

INCREASE FUNDING FOR RARE DISEASE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently I met Jill Wood from my district in Brooklyn. I was very moved by this meeting as she described the struggles of her son, who is diagnosed with a rare genetic disease known as Sanfilippo syndrome.

Before we met, I was not familiar with this particular disease, but she touched my heart to hear about her child's courage. Every day he has to overcome physical disabilities that make it almost impossible for him to complete a very simple task that we complete with ease. I was inspired by the strength of their family and the bond that they share.

I have long been a strong advocate for rare disease research and development. In fact, this is why I am working with my colleague from Florida, Congressman STEARNS, on H.R. 3737, the ULTRA Act. This bill would codify the flexibility the FDA needs to encourage development of treatments for rare diseases like Sanfilippo syndrome.

It is our duty, as Members of the United States Congress, to come together and support measures that aid the rare disease community. Imagine being afflicted with a disease your physician has never heard of and has no idea as to how to treat it. Can you imagine the devastation this would cause to your family?

We must provide the National Institutes of Health with additional funding to support the important research for orphan and rare diseases. We must also give flexibility and support to the FDA to help the agency bring potential cures and treatments to the market much sooner.

How long must we wait and continue to suffer until lifesaving treatments are available?

Nearly 30 million Americans are affected by 7,000 rare diseases. We must do everything in our power to support education, advocacy, research, and patient assistance to bring this number down. Imagine the families out there watching their loved ones suffer because we have not yet provided enough support for this cause.

We are a great Nation of innovation, but that innovation and drive only goes so far without the proper support coming from the government. Our constituents need to know that we hear their needs and that, as their elected officials, we are determined to make available the resources that will support them.

The next time I speak to a family affected by rare diseases, I want to be able to look them in the eyes and tell them that we have helped, that we made available the means necessary to support lifesaving research and development, we care and we will do everything in our power to ensure that ev-

eryone has the chance to live full, healthy, and prosperous lives.

Thank you, Jill, for bringing this to my attention.

I urge my colleagues to support the ULTRA Act and increase funding for rare disease research and development. It is so important that we do everything possible to be able to bring the numbers down.

OFFICER KEVIN BRENNAN, NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently, in one of New York's neighborhoods, gunshots rang out. One of NYPD's finest, Police Officer Kevin Brennan, quickly responded to the call. When he arrived at the scene with his partners, they recognized a familiar face. It was outlaw Latin Kings gang member Luis "Baby" Ortiz. Brennan gave the suspect a chance to turn himself over to the police by yelling, "Stop. Police," but Ortiz took off running in the darkness of the night. The officers gave chase. Officer Brennan cornered Ortiz in a hallway, and rather than give up, Ortiz shot Officer Brennan, point blank, in the head. Ortiz was trying to flee the scene of the shooting so fast that he ran out of one of his shoes and left it at the crime scene.

Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said Ortiz may have tried to fire off a second shot into Officer Brennan's head. Obviously, Ortiz has a total disrespect for human life.

When Police Officers Michael Burbridge and Christopher Mastoros arrived and found Officer Brennan, he was lying in a pool of his own blood, left to die. But Officer Brennan miraculously survived this attack.

The outlaw was captured. When "Baby" was brought to court, he made a mockery of the judicial system, waving at the cameras, asking them to take his photograph, while blowing kisses to his family. His family, too, showed disdain for the justice system and the police by yelling obscenities to the police and banging their hands and fists on a police cruiser that led Ortiz back to the jailhouse.

On Ortiz's second appearance in the court, the courtroom was packed with a sea of blue. NYPD had come to support their wounded fellow officer.

Disturbing, but not surprising, this would-be assassin has been arrested 14 times in his just 21 years of a lifetime of crime and lawless, worthless existence. His crimes have included drugs, assault, and armed robbery; yet he has walked free every time, beating the system.

One more detail worth noting. The weapon used to shoot Officer Brennan was the same one used in a New Year's Day murder in New York. Coincidence? Probably not.

Officer Brennan, a 6-year veteran of NYPD, is married and has a young baby daughter.

Mr. Speaker, in my other life, I was a prosecutor and a criminal court judge in Texas. I have been privileged to meet a lot of Texas peace officers and other officers in the United States. I've had the opportunity to meet many New York police officers when I go to New York to do presentations and training. After we get through the language barriers, I've found them to be a remarkable bunch of dedicated crime fighters.

Officer Brennan and thousands of his comrades throughout America wear the blue uniform of the law every day. They pin the shield and badge over their chest, over their heart, as a symbol of their duty to defend the people against outlaws like Ortiz. They are the last strand of wire in the fence between the fox and the chickens. They are all that separate the lawful citizens from the lawless bandits.

They go into dangerous areas of our city looking for drug dealers, child molesters, wife beaters, robbers, bandits and other street terrorists that would do the rest of us harm. They deserve our respect, our admiration, and our appreciation. We thank the Good Lord for people like Officer Brennan and the others of NYPD blue.

As for "Baby," it's past time that "Baby" met the long arm of justice.

□ 1030

He's looking at doing 40 years behind bars in the "Do-Right" Hotel.

Our society cannot allow street trash like Ortiz to get away with their desire to wreak havoc in their neighborhoods and shoot peace officers. After all, Mr. Speaker, "We've got too many gangsters doing dirty deeds, too much corruption and crime in the streets. A man has to answer for the wicked things he's done because justice is the one thing you should always find." May it be swift and harsh, because justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

FOOD STAMP PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I have to admit that when Newt Gingrich first used the phrase the "food stamp President," I was outraged, but then I started looking at the facts. I did my homework. I crunched the numbers, and I have to admit, food stamp President might be on target.

I think we have to be willing to understand the numbers and speak the truth even when that truth might hurt. So I've come to the floor today with some facts and figures—all sourced and backed up—because I know that Newt Gingrich wouldn't have it any other way. So let's learn about the food stamp President.

Here are the facts:

It clearly shows that the food stamp President increased spending on food stamps by more than \$19 billion. Let me repeat that: under the food stamp

President, the U.S. increased its spending on food stamps by more than \$19 billion. That's a "b." The source? The U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Here's fact number two. Under the food stamp President, the number of people using the food stamp program increased by 11 million people. The source? The USDA.

Here's fact number three. Even the amount of the benefit has increased under the food stamp President. The amount per benefit increased \$27.38 per recipient. Not much you would say, \$27. Guess what? The \$27 increase per benefit is the largest increase that's occurred under any President in the last 30 years. Pretty dramatic, huh? What's the source of that? The USDA.

Now, let's just review for everybody again. Republicans and Democrats, let's all get together and review that the numbers don't lie. Under the Food Stamp President, spending increased by more than \$19 billion; the number of people using the program increased by 11 million people; and the amount of the benefit increased by a historic amount not seen in the last 30 years.

We may not like the facts, but sometimes the truth just hurts.

Here we have him, the food stamp President of the United States. Yes, George W. Bush is the Food Stamp President of the United States. Under the food stamp President, George Bush, we spent more, had more recipients, and gave each recipient more money for food.

Now, I know that some of you are saying, LUIS, you aren't being fair. Aren't there some other food stamp Presidents out there? Okay. You're right.

Yet, under another food stamp President, spending increased by more than \$9 billion, the number of recipients increased by 7 million, and the amount of the benefit increased by \$17. Yes, it's showing who it is. Here it is. George Herbert Walker Bush was also the food stamp President. See, it runs in the family. Food stamp President, senior, and food stamp President, junior. It's hereditary. A rampant family disease that makes them just want to feed hungry poor people.

Now, I have to confess and make a confession today. I support the food stamp program. I think that SNAP—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, to call it by its actual name and not something that Newt Gingrich thinks is politically punchy—serves an important purpose. The purpose is largely to prevent children and old people from going hungry. SNAP doesn't provide them with some fancy perk from some out-of-control free spending program. It provides kids and old people with food. You can't redeem food stamps at Tiffany, which might be another reason why Newt Gingrich thinks it's so bad.

But I think that Americans want their people not to go hungry. Just in case I'm wrong, if Newt Gingrich met a food stamp President other than the

one named George Bush, I want to thank Barack Obama today because he's also invested in SNAP. He's invested in nutrition for America's most vulnerable.

Here's another fact, the last one I'll make today, Mr. Speaker, and this one is for Newt Gingrich. Just in case his food stamp President name-calling was designed to make a political point that he wasn't quite so willing to come right out and say of the recipients whose race we know, 22 percent of SNAP recipients are black, 34 percent are white, because hunger knows no race or religion or age or political party. Hunger is color-blind, Mr. Gingrich.

REGULATIONS PREVENT JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago during a district work period, I had the privilege to catch up with many of my constituents back in Michigan's Seventh District.

Business owners graciously invited me into their facilities eager to talk about the economic climate as well as what can be done to promote growth. These conversations continued in coffeehouses and town halls across the district where citizens packed into rooms eager to exchange their ideas, triumphs, and concerns with me.

But whether I was being given a tour by the owner of a manufacturing plant or having a cup of coffee with an engineer, a similar theme kept cropping up: People are worried about excessive, Big Government regulations, in particular how they impose unreasonable costs on businesses, create uncertainty and, in turn, affect job growth.

This time, many of my constituents expressed outrage over a new youth agricultural labor rule program. The Department of Labor proposed regulations to restrict the types of activities young people can participate in. While the rule includes an exemption of children on nonincorporated farms owned by their parents, it could prevent kids from working on incorporated farms owned by their parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, and close neighbors.

Even on such extended family farms, children under the age of 16 may be banned from working with animals or in specified farm situations while those under the age of 18 would be prohibited from any job "involving farm product raw materials." That could come to mean any job involving grain elevators, grain bins, silos, feed lots, stockyards, livestock exchanges, and livestock auctions. If carried any further, the rule may end up barring kids from selling animals at their local 4-H fairs. This is nanny statism to the absurd.

My kids were all in 4-H, and some of the best memories we have together are these events. It was always a positive experience for my sons and daugh-

ter as well as every other child I know who got involved. Besides the life lessons learned—responsibility, hard work, and self-sufficiency—children often use the money from the sale of their animals for their college funds. This rule would not only hurt their ability to find a job now but also hurt their future.

In addition to participating in 4-H fairs, my kids also worked on farms where they were asked to drive tractors and run other farm machinery, all under the age of 16. The worst mishaps one of my kids ever had was running over a neighbor's mailbox with his duallies. But even through that experience, he learned responsibility. He not only had to pay for a new one out of his own pocket, but to replace it himself.

Farmers depend upon young people to take on these extra jobs so they can focus on the bigger picture. Parents depend upon their children to work on the family farm, not only to help out but instill a love of farming at a young age to keep their family farm going.

Lastly, young people, themselves, depend on these jobs as a source of income and a way to pay for college. There are often fewer job opportunities in rural areas, and if we impose more rules about what jobs young people can take, what have we gained?

I'll always stand behind regulations that genuinely protect the workers, especially when those workers are children. But when government bureaucrats are regulating in what capacity a young person can work on a farm, then it's clear they've overstepped their boundaries. It's time to fix the flawed and broken regulatory system that allows such rules to slip through the cracks.

Mr. Speaker, related, it's also the time to push back on Big Government's attack on our freedom to choose and our constitutional liberties. The recent assault on our religious rights of conscience and the separation of powers by this administration must be defeated. Kids on the farm and in the city deserve the rich future that our Constitution and Americans' exceptionalism can provide. This will then be a Nation that God can truly continue to bless.

□ 1040

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS AS HOST OF SUPER BOWL XLVI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the great city of Indianapolis, my hometown, for doing an outstanding job as the host of Super Bowl XLVI.

On Sunday, two teams played an incredible game; but I believe that the events leading up to kickoff, organized by countless community organizations, good corporate citizens, committed public leaders, and thousands of volunteers, were as impressive as any play