

to disadvantaged children. With 45 million uninsured Americans, we cannot afford to eliminate programs targeted at meeting the needs of the uninsured or remove the support systems that exist for those doctors and nurses who are serving in areas where there is a shortage of professional health services.

Furthermore, in a time when scientists are just beginning to make meaningful progress on the projects they began between 1998 and 2003, it is irresponsible to fund NIH at a level 2.6 percent short of what they need to keep up with inflation in research costs. Under this legislation, NIH will be able to support about 505 fewer research grants than just two years earlier.

Finally, with a record 55 million children in public schools and state budgets stretched thin, this bill proposes to cut No Child Left Behind funding by \$806 million, leaving 3.1 million low-income children behind. This brings the total NCLB funding shortfall to \$40 billion, since its enactment in 2002.

The Appropriations Committee did take care to address some critical issues, such as restoring funding for the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program and the Assistive Technology Act, and I appreciate the support for these important programs. Unfortunately, the budget resolution for FY2006 prevented appropriators from being able to put forth a bill that truly reflected the needs of the American people. When Congress passed H. Con. Res. 95, the Budget Conference Report, the Republican leadership set the stage for these devastating cuts. This legislation makes it clear that tax cuts for the wealthy will continue to be paid for by slashing programs that Rhode Islanders depend on.

I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 3010.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT  
2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor today to highlight my disappointment with the lack of an adequate response from the the National Institutes of Health concerning the conduct of basic behavioral research and training by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. NIGMS is the institute dedicated to basic science that serves as the building blocks for applied research at multiple disease-specific institutes. For many years, Congress has directed NIGMS to fulfill its statutory mandate to include basic behavioral research and training as a component of its mission.

Two years ago, in August 2003, I met with the Deputy Director of NIH, and urged that he

help ensure that this basic function at NIGMS receive funding. This meeting led to the formation of an advisory committee to the NIH Director. That Special Task Force reported to the NIH Director in December and recommended that basic behavior research and training authority be funded at NIGMS. The National Academy of Sciences, in May of this year, also urged implementation and funding of this authority, particularly in research training, as such researchers will support the important advances in understanding the wide ranging of fundamental behavioral topics relevant to a variety of diseases and health conditions.

Basic behavioral science is critical to a comprehensive research agenda at NIH, and as several expert panels have concluded, NIGMS is the logical place to house such research and training. I intend to work with my fellow appropriators in the other body and with the Chairman and Ranking Member to see that our final bill makes sure this priority is realized.

TRIBUTE TO THE VALLEY  
CULTURAL CENTER

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2005*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we approach July 4, 2005, the 229th celebration of America's independence, I rise to commemorate and commend the Valley Cultural Center. The Center is celebrating 30 successful years of promoting arts awareness across the San Fernando Valley of California. By fostering creativity and culture, the Valley Cultural Center has inspired the type of artistic individuality and cultural understanding that has contributed to the excellence, camaraderie, and ingenuity of our Nation.

Since its was established in 1975, the Valley Cultural Center has stood at the forefront of arts and culture in the San Fernando Valley, assisting the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks in bringing arts awareness to the community. The Center reaches out and engages the community through its awards and programs, including its annual Concerts in the Park, and performances at the Madrid Theater.

The Valley Cultural Center's awards and programs encompass the unique cultural and artistic dynamics of the San Fernando Valley. It inspires our youth to pursue a future of arts appreciation and cultural awareness by granting annually \$10,000 awards in performing and visual arts scholarships to outstanding students. The Valley Cultural Center also organizes arts, entertainment, and culinary celebrations throughout the year, including the Golden Horn Awards, and the Food, Wine and Micro-brew Festival.

Featuring rock, classical jazz, R&B, Latino pop, country, cowboy, Dixieland, and folk music, The Valley Cultural Center's Concerts in the Park series has established a tradition of family entertainment and a sense of community and culture for over 140,000 residents and visitors each summer. Free to the public, the Concerts in the Park are a central gathering point for residents to experience and share the diverse culture of the San Fernando Valley.

The Valley Cultural Center's annual July 4th Extravaganza is one of the best attended events in the Valley. It includes big-bands such as Don Sweeney and the SRO Band. Each year I take pleasure in joining thousands of Valley residents in the festivities that feature music, food, and fireworks as we celebrate America's independence. It is a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the Valley to honor our Nation and to celebrate with our families and friends.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Valley Cultural Center in the San Fernando Valley. The Center's contributions have been invaluable in bringing enjoyment, cultural understanding, and individualism to our community. I commend its leadership and service to the San Fernando Valley.

HONORING THE LITHUANIAN  
KAIMAS FUND PROJECT

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Co-Chair of the Baltic Caucus to commend the work of the Lithuanian Kaimas Fund project. The project provides children in rural areas in Lithuania with educational opportunities. In just its third year, the project is having a positive impact on the lives of more than 2,000 young people in more than 60 rural villages across Lithuania. The Kaimas ("countryside") Fund is a private-public partnership between the American Lithuanian Economic Development Council, the Lithuanian Ministry of Education, the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC and local non-governmental organizations who provide services to young people in Lithuania.

During a two-week summer program, community centers in the Lithuanian regions of Akmene, Anykscai, Marijampole, Moletai, Ukmerge, Utena, Skuodas and Vilnius will provide opportunities for youth to participate in educational and athletic activities, including computer training. Because the project is supported by contributions from American donors, the project also demonstrates the generosity of Americans and the shared values between our countries.

I would specifically like to commend the work of Lithuanian Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas, and his wife Loreta, who established the Kaimas Fund in 2000, and the leading American supporters of this important initiative: Dr. Daiva Bajorunas and Stephen Sarnoff, Stanley Balzekas, Beverly Bridges, Dennis and Sally Garrison, Audrey and Martin Gruss, Joseph Krivickas, Cynthia Pasky, John Prunskis, George Ramonas and Eugene Rainis.

Most importantly, I would like to encourage the young people and leaders of the community centers who are participating in this program in Lithuania. This summer, you are helping to strengthen the special friendship between Lithuania and America. You are also a vital part of the future of the special relationship our countries share.