

Project Backpack was begun by Jacqueline, Melissa, and Jenna Kantor, three young sisters from Bethesda, Maryland. These sisters came up with an idea to collect donations of backpacks, toys and school supplies to be sent out to the thousands of children who were left homeless in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Inspired by the concept of "kids helping kids," Project Backpack has been tremendously successful.

Joined by Sodexo USA and other charitable organizations, Project Backpack has set a local goal of 10,000 backpacks and a national goal of 100,000. I encourage people throughout the United States to participate in this worthy project.

I applaud Jacqueline, Melissa, and Jenna in their continued efforts to help the children affected by Hurricane Katrina.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on September 27, 2005. Had I been able to, I would have voted "yea" on H.J. Res. 66 (Rollcall vote 494); "yea" on H.R. 438 (Rollcall vote 495) and "yea" on H. Con. Res. 209 (Rollcall vote 496).

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAKE HIGHLANDS REPUBLICAN WOMEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Lake Highlands Republican Women. In December of 1980, the Lake Highlands Republican Women were formed, based on the guiding principle of the National Federation of Republican Women, "to foster and encourage loyalty to the Republican Party and the ideals for which it stands."

For the past 30 years, the Lake Highlands Republican Women have worked hard to promote the principles of the Grand Old Party and to elect Republican leaders from the Courthouse to the White House.

The Lake Highlands Republican Women are truly helping make our community and our country a better place to live. The Lake Highlands Republican Women continue to strengthen the Republican Party through candidate recruitment, training and election activities as well as advocating the GOP common sense conservative philosophy of faith, family, free enterprise, and freedom.

Today, I would like to honor the Lake Highlands Republican Women and their leaders, including: Patti Clapp (1981–1982), Jan Patterson (1983–1984, 1993), Lee Dewbre (1985–1986), Fredda Horton (1987–1988), Libby Swaim (1989–1990), Linda Russell (1991–1992), Annabelle Ward (1994–1995), Jill Mellinger (1996–2001), Suzy Pollok (1997), Deborah Brown (1998–1999), Kathi Drew (2000), Elaine Travis, (2002), Glee Huebner

(2003–2004), and Gloria Gibeau (2005). These strong Republican women embody the energy, vision and values of our party.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOOD STOVE REPLACEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Wood Stove Replacement Act of 2005. I am joined in the introduction by Representative MELISSA HART.

Quite simply, our bill would provide a tax credit of \$500 for individuals and families who replace their old, dirty, uncertified wood stoves with new, EPA-compliant, clean-burning wood stoves or fireplace inserts.

As America's cities and counties struggle to come into compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, smaller and more diverse sources of pollution are regulated. The primary air pollution problem in many areas of the country, including Pittsburgh, is particulate matter. Particulate matter, or soot, is caused by burning fuels such as coal, as well as wood.

On December 17, 2004, the EPA designated nearly two hundred and fifty counties in the U.S. as out of compliance with federal air quality standards for "fine particulates" (particles under 2.5 microns in diameter). EPA has concluded that wood smoke from residential wood combustion appliances, fireplaces and wood stoves, is a significant contributor to fine particulate pollution in many of the designated counties.

In 1986, EPA established a New Source Performance Standard, or NSPS, that imposed strict limits on the wood smoke that can be emitted from wood burning stoves, and it implemented a program for certifying the performance of wood stoves that comply with the standard. EPA-certified wood stoves reduce wood smoke emissions by as much as 90 percent. According to the EPA, "certified wood stoves burn more cleanly and efficiently, save [. . .] money, reduce the risk of fire, and improve air quality inside and outside [the] home."

It is estimated that there are as many as 10 million old, uncertified, pre-NSPS wood stoves still in use in American homes. Fourteen thousand of them are in my area in Pittsburgh. Many of the uncertified wood stoves still in use today were purchased at the height of the fossil-fuel crisis in the 1970s. Many were installed in lower income, rural residences with ample access to free or low-cost wood fuel. The installed cost of new, certified stoves can be as high as \$2,000 to \$3,000, which is out of reach for many users of the old, uncertified units. To encourage users of old, dirty-burning units to trade up to new certified stoves, strong incentives must be provided. Local regulations prohibiting the use of uncertified woodstoves are politically unpalatable unless financial assistance is provided to enable homeowners to abide by such prohibitions and keep their families warm in the winter with low-cost, renewable wood fuel.

According to the EPA, "Helping areas of the country reduce pollution and meet national air

quality standards for fine particles is our top priority . . . By combining local programs like clean wood stove installation with tough new federal regulations on power plants, cars, trucks and diesel equipment, we can dramatically reduce fine particle pollution and improve public health across the country."

Our legislation to provide a federal tax credit for the replacement of uncertified wood stoves is an important way to reach consumers who otherwise may never replace their old stoves. This credit would only be available to consumers who live in areas designated as out of compliance with the fine particle and total particulate standards. A \$500 tax credit would give consumers living in poor air quality areas an immediate incentive and necessary financial assistance to remove their old stove now. By using the cleaner stoves, consumers will save on fuel costs by burning one-third less wood and reduce fine particle pollution in their area thereby improving their health and the health of their families and neighbors.

The need to encourage consumers to burn cleaner, more efficient woodstoves is an urgent matter. The record-high costs predicted for home heating this winter will likely push many consumers to choose more affordable wood heating. With nearly 10 million old, conventional, dirty wood stoves still in use today, it is imperative that consumers have an incentive to change out their old appliances for clean, more efficient, and EPA-certified wood stoves.

Representative HART and I are introducing this bill to coincide with an EPA event in Pittsburgh on September 29. That will be National Wood Stove Change-Out Day, where EPA encourages owners of old stoves to trade them in for new, certified units. The incentives in this bill should help accomplish this goal.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to recognize the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This week we will also be considering legislation that will reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. It is my hope that we will strengthen and improve measures to ensure safe homes and communities for children and families.

Congress must continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and the devastating effects violence has on too many of our American families. We must also ensure that the organizations working to end domestic violence in our communities have the resources they need to provide services to the survivors of family violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These families and organizations deserve our commitment.

In my own State of Minnesota, VAWA funding went to programs and services for battered women and their children. Some of those projects in my own District include:

The St. Paul based Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, which provides legal