

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chair, today, I stand in strong support of the 21st Century Cures Act. This bipartisan bill gives our nation's best and brightest the tools they need to understand—and eventually defeat disease—and reauthorizes both the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The 21st Century Cures Act has the potential to accelerate the discovery of drugs for life-threatening illnesses; repurpose drugs found ineffective for one condition and test them on another; promote an interoperable health system; enhance telehealth practices; and advance the development of more targeted, personalized treatments.

My district, the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, is home to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Southern Research Institute, and the University of Alabama. NIH funding is critical to the continuing vitality of these three leading institutions, as well as to the region.

The prospect of this act alone provides hope. Hope that cures can be discovered, hope that one day no diagnoses indicate inevitable ailment or death, and hope that one day treatments will yield more reward than risk.

Despite the potential of this bill, there are two amendments that threaten that hope and essentially aim to inhibit the health of several Americans. First, the Hyde Amendment has reared its ugly head yet again. It is a harmful and discriminatory bill that prevents women from making their own healthcare decisions. Further, it serves as a stark contradiction to efforts geared toward providing health positive resources for all.

Second, the Brat amendment aims to convert the federal funding of the NIH and the FDA from mandatory to discretionary. Such a transaction would stifle the progress both federal agencies have already made and will continue to make. It will singlehandedly reverse the trajectory of medical progress and halt further research efforts.

I am particularly supportive of the 21st Century Cures Act because of its inclusion of provisions for the pediatric and rare disease community. This bill will allow Children's of Alabama, ranked among the nation's best children's hospitals for six years in a row, to finally be able to participate in a national pediatric research network and therefore, save more lives.

With only 5 percent of rare diseases having an FDA-approved treatment, it would be a

gross understatement to say our medical systems have failed to keep pace. Gabe Griffin from Birmingham and Houston Sides from Montgomery are two young Alabama boys who asked me to support the 21st Century Cures Act because it modernizes the FDA and spurs development of pediatric and rare disease treatments. Gabe and Houston have a rare and deadly muscle-wasting disorder called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. This disease takes the lives of children as young as 9 or 10. Very few children with this disease will ever reach the age of 25. But the 21st Century Cures Act provides hope for these families. It promotes 'precision medicine,' modernizes the clinical trial system, and expands access to investigational drugs.

Viruses and diseases will not wait for us to catch up; they will mutate, grow ever more virulent, and continue to impact our public health. We need to leverage our investments to make potentially game-changing strides in treatment. We need 21st century solutions for 21st century threats.

An investment in health affects more than our physical well-being, and the 21st Century Cures Act reflects this. H.R. 6 is not only a health bill; it is a jobs bill. Our country has been the leader in both the medical device and biopharmaceutical industry for decades, helping us become the core of global medical innovation. This puts a target on our backs, as China and other countries have attempted to attempt to claim this role and thus, our jobs. U.S. medical device-related employment totals over 2 million jobs, and the U.S. biopharmaceutical industry is responsible for over 4 million U.S. jobs. NIH funding currently supports over 400,000 jobs at research institutions across the country, including jobs for young and upcoming scientists. Without this funding, our jobs are out there for the taking. Without this funding, the thousands of jobs in my district provided by the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Southern Research Institute, and the University of Alabama are not safe. The policies in this legislation will help us fight off foreign competitors and allow us to continue innovating, so we can all protect medical jobs in our districts and add more.

We must get serious about addressing the unmet medical needs of the American people. I urge my colleagues not to deprive the American people of the cures they deserve. Vote against these poison pill amendments because when it comes to the health of our constituents, there is no place or time for partisan politics. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Brat amendment, support the Lee amendment and I urge them to support H.R. 6.

RECOGNIZING COL. RICHARD J. MURASKI, JR.'S SERVICE TO FORT WORTH AND AMERICA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Commander of the Southwestern Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Richard J. Muraski, Jr.

Colonel Muraski is retiring after a long and impressive career in the Army. In Fort Worth we are particularly grateful for his work on the Trinity River Vision, which is a vital part of Fort Worth's future.

He played a critical role in the implementation of the highest standard of Flood Risk Management. His programmatic approach and respect for others fostered excellent communication and solutions.

Colonel Muraski led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Staff in the planning, engineering and design of the existing Fort Worth floodway and the new Central City Project.

Colonel Muraski is a native of Kansas City, MO, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Geology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio and a Master of Science degree in Geodetic Sciences from Purdue University.

During his career he has served in a variety of operational, command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas. He deployed with a National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency support team to Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Colonel Muraski assumed command of the 588th Engineer Battalion in June 2004. Under the Army's modular reorganization, he transformed the 588th into the Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade. The battalion deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in November 2005 and was responsible for the majority of Babil Province, conducting combat operations along with training Iraqi security forces.

The City of Fort Worth and our country owe Colonel Muraski a debt of gratitude for his work.

HONORING SERGEANT JAMES R. STEPHENSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeant James R. Stephenson as he prepares to retire from the Petaluma Police Department on July 31, 2015. With over twenty-five years of exemplary service as a police officer, twenty-one of these have been with the City of Petaluma where Sergeant Stephenson has been instrumental in building

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

positive relationships with local residents and ensuring the overall safety of the Petaluma community.

Sergeant Stephenson joined the Petaluma Police Department on August 9, 1994 and quickly distinguished himself as an outstanding street officer, often detecting criminal activity from subtle clues. In 1999, he was named as the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in recognition of his exceptional work. One noteworthy example was Sergeant Stephenson's skillful arrest of an armed, drug induced and mentally unstable man. Rather than resorting to stronger measures, he physically restrained the man, ultimately protecting both the individual and the broader community from more serious consequences after an arsenal of firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition were discovered in the citizen's home.

Throughout his career, there have been many other instances when Sergeant Stephenson's calm demeanor and sharp instincts have helped to prevent crime. In his most recent assignment as Supervisor of the Traffic Safety Unit, his leadership has been important in helping officers to develop efficient action plans for responding to and investigating many serious accidents.

Sergeant Stephenson's legacy is one of dedicated service to the people of Petaluma. Please join me in congratulating Sergeant James Stephenson and expressing deep appreciation for his long and exceptional career and outstanding contributions to the City of Petaluma.

CONGRATULATING TONY
IOVINELLI ON HIS 40TH ANNI-
VERSARY AT TURANO BAKERY

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Tony Iovinelli on his recent 40th anniversary at Turano Baking Company, a nationwide leader in baked products.

Tony started his career at Turano at the ripe old age of 16, in an ominous-sounding set of circumstances. You see, Mr. Speaker, Tony was dating the owner's daughter-in-law, and a job he had lined up at a printing company fell through. But contrary to the stories fathers tell the boyfriends of their daughters, this is not a story that has a bad ending. It is a story that has a good ending. Over many years, Tony and the Turano family have worked together and supported each other and ultimately achieved a remarkable thing, and that is the growth of a small-time family business into a leading national brand.

For Tony, it all started during high school, when he began working after class cleaning the bakery. In the summers, he would work full-time, cleaning and helping out in the packaging department. After graduating high school, he went on to attend a local college, where he was able to continue working at the bakery in the evenings. As his years at the bakery piled up, Tony took on more senior roles. He became shipping supervisor. After expressing an interest in learning the production side of the business, and through a lot of hard work and dedication, Tony was eventu-

ally promoted to plant manager, supervising the day-to-day operations of Turano's Berwyn, Illinois production facility. For 40 years, Tony has worked in many roles at the bakery. As he wistfully recalls, "I came for the summer and never left."

In Tony's 40 years of service, Turano has grown tremendously. Long gone are the days of the original 1,000 square foot facility. Turano has established new product lines, expanded into new plants in Bolingbrook, IL, Villa Rica, GA, and Orlando, FL. They now offer delivery across the United States. In today's economy, it is easy to overlook the significance of a successful, 40 year long career with one employer. But I want the House to pause for a moment and reflect on the incredible loyalty and commitment Tony's journey shows. And by the way, after 40 years, he's still going strong.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Tony Iovinelli on his remarkable 40 years of service at Turano Baking Company and wishing him every success for the years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. CARLOS
ALEMANY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Carlos Alemany of Windermere, Florida, for his acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. Mr. Alemany was selected for his academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The mission of People to People Leadership Ambassador Programs is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Mr. Alemany benefitted greatly from his participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF KIWANIS INTER-
NATIONAL

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis International.

Founded on January 21, 1915, in Detroit, Michigan, Kiwanis International has become a global organization with dedicated, hard-working volunteers from 96 different countries who work tirelessly to improve our communities and better the lives of children.

Guided by six permanent "Objects of Kiwanis," Kiwanis Club members acquire personal and professional connections while having fun, making friends, and helping others.

Kiwanis initiatives put an emphasis on children, including pediatric trauma, child safety, child care, early development, and infant and child health nutrition. Kiwanis has continued to support impressive service leadership programs such as K-Kids, the Aktion Club, the Key Club International, Circle K, and the Builders Club.

In my home state of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania District of Kiwanis International consists of more than 200 Kiwanis Clubs and 400 members throughout the commonwealth who have developed a partnership with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission to foster early educational opportunities for our kids.

For all of these reasons, I am incredibly pleased that the Keystone State has officially declared this August to be "Kiwanis Month."

I commend and thank all Kiwanis for their long participation in the honorable work of improving our communities. It is with tremendous pride and appreciation that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Kiwanis International for their 100th anniversary. God bless them for all that they do.

RECOGNIZING DONNA CHAMBERS
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna Chambers, executive director of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, on her retirement.

Donna's service to Humboldt County and her efforts on behalf of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project have been exemplary. Since she began working with the Resource Conservation District, Donna has overseen vital agreements, funding and permitting, and construction of one of the most significant estuary restoration and agricultural improvement projects in California. Located at the mouth of the Eel River, the Salt River project is crucial to salmon and steelhead, wildlife, and agricultural production.

After graduating from Humboldt State University in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in social work and a minor in business management, Donna worked for the Humboldt Access Project, the Humboldt Community Access and Resource Center, and the Area 1 Agency on Aging. When she joined the Resource Conservation District in 2008, Donna became known as a champion for agricultural producers. Donna helped develop nutrient management plans, projects to handle dairy waste, and helped producers upgrade facilities like roof and gutter structures and concrete slabs and ramps to improve efficiency and protect water quality. She also helped dairy and beef ranchers reduce the impacts of Aleutian cackling geese on private lands. Donna helped bring more than \$20 million in funding to the Resource Conservation District and the local community since she began working with the district.

Mr. Speaker, Donna Chamber's commitment to agriculture and environmental protection is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to her.