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APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH—MOVING FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the Congress and the American people to the Autism epidemic that is tragically ravaging too many of America's children.

April is Autism Awareness Month, and I am pleased to join with parents, siblings, grandparents, special education school teachers, medical care providers, and interventionists to draw attention to the rapidly expanding autism community.

When I was young, autism was virtually unheard of. In the 1980s rarely did you meet someone who knew someone with autism. Yet, in the 1990s there was an explosion of autism. Indeed, in the course of just my lifetime, Autism Spectrum Disorder has grown from a very rare condition to—according to the Centers for Disease Control—a developmental disorder affecting 1-in-50 school aged children. And, tragically, the rate for school aged boys is a disturbing 1-in-31.

On December 19, 2006, the effort to address this epidemic took a major step forward as President Bush signed into law the bipartisan Combating Autism Act. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Autism community to reauthorize this program next year. Though the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee each year produces a strategic plan to address Autism, the billion-dollar allocation of resources to autism has not been evenly invested among genetic, epigenetic, and environmental factors. I must concur with the experts who have been willing to speak out, that the epidemic increase in the rates of autism are not a 'genetic' epidemic. Indeed, you don't have genetic epidemics. While there is likely a genetic component to many who have been diagnosed with Autism, we must seriously consider that there are likely several key factors in autism.

Also, so some who have suggested that the increase in Autism is due to better diagnosis, you don't go from 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 80 in three decades due to better diagnosis alone. And, if that were the case, where are the tens of thousands of autistic adults in their 40s, 50s and 60s. While better diagnosis may be a factor, common sense says there is a real increase and something is causing it.

While some may be borne with Autism, there are many parents who testify to the fact and present cases where their children were progressing normally but something triggered a regression where they lost speech, abilities, and regressed from developmental milestones that they had earlier met. Was that regression due to external factors such as medical injury, exposure to environmental toxins such as lead or mercury, or was it adverse reactions to medications that lead to high fevers, brain in-

flammation or seizures? We must get answers to these questions.

I was pleased to participate in a November 2012 House Oversight and Government Reform hearing on the Federal Response to Autism. That was one of the most attended hearings I have participated in since coming to Washington in 2009. Indeed at this hearing it was standing room only, and overflow rooms had to be used to accommodate the public. This was a much anticipated hearing from many parents of children suffering from Autism who want clear and unbiased answers to questions surrounding the epidemic.

I, like many in Congress, were frustrated with the lackluster response from the federal witnesses, particularly the CDC witness that was evasive and took more than five months to respond to the Committee's questions. The responses that finally arrived this month were incomplete, often evasive, and showed a complete lack of urgency on the part of the CDC. I was also disappointed that the federal government witnesses did not have the courtesy to remain at the hearing to listen to the testimony of the public panel representing non-profit organizations and academic institutions focused on Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

Parents, grandparents, educators, health professionals, and highly functional adults on the autism spectrum are frustrated at the federal response to this epidemic. There is much more that we could and should be doing.

Some believe that toxins like thimerosal, which is 50% ethylmercury, have played a role in the rise in autism and neurodevelopmental disabilities. In 2000 there was near universal agreement that mercury should be removed as a preservative for vaccines. Yet, today, nearly half of all annual flu vaccines, which are recommended for children and pregnant women, still contain mercury as a preservative—not simply trace amounts of mercury. It's 2013! Why are we still injecting ethylmercury into babies and pregnant women?

I have been deeply disappointed in the failure of the CDC and the Department of Justice to see that Dr. Poul Thorsen is extradited to the United States to stand trial for orchestrating an elaborate scheme stealing more than \$1 million from the CDC-Denmark grant. That money was supposed to be used to investigate the causes of autism and developmental disabilities. Instead it was diverted to personal use by Dr. Thorsen. Thorsen was a key author on 22 of the CDC's key studies related to autism and developmental disabilities.

Before coming to Congress in 2009, I heard from some in the autism community who have advocated for a retrospective study to examine whether there are different health outcomes when comparing vaccinated children and unvaccinated children, including autism and chronic conditions. I have continued to hear these requests over the past four years. At the hearing I asked CDC if they had conducted such a study and they said they've done dozens of studies related to autism but never have looked at a comparison of vaccinated versus unvaccinated. In fact, a recent study they published compared fully vaccinated children to those who were not fully vaccinated, but for some reason it did not include data on completely unvaccinated children. Seems like common sense to do a study comparing vaccinated children vs

unvaccinated and this week I was pleased to be joined by my colleague Rep. CAROLYN MALONEY (D-NY) in introducing H.R. 1757, The Vaccine Safety Study Act. This would direct the National Institutes of Health to conduct a retrospective study of health outcomes, including autism, of vaccinated versus unvaccinated children. That should bring an answer to this decades long question.

Whether the number is 1-in-88 twelve-year-olds, or 1-in-50 school-aged children, or 1-in-33 young boys, we can all agree that the number is devastatingly high. We must overturn every stone to get to the bottom of this epidemic. We cannot afford to see this epidemic grow. We must examine every possible risk factor to protect the world's greatest resource: our children. And, we must invest to develop the best interventions to help those who are autistic.

MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to promote Minority Health Month and spotlight the health disparities that plague our communities.

In a 1985 report, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) called health disparities in this country "an affront both to our ideals and to the ongoing genius of American medicine." Now 28 years after HHS released that landmark report, health disparities still exist between black and white and rich and poor.

A significant driver of these disparities is the lack of health insurance. For instance, African Americans make up 13 percent of the entire population, but account for more than half of all people who are uninsured. Blacks also have disproportionately lower access to primary care, often receive poorer quality of care, and face more barriers in seeking treatment for chronic diseases.

That is why I am pleased that the month of April is designated as National Minority Health Month. It provides an opportunity for all Americans to learn that healthcare disparities still exist. It also provides an opportunity for government, industry, non-profits, and advocacy organizations to combine efforts to help curb healthcare disparities.

My fellow colleagues, every American deserves the opportunity to live a healthy life regardless of economic means or ethnicity. It is this belief that led the Obama Administration to pass the Affordable Care Act.

Following in the President's footsteps, I will continue to promote Minority Health Month during my district work period by visiting the Metropolitan Community Health Services, the Halifax Regional Medical Center, the Roanoke Rapids Clinic, and several other healthcare facilities in the First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in advancing health equity in every community. As leaders, we have an obligation to reverse health inequality through awareness and championing the importance of preventative healthcare.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
JACOBY DICKENS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Jacoby Dickens, who passed away this month at the age of 82. Jacoby was a prominent business leader, and served as Chairman of Seaway Bank & Trust Co., which is the largest black-owned bank in Chicago. He also served on the boards of Chicago State University, the School of Business at Florida A&M University, and the Chicago Urban League. He was a well-known philanthropist, and donated more than \$1 million to Chicago State University, where his name adorns the main athletic center.

Jacoby truly embodies the American dream, as his inspiring success story is rooted in the humblest of beginnings. He was one of six children, growing up in Panama City, Florida. His family moved to the South Side of Chicago in 1946. A teenager at the time, he attended Wendell Phillips High School.

Always possessing a knack for business, Jacoby began saving money while working as a building engineer. With these savings, he invested in real estate, and eventually purchased and managed a large number of apartment buildings in the South Side before selling his holdings in 1971. In time, he expanded his investments into other parts of Chicago, primarily investing in several bowling alleys. Seen as a financial up-and-comer, Seaway Bank & Trust Co. asked him to join their board in 1979. He became Chairman of the bank in 1983. Seaway was one of very few banks willing to provide loans in tough neighborhoods on the South Side, and saw Jacoby as a model of success for potential investments.

Building a half-billion-dollar organization, perhaps the most profound aspect of his legacy is his dedication to serving African-Americans in their community at a time when many were unwilling to take such risks. Countless businesses, families, and communities at large were positively impacted by his trust in people. Jacoby believed that people are equal and deserve the opportunity to better themselves. Originally only one of few black-owned banks in the city of Chicago, Seaway is now by far the largest and most successful.

Mr. Speaker, Jacoby Dickens was a dear friend of mine. He was a great American who gave back to his community and this nation. I am truly saddened by his passing. He will be dearly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Korean War, and to honor the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces during this tumultuous period in history.

Our nation will never be able to fully express the heartfelt gratitude we have for our

veterans. The debt that we owe them is immeasurable. Time and again, our service members have stepped forward to defend the freedoms we enjoy today. Without the selfless actions of the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and coast guardsmen in the Korean Peninsula, the nation of South Korea would never have blossomed into the model democracy and vital partner it is today. I sincerely thank every veteran of the Korean War for the essential role they played in ensuring democracy could take root in East Asia and for safeguarding America's allies.

American veterans are a cornerstone of society. Past generations helped build up this great country and did not hesitate to come to its aid when asked. As we remember their brave actions, it is my hope that citizens everywhere take time to speak with the veterans in their family and community. Thank them for their service, and ask them about their role defending our country. Helping veterans pass on their priceless wisdom and memories to future generations is one of the best ways we can honor them today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating this 60th anniversary of the Korean War. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in thanking our veterans, past and present, for the sacrifices they've made in service to the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed the votes on Tuesday, April 23, 2013.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 118, H.R. 1067—To make revisions in title 36, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current and make technical corrections and improvements, "yea" on rollcall No. 119, H.R. 1068—To enact title 54, United States Code, "National Park Service and Related Programs", and "yea" on rollcall No. 120, Journal Vote.

CONGRATULATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL OF SERVICE IN OUR ARMED FORCES

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere respect and appreciation to four high school seniors in Indian River County who have answered the call of service to enlist in the United States Army. I commend Dominick Lambino, Christopher Larson, Tomasz Cabaj, and Ryan Paris for their decision to protect and defend the United States of America.

These young men will be recognized on May 9, 2013, in a high school enlistee ceremony. Soon after enlisting, they will graduate high school. This will mark the beginning of their valiant service to our country as soldiers.

Many of the men and women who have served before them are now local and national leaders. As American citizen's privileged to live in liberty, these young men have learned how to appreciate freedom and will soon be handed the baton by the generations of warriors before them.

During this time of celebration and recognition, we should all salute the courage within Dominick, Christopher, Tomasz, and Ryan. For each soldier who has served our country, there exist many citizens, myself included, that benefit from their hard work. Many of my most esteemed colleagues in Congress served as members of our Armed Forces.

Let us not forget the challenges these soon-to-be soldiers and their families will face. We must not overlook the intensive training and challenges ahead. As a support group, mothers, fathers, siblings, and spouses will have to endure the challenging road ahead and act as the foundation where these young men can gain strength in difficult times. I have confidence they will accomplish all that is asked of them. The bottom line is that our Republic continues to thrive because of the call to duty these individuals and others before them have vowed to accept.

The men and women who serve our country as members of our Armed Services go above and beyond day in and day out. I commend Dominick, Christopher, Tomasz, and Ryan for their service to our community and nation.

HONORING JIM GRAYSON FOR OVER 35 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Jim Grayson for his 35 years of public service as a Carrollton Police Officer in Carrollton, Texas.

Jim Grayson was hired by the Carrollton Police Department on August 1, 1977, as a Community Service Officer with the responsibilities of organizing the equipment for the Patrol Division. On December 18, 1978, Jim was officially sworn in as a Carrollton Police Officer. He attended the North Central Texas Council of Government's Basic Police Academy and graduated on January 31, 1979.

On August 15, 1983, Jim Grayson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant whereupon he was assigned the task of assisting the development of the department's newly created Crime Prevention Unit. Jim's role in developing the program helped establish one of the police department's most effective and successful units.

As an officer committed to expanding and developing his skills, Jim Grayson attended the prestigious Northwestern University Traffic Institute's School of Police Staff and Command in Evanston, Illinois, where he graduated in 1986. Jim continued his education in 1991 when he graduated from the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

On January 29, 1987, Jim Grayson was promoted to the rank of Commander. In 1991, Jim was assigned the responsibility of starting