

all schools need to be competitive and accountable, including faculty and administration.

While the challenges of education have been many over the past two decades, Bob knows they are worthy of our time and our best efforts. Through his leadership, we have seen education in Colorado improve for our kids; they have a brighter future ahead and the tools to achieve success.

And today, I recognize Bob Schaffer's service in this Chamber and his service to the people of Colorado.

□ 1210

CONGRATULATING SHALER NORTH HILLS LIBRARY

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the honor of attending a ceremony recognizing the Shaler North Hills Library for receiving the National Medal for Library and Museum Service. This is the highest Federal honor any museum or library can earn.

The Shaler North Hills Library serves over 50,000 families, providing assistance for everything from job searching to computer training. The library also presents outstanding programs for all ages, including showcasing local gardeners, art exhibits, and a speaker series. Their interactive science program, "Discovery Kids," won a Pennsylvania Library Association Best Practices Award, recognizing the program as the best of the best for early learning. The Shaler North Hills Library truly sets the standard for all ages in library services. I congratulate them on this well-deserved honor.

DEDICATED LEADERSHIP OF SHERIFF MARK CURRAN

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work that Sheriff Mark Curran and the Robert Crown Center are doing in Illinois' 10th Congressional District.

Heroin and prescription drug abuse are on the rise in our local communities. Families of all backgrounds are being affected by this epidemic in the Chicagoland region. As a result of the increase in heroin deaths and prescription drug overdoses, Sheriff Mark Curran and the Robert Crown Center and other individuals in the community have come together to raise awareness of the dangers of these drugs.

Throughout the past 2 years I've had the privilege of working with these leaders so that we can help educate our communities and to help get help for those who are struggling with addiction. From roundtables to awareness events and a recent community

forum—which we held in Vernon Hills, Illinois—I'm proud of the work that's being done to end this epidemic. We do have much more work ahead of us, but I'm confident that Sheriff Mark Curran and others will continue to champion this cause and provide valuable resources to our community. I look forward to helping in any way possible.

WORLD AIDS DAY

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on World AIDS Day to highlight the remarkable progress that has been made over the past 30 years in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

I commend local leaders from my Tampa Bay area district like the Reverend Dr. James Favorite, who understands the importance of speaking to his congregation about HIV and AIDS. Reverend Favorite has urged more than 100 local churches and pastors across the Tampa Bay area to put AIDS and HIV awareness at the heart of their sermons. Reverend Favorite's impact has garnered national acclaim from the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS.

I also commend the Test Tampa Bay campaign, which is an initiative designed to intensify HIV education, awareness, and prevention brought along by local health departments and other health advocates. Test Tampa Bay aims to increase the number of Tampa Bay residents who know their HIV status by encouraging HIV testing.

Finally, I would like to voice my strong support for H.R. 6138, Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic Act, by Representative BARBARA LEE and others, of which I'm a proud sponsor. We must remain committed to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic and improving the lives of those infected with the disease.

We are at a tipping point in the fight against AIDS, so let's recommit to ensure that America continues to lead the way to achieve an AIDS-free generation.

HONORING MARGARET OBRAY FOR DEDICATION TO EDUCATION

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, schoolteachers are an overworked and undercompensated group, but the good ones are always appreciated for the time and effort and commitment they make to kids. So I stand today to honor one of the best examples of a dedicated teacher, Margaret Obay, who was a government and history teacher at Mountain Crest High School in Hyrum, Utah. Mrs. Obay has dedicated the past three decades of her life to encouraging her students, both in and out of the school. She has worked tirelessly to open their minds to guide them towards a productive and meaningful life.

Mrs. Obay has decided to retire at the end of this school year, having

changed the lives of literally thousands of students who had the opportunity of being taught by such an outstanding educator. I have watched Mrs. Obay for many years and can verify that she is the epitome of what a good educator should be, and she will be sorely missed. So, Mrs. Obay, we want to thank you for what you have done, for the impact you've had on students you have taught in the past, the ones you are teaching currently, and we have pity for all those kids in the future who will never have that experience.

HIV/AIDS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate World AIDS Day today, we have reason to be proud of what we've done to fight HIV/AIDS.

When I came to the Congress in 1989, AIDS was a death sentence; now, with the right medicine, it's a manageable chronic disease. And we've made real progress toward a vaccine. That happened because the United States Congress took action. It wasn't magic. People living with the disease fought to make it happen, and leaders in the Congress and the White House fought to make it happen too.

As we recognize World AIDS Day today, we cannot get complacent. We can create an AIDS-free generation—it is possible. But it will slip away if we let these essential programs get cut. Today, we should resolve to stay the course, to keep the pressure on, and win the fight, to honor all those who died of AIDS and all those who are still fighting for AIDS today. This Capital has an epidemic of AIDS. We need to deal with it.

CONGRATULATING TEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. I rise today to congratulate Teach Elementary School in San Luis Obispo on becoming a National Blue Ribbon School.

For 30 years, the Department of Education has bestowed this coveted award for outstanding academic achievement, and I am delighted that one of our local schools on the central coast of California was awarded such a tremendous honor.

This distinguished recognition highlights the hard work and dedication of the entire staff at Teach Elementary, and I would specifically like to note the outstanding leadership of Principal Dan Block.

For Teach Elementary to have such remarkable results—particularly during these tough budget times—is truly commendable. At a time when we must

invest in high-quality education in order to strengthen our Nation's economic vitality, it is important that we recognize and replicate the successes of schools such as Teach Elementary.

Our students are our Nation's greatest resource, and it's our responsibility to provide them with high-quality schools that put them on a solid path towards success.

San Luis Obispo, California, is truly fortunate to have a remarkable school such as Teach Elementary.

OPPOSE ANTI-IMMIGRATION BILL

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the anti-immigration bill brought before us today.

The supporters of this legislation would have you believe that immigration is a zero sum game—that for every door you open for one person you have to close it on another. That's what this bill aims to do by increasing the number of visas for STEM graduates while eliminating them from the Diversity Visa Program. This troubling precedent of creating visa offsets will foreclose the promise of the American Dream for countless immigrants.

Our country remains the beacon of opportunity and freedom. For many, the only path to getting here is through the diversity program. People like Yulia, who is a constituent of mine, that lucky draw in the lottery was her best hope for coming to America from Kazakhstan.

It is irresponsible, Mr. Speaker, to hold the much-needed—and I would say we need it—STEM visa bill hostage just to dismantle a program that has helped new Americans like Yulia. It's bad policy, and I urge my colleagues to reject the bill.

BUDGET CRISES

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the consequences of jumping off this so-called "fiscal cliff" are serious but avoidable if the sacrifice is shared. My concern is that the domestic discretionary accounts don't seem to have a seat at the negotiating table. If you don't have a seat at the table, you're far more likely to be on the menu.

Domestic discretionary funding is already projected to fall to historically low levels at less than 3 percent of GDP. This is less than what existed during the Eisenhower administration when our population was much smaller and much younger. These are the programs that are the most critical to the future of our country. They fund our roads and rails and ports, they support the most important scientific research in health and technology and are necessary to educate, feed, and house our

most vulnerable children and families. Yet they are the ones most likely to be targeted for budget savings. If we allow that to happen, we'll condemn 16 million children to living their lives on the margins of our economy rather than providing them with the means necessary to escape the cycle of poverty as adults.

A Nation such as ours cannot meet the challenges of the 21st century without making the necessary investments in our human and our physical infrastructure and in cutting-edge basic research in health and technology. We shouldn't further diminish our future in order to get ourselves through this artificially created budget crisis.

□ 1220

WORLD AIDS DAY

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Today, World AIDS Day, provides the opportunity to celebrate the gains made in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

People living with HIV can now experience long and productive lives. Advancements in prevention have led to a turning point—the possibility, as Secretary Clinton said—of an AIDS-free generation.

However, cuts in funding to international and domestic programs could very well turn back the clock. We must take action now to avoid the looming threat to more than 1 million Americans, including more than 4,000 in my own district in Illinois who are living with HIV/AIDS. They cannot afford the \$538 million in sequestration cuts that would affect our HIV/AIDS programs; 15,708 people cannot afford to lose access to crucial lifesaving drugs. So let's stop these cuts and move forward towards an end to this epidemic.

WORLD AIDS DAY 2012

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, December 1 is World AIDS Day, although every day is World AIDS Day for the millions battling this epidemic on the front lines. It's an important time, though, to reflect upon our loved ones lost, to celebrate the progress we are making, and to recommit ourselves to achieving an AIDS-free generation for all.

As this Congress comes to an end and a new one begins in January, we have been given the extraordinary opportunity to leave an astonishing legacy. Our understanding of the spread of HIV has changed dramatically in recent years. Armed with the National AIDS Strategy, the Affordable Care Act, and the ongoing progress of PEPFAR and the Global Fund, we are closer than ever to stamping HIV and AIDS off the face of the Earth.

But while we have made tremendous progress, we must not lose sight of the long road ahead. In my own district, for example, in Alameda County, we declared a state of emergency in 1998. My phenomenal local activists and providers have done a great job with minimal resources to end the state of emergency; but like all communities, we need more resources and not budget cuts. We have the tools we need. We just need the political will and investments to make the end of AIDS the legacy of our generation.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD AIDS DAY

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in recognizing World AIDS Day. While great progress has been achieved nationally and globally, our fight against HIV/AIDS should only grow stronger. Globally, 6.8 million people are eligible for HIV treatment but don't have access. In the U.S., accessibility of treatment has significantly increased, but the rate of new HIV infections has only stabilized.

So today, in recognition of World AIDS Day, I come first to remember the lives of the affected in my district, the country, and the world but also to reaffirm my commitment, on their behalf, to stand with those who have relentlessly forged progress, including my late predecessor and father, Donald M. Payne.

Today, I stand with the Nation and the world in international solidarity, committed to the fight against HIV/AIDS and "Getting to Zero."

EQUAL RECOGNITION FOR DC AND THE TERRITORIES

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to thank the House for recognizing that all veterans and members of the military must be recognized equally, not only some of them; and I have asked the Senate to do the same.

Imagine you are a parent. You go to a military ceremony, for example, the graduation from Navy boot camp. Applause comes with each graduate as his or her name is called, and the flag of the home State is raised. But your flag is not raised. Why? Because your son is from the District of Columbia or one of the Territories.

The House defense authorization bill recognizes the injustice of the discrimination against any of our veterans or members of the military. The Senate bill does not. We ask that the Senate follow the lead of the House.

In our country, no American—and especially no veteran or member of the military—is more equal than any other. If the military flies the flags, then fly them all.