

The Park Service's interpretation also conflicted with the established scientific consensus on the size of the herd. Studies by world-renowned genetic scientists Dr. Daniel Rubenstein of Princeton University, and Dr. Gus Cothran of the University of Kentucky, confirm that in order to maintain the herd's long-term viability, its optimum size is around 120 animals. The experts also agree that the population should not dip below 110 and that it should be allowed to expand periodically to numbers at or above 130 in order to sustain the proper genetic diversity in the herd. It's important to note that these numbers are well within the island's carrying capacity.

After years of disagreement on the herd size issue, the Park Service met in the fall of 2002 with the Foundation for Shackleford Horses, Dr. Rubenstein, Dr. Cothran and other stakeholders. After two days of meetings, the parties emerged with an agreement that largely mirrors the scientific understanding of how the horses should be managed.

H.R. 2055 seeks to codify this scientific consensus into law. It would allow a herd of "not less than 110 free roaming horses, with a target population of between 120 and 130 free roaming horses." It would also clear up confusion on when horses can be removed from the island by mandating that removal can only occur if "carried out as part of a plan to maintain the viability of the herd."

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is supported by the Park Service, the scientific experts, and the local community. It is a legislative fix based on sound science, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

H.R. 1811—FAMILY OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2003

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of and as a cosponsor of H.R. 1811, the Family Opportunity Act. By passing this legislation we are giving the States the opportunity of allowing families of disabled children to purchase Medicaid coverage for them as well as providing treatment of inpatient psychiatric hospital services for individuals under age 21 under waivers allowing for payment of part or all of the cost of home or community-based services.

This is a great first step of fixing the bias of institutional care in Medicaid compared to home or community-based services. Parents will no longer have to drive hours to visit their child but instead opt to have them remain at home or live close by in a community setting and still receive their Medicaid dollars. Another great aspect in this legislation is establishing family-to-family health information centers. Sometimes just talking or listening to another person, another family that actually understands what one family is experiencing can settle nerves and make one feel more comfortable with the future challenges they may face. I commend my colleague from Texas, Mr. SESSIONS for sponsoring this legislation.

I hope we can continue to work together to enforce the Olmstead decision and develop more opportunities for individuals with disabilities over the age of 21 through more acces-

sible systems of cost-effective community-based services. I am proud to have introduced H.R. 2032, the Medicaid Attendant Services and Supports Act also known as MiCASSA with my friend from Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS. MiCASSA as the Family Opportunity Act would change the system of long-term care as we know it today. Nationally, approximately 70 percent of the Federal and State spending still goes to institutions instead of home or community settings. Our colleagues in the Senate held a hearing on MiCASSA, S. 1394, Money Follows the Person, and the President's New Freedom initiative earlier in the year. I urge my colleagues in the House to hold a similar hearing.

Mr. Speaker, as I have stated, I support H.R. 1811 and believe it is a great step towards Olmstead. But it is wrong to provide such great services to individuals with disabilities that only end once they become adults. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and support continuing services for individuals with disabilities beyond the age of 21.

CONCORD ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the good folks of my hometown of Concord, North Carolina as we have been selected for the 2004 All-America City Award.

It has been my distinct honor to represent the people of Concord since I was first elected to represent the 8th Congressional District of North Carolina. This opportunity is especially dear to me because this is my home town and where much of my family still resides. In fact, my family has called Concord home for centuries, and we have had the privilege of watching our community grow. Concord personifies the term, "Southern Hospitality," and is home to some of the most engaging, welcoming, and civically responsible citizens in the state of North Carolina.

Through the close relationships I have forged with the citizens of Concord, and the pride I have in this community, it is truly an honor for me to highlight this great city today. Because of Concord's hard work, the rest of America is getting to see the positive spirit of accomplishment that I have been fortunate to witness my entire life.

The All-America City Award is a 55-year old program sponsored by the National Civic League that recognizes civic excellence. The Award is given annually to 10 communities that exemplify and display a positive spirit of grassroots involvement and collaborative problem solving in an effort to better their community.

Concord exhibits the American spirit of hard work and cooperation as we seek to identify and meet community-wide challenges. Concord is a community where citizens, businesses, volunteers, and government officials work together to address issues that are vitally important to all our citizens. Concord should take pride in the fact that we have been chosen by this national organization for our hard work and achievement. Truly, Concord is a great example for other communities to emulate.

To qualify for the All-America City Award, Concord representatives first had to submit a detailed application highlighting the city's three most pressing challenges. They are: addressing the medical needs of the uninsured and underinsured, eliminating substandard housing in the community, and extending the mentoring and civic responsibility of the Boys and Girls Club of Concord. Programs such as the Community Care Plan, Cabarrus Housing Partners, and the Boys and Girls Club of America have been designed and implemented to ensure these afore mentioned areas are addressed.

I am proud to represent such a fine community where the citizens come together to solve problems at a local level rather than waiting on someone else to fix things. A wise man once said that there are three types of people in this world: those who watch what happens, those who make things happen, and those who wonder what happened. Rest assured, the people of my home town, Concord, North Carolina are people who make good things happen. It is my honor and privilege to represent these good folks, and I am thrilled that the National Civic League recognized the City of Concord's success by awarding us the All-America City Award.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF LONG

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today it is my pleasure to honor one of Massachusetts' most outstanding and dedicated Athletic Directors, Jeff Long. After almost 40 years of coaching and directing, Mr. Lewis has certainly deserved his retirement years.

He began his commendable career in 1966, coaching football at Norwich University after having graduated from Norwich that same year. Serving as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army did not stop him, as he continued to coach football in Germany in 1967.

Mr. Lewis kept on coaching both track and football at Dedham High School until 1973 when he began his run at Marlboro High. Ten years later he was appointed as the School's Athletic Director, and took on an array of other leadership roles. Some of these roles included serving on the Executive Board of the Mass Secondary School Athletic Directors Association to which he was appointed president in 1997-98, as well as being appointed President of the MIAA in 2002.

All of his hard work has paid off over the years as he has been recognized with several awards and nominations—a few of which include Athletic Director of the Year in 1991, the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame Distinguished Service Award in 1994, and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association State Award of Merit.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize such an outstanding professional, so passionately committed to his work. With the retirement of Jeff Long Marlboro High says goodbye to one of its most effective and talented leaders, and I along with my colleagues wish him and his family all the best in the years to come.