; JoAnn Borgos, Volunteers; Mary Beth Bulger, Social Media.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

(By Pamela Weintraub, Executive Editor,
Discover Magazine)

*Into the Woods: The Patient Journey through
Lyme Disease*

Inspired by her own family's personal nightmares with Lyme disease, Pamela Weintraub called upon her professional skills as an investigative journalist and science writer to undertake a meticulous and detailed investigation of the elaborate and complex issues that constitute the medical, political, cultural, and economic components of Lyme disease. Her findings are chronicled in her powerful book, *Cure Unknown*, which won the American Medical Writers Association book competition in 2009. Her work has served to define the varied and contentious elements that are part of all conversations concerning Lyme disease, and her investigatory skill and literary precision helped to uncover the real story behind the multi-faceted Lyme "issue". Ms. Weintraub is currently the Executive Editor at Discover. She has traveled extensively around the country educating people about Lyme disease, among other subjects, and has won numerous awards and has been featured on dozens of major radio shows including Leonard Lopate and Diane Rehm, to discuss biomedicine, science, and the future. Pam's work in this arena has earned her the respect and gratitude of thousands of Lyme victims who feel that they have a voice through her work.

SPEAKERS

Holly Ahern, MS is an award winning professor of microbiology and a science writer who has authored textbooks on laboratory science and published numerous articles in scientific and trade journals. Ahern has a B.S. degree and national board certification (American Society of Clinical Pathologists—ASCP) in medical technology, and an M.S. degree in Molecular Biology from the University at Albany. Named an NSF/ASM Biology Scholar in 2008, Ahern has become an outspoken advocate for truth in science and medicine particularly as it relates to Lyme disease. As head of a groundbreaking undergraduate research program at SUNY Adirondack in Queensbury NY, Ahern and her group are currently researching the complex biology of the Lyme disease spirochete, the incidence of bacterial and protozoal pathogens in the Ixodes tick, and investigating enhanced ways to destroy the disease-causing organisms.

Lorraine Johnson, JD, MBA is an attorney advocate on issues related to the medico-

legal and ethical aspects of Lyme disease and has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles on this topic. She earned her JD from Loyola University and an MBA from USC. She is the Chief Executive Officer of the LymeDisease.org and is a director and an officer of the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society. She sits on the steering committee of Consumers United for Evidence-Based Healthcare, a nationwide coalition of consumer groups associated with the Cochrane Collaboration. She is also a member of the international Cochrane Consumer Network and serves as a consumer peer reviewer for Cochrane Collaboration evidence-based protocols and reviews. She has spoken before state legislatures, the CDC, at the Canadian government consensus hearings on Lyme disease, and at the IDSA review panel hearing and before the Cochrane Consumer Network.

Richard I. Horowitz, MD is a Board Certified Internist and Director of the Hudson Valley Healing Arts Center, in Hyde Park, New York, USA. He is a founding member of ILADS, and is President of the International Lyme and Associated Disease Educational Foundation (ILADEF), an organization dedicated to the education of health professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of tick-borne disorders. Dr. Horowitz has treated over 12,000 chronic Lyme disease patients in the last 25 years, and has researched and published extensively on the role of co-infections in patients with persistent symptoms. He was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year award by the Turn the Corner Foundation in 2007, for his ongoing work with chronic Lyme disease. Dr. Horowitz has presented his work to institutions, organizations, and government agencies around the world, including ILADS conferences around the globe; UNESCO in Paris and JINI—National Infectious Disease conference France. Dr. Horowitz was recently invited to consult with the top officials within the government of China (CDC/Ministry of Health) on the difficulties of diagnosing and treating Lyme disease and co-infections, and the efficacy of an integrative approach to these diseases.

Daniel Cameron, MD, MPH graduated from the University of Minnesota followed by residencies at Beth Israel Medical Center and Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Dr. Cameron is widely recognized for conducting epidemiologic research while practicing medicine. He has been viewed as a pioneer in Lyme disease as an author of practice guidelines, analytic reviews, and clinical trials. He has published 9 peer reviewed articles based on his research in the past 5 years. Dr. Cameron led ILADS, the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society, to new heights as its president from 2007 to 2009. He has testified as an expert on Lyme disease for legislation in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania for physicians' rights to diagnose Lyme disease using clinical judgment without state interference. He has been interviewed as an expert on the NBC today show, Good Morning America, Fox News, Sirius radio and in newspapers. Dr. Cameron currently sees patients in his private practice in Mt. Kisco, New York while continuing his research and writing. He maintains the website www.LymeProject.com.

David A. Leiby, PhD received a B.S. in Biology from Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, an M.S. in Biology from Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Zoology from the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. He was a National Research Council, Postdoctoral Resident Research Associate in the Cellular Immunology Department at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, D.C. For the past 19 years, Dr. Leiby has

been affiliated with the American Red Cross, where he is the Head of the Transmissible Diseases Department at the Jerome H. Holland Laboratory for the Biomedical Sciences in Rockville, Maryland. He is the principal investigator for comprehensive, multi-center epidemiologic studies of Chagas' disease, tick-borne pathogens and malaria in blood donors. Dr. Leiby has published over 75 refereed papers and book chapters and is frequently invited both nationally and internationally to speak at meetings and institutions. Dr. Leiby also is an associate professor of Microbiology and Tropical Medicine at the George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Ahmed Kilani, PhD is the President and Laboratory Director of Clongen Laboratory. The company, founded in 1999 in Mountain View, California, is now located in Germantown, MD. Dr. Kilani holds a Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology, a Master's in Clinical Science (San Francisco State University) and a Ph.D. in Infectious Diseases and Immunity (University of California at Berkeley, 1999). He is also board certified nationally (American Society of Clinical Pathologists—ASCP) and in California (Clinical Laboratory Scientist—CLS/MT). Dr. Kilani has extensive experience in Microbiology, Virology, Molecular and Cell Biology. The laboratory facility in Germantown, MD was established in 2004. The company consists of two main divisions: Clinical Diagnostics for Infectious Diseases and Contract Research. Clongen Laboratory holds state and national licenses in laboratory medicine (CLIA-Certified).

Kenneth Liegner, MD is a board certified Internist with additional training in Pathology and Critical Care Medicine, practicing in Pawling, New York. He has been actively involved in diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease and related disorders since 1988. He has published articles on Lyme disease in peer-reviewed scientific journals and has presented poster abstracts and talks at national and international conferences on Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. He has cared for many persons seriously ill with chronic and neurologic Lyme disease. His work has focused on the serious morbidity and (occasional) mortality that can eventuate from this aspect of the illness. He has emphasized the urgent need for widespread clinical availability of improved methods of diagnostic testing and for development of improved methods of treatment for Lyme disease in all its stages. He holds the first United States patent issued proposing application of ascaricide to deer for area-wide control of deer-tick populations as a means of reducing the incidence of Lyme disease.

DOES OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT ISRAEL?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it's always an honor to speak here on the House floor, and there's been a lot of interesting attention that's been given to an issue of whether or not the Obama administration supports Israel, doesn't support Israel, is more supportive of its enemies, and apparently, according to an article in the Weekly Standard this week, May 30, 2012, by Daniel Halper, and I'm quoting from the article here, it says:

"Obama stressed he probably knows about Judaism more than any other President because he read about it," Haaretz reports. "He wondered how come no one asks Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner or Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell about their support to Israel."

Similarly, he said to the group, "I am not going to tell you again how I even feel about Israel, but why are we still talking about it?"

He then suggested that he should not be questioned about his commitment to the Jewish state because "all his friends in Chicago were Jewish."

I think there's a lot to be learned when we read people's comments or learn of people's comments that were not scripted, that were said just off the top of the head. Nobody put it in the teleprompter. It's not somebody else's words; it's words directly from the individual in question. So I've got to say, you know, the President says all his friends in Chicago were Jewish. I learned a lot from that. I didn't know that Jeremiah Wright was Jewish. I mean, I meet people all the time and it never crosses my mind, you know, what descent is this person.

So it's fascinating for me to find out from the President that apparently Jeremiah Wright was Jewish; Tony Rezko that got the lot right next to the President and got them a sweetheart deal of some kind, that real estate deal, even though Rezko's gone to prison, I didn't know Tony Rezko was Jewish. And Bill Ayers who unashamedly blew up a bomb hoping that he would kill people back in the seventies, the man that gave Barack Obama his first fund-raiser at his home, I didn't know what lineage Bill Ayers was, but according to the President's comment, all his friends in Chicago were Jewish. Apparently Bill Ayers must have been Jewish as well.

So it's interesting to find out about people's friends and who they are and what their background really is.

□ 1320

My background, having been at one time early on a prosecutor—I've been a judge, I've been a chief justice. It helps me, some of us that are a little slower, to work through and plod through material methodically. It helps me to make a chart.

I know, having collected the notes of jurors after they had heard long cases—I guess the longest case I tried was about 10 weeks long, a murder case, as a judge. But it was always interesting to read notes that jurors had left. So, often they would take evidence and they would make notes of evidence and try to decide what category that evidence fit into—did it support what the prosecution was saying, since they had the burden of proof, or did it support a defense contention or an affirmative defense, that kind of thing?

So I found this week, since I read that article about the President's defensiveness, that it would be interesting to take and just run through some evidence so that we could try to

decide, since the President says he's not even going to comment how he feels about Israel anymore, I think it would be helpful to go through and look at the evidence and decide whether it supports the notion that the President is very pro-Israel or that he's not.

When the President said that he wondered why no one asked Speaker of the House of Representatives JOHN BOEHNER about his support for Israel, well, I know that Speaker BOEHNER and I have had some rather profound disagreements—and that, I'm sure, will continue—but when it came to the issue of Israel, I couldn't come up with anything that indicated any lack of complete support for the Nation of Israel. In fact, 2 years ago, I started pushing to get Prime Minister Netanyahu invited to address a joint session of Congress here in this very Hall. I know when I approached Speaker PELOSI about it—this was June of 2010—she thought it was a nice idea but there just wasn't going to be time to get that done before the end of the year, we just had so much on our plate. And I think we did have a lot of courthouses we hadn't named yet, so we got those done.

Then, when the Republicans took the majority in 2011, I redid a letter and got lots of Republicans to sign on. The Speaker asked Prime Minister Netanyahu to come and address the House here, and as best I understand it, got the majority leader down the hall, HARRY REID, to go in on it so that it would be a joint session. So all the evidence indicates complete support by Speaker BOEHNER for Israel. I really haven't been able to find anything to the contrary.

But, again, since the President says he's not going to comment anymore about how he feels about Israel, I thought it would be good—and it sure helps me—to go through and just chart out evidence and which notion it supports. So I went through, and we took points from stories—whether on television, in the news media, on the Internet—that appeared to have a good basis for being factual and just decided to chart out: Is this evidence that President Obama is for or against Israel? Does he love Israel or does he love Israel not?

We know that back in 2011, most of us heard the comments—apparently they didn't know that microphone was live—when Prime Minister Netanyahu came up in the comments by President Sarkozy of France, when he made a comment something about what a problem Netanyahu was, and President Obama made comments to the effect that, Oh, yeah, well, I have to deal with him every day. It was clearly belittling of Prime Minister Netanyahu. I know people that heard the comment thought, Ooh, if you're Prime Minister Netanyahu, that's got to hurt to hear the guy that you may talk to quite a bit agreeing with another leader that Netanyahu is just a real pain to deal