

Rollcall vote No. 396 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5534.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted "yes" on all of these rollcall votes.

IN SUPPORT OF RURAL VETERANS
HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2006

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, since the founding of our Nation, rural Americans have always answered the call to service in times of war. One in three of the patients seen at the Department of Veterans Affairs lives in a rural community. Veterans who live in rural settings are often older and have more physical and mental health diseases as compared to veterans who live in suburban or urban settings. According to the 2005 Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Rural Health*, the smaller, poorer, and more isolated a rural community is, the more difficult it is to ensure the availability of high-quality health services. With some 44 percent of current military recruits coming from rural areas, we must help VA focus on meeting the pressing health care needs of rural veterans.

I have introduced H.R. 5524, the Rural Veterans Health Care Act of 2006, to take a comprehensive and practical approach towards improving care for our rural veterans by increasing community based facilities and outreach, encouraging the training and recruitment of health care professionals, focusing on research to develop innovative solutions to the challenges of delivering rural health care, and developing the information technology infrastructure we need to enhance health care services in rural areas.

Rural America has always answered the call to service. We should do everything we can to ensure that rural veterans have the same reasonable access to the high quality care available through the VA as veterans in suburban and urban areas. I urge my colleagues to support rural veterans and pass H.R. 5524.

Mr. Speaker I would like to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter of support for H.R. 5524, the Rural Veterans Health Care Act of 2006, from the National Rural Health Association.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION,
Kansas City, MO, July 17, 2006.
Hon. MICHAEL MICHAUD,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUD: On behalf of the National Rural Health Association, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 5524, the "Rural Veterans Health Care Act of 2006."

The NRHA is a national nonprofit, non-partisan, membership organization with approximately 10,000 members that provides leadership on rural health issues. The Association's mission is to improve the health of rural Americans and to provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education and research. The NRHA membership consists of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all

of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

The NRHA members are keenly aware of the disproportionate rates at which rural people serve in the military and the issues our rural veterans face in obtaining health and mental health care in rural communities. We are pleased to see so many provisions in this legislation to address these concerns. In particular, the provisions which call for expansion of and improved quality of services provided by Vet Centers, Outreach Health Centers, and CBOCs in rural areas. These services represent approaches that greatly increase access to quality care for these vets. Vet Centers, as is their role, will also educate returning rural veterans to their benefits and the services they have earned.

The bill also addresses the long term care needs of rural vets, the use of an electronic medical record system to enhance patient safety and improve quality of care, takes advantage of the groundbreaking IOM report on the future of rural health care recommendations, and provides a provision for the training of health care professionals in rural facilities serving veterans. All of these provisions are included in NRHA's support. The NRHA is especially supportive of the call for a national Advisory Committee on Rural Veterans, and offer up any assistance we might make in recommending members for this committee should the legislation be successful. In addition, we are pleased that the legislation increases the number of rural rotations for medical residents training at the VA and takes steps to enhance the education, training, retention, and recruitment of health professionals in rural areas. Research has shown that rural rotations are effective in increasing the number of medical personnel that choose to practice in rural areas.

The NRHA is supportive and involved in the dissemination of research and resources developed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Rural Research Centers, therefore, we support the provisions in the bill which would designate at least four centers as the location for research targeted at defining rural veteran health and mental health care needs, and chronic disease management. NRHA is keenly aware of the limited research on rural veterans and their families, and this provision will begin to address the dearth of research in this area.

The NRHA maintains a Minority and Multicultural committee within our organization and develops many policy statements regarding the unique needs of rural minority groups and women. We are pleased to see the specific inclusion of Native American, Native Hawaiian and Native Alaskan veterans in this legislation. This legislation would expand VA's health care presence in these rural and remote communities. The NRHA also hopes that special consideration will also be given to the unprecedented number of African American women and all women serving at the highest rates ever seen in our country and the special needs that they will bring into the VA system in just a few short years.

The NRHA developed the first national policy paper as a non-Veteran Service Organization on rural veterans in 2003-2004, and we are pleased to see some of the recommendations called for in our policy paper addressed in this legislation.

For these many reasons, the NRHA strongly supports your efforts to urge Congress to enact the "Rural Veterans Health Care Act

of 2006." Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SEXTON,
President.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN DUDLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Susan Dudley of Saint Joseph, Missouri. For the past 11 years she has served as the executive secretary to the president of Commerce Bank and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Women in Support Services.

As the executive secretary to the president, Susan is often looked to for guidance and direction. She is considered to be an outstanding member of the local Commerce Bank, as a result of her commitment to the company, staff, customers, and community. She is always positive and helpful, never refusing any task asked of her. In the community, she delivers "Meals on Wheels" through Inter-Serv. She also serves as a board member at Vatterott College and is a past president of her P.E.O. Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Susan Dudley. She serves as an inspiration to the community and sets the mark of excellence that encourages others. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-127)

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support for H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, and the override of the President's veto of this monumental commitment to historic scientific research.

Yet again, the administration turned its back on science and chose politics.

Embryonic stem cell research will go on, with or without the United States. Diabetes, Alzheimer's, Lou Gehrig's Disease will be cured, with or without the United States.

The stem cells in an embryo are special tissue. We should not create them with the intent to terminate them later. But here, embryos were created with the intent to bring more children in to the world, and once a baby is born many fertilized eggs are not implanted. The only alternate fate for them now is disposal.

Let us not waste potential human life, let us not waste these fertilized eggs by destroying them. Let us use them to save human lives through stem cell research.