

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
HENRY J. HYDE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with our colleagues to pay tribute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois, Mr. HYDE, as he prepares to retire from the U.S. House of Representatives.

I cannot imagine this, the people's House, without HENRY HYDE being here. He is the conscience of this House. His eloquence, his honesty, his integrity, his passion, his dedication have filled this chamber on so many occasions when issues of the highest and most significant importance to this country were being debated.

I say to HENRY, your words have stirred this House time and time again. Colleagues always have looked to you for wise counsel. It was almost automatic that during a vote, I would always look up to see how you were voting.

I am so grateful that my years of being a member of the House have allowed me the privilege of serving with and being a colleague of Mr. HYDE.

The people of the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, the people of the United States, and indeed freedom-loving people around the world can say to HENRY HYDE, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

May God bless you, HENRY.

HONORING THE GREATER CHICAGO
FOOD DEPOSITORY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Greater Chicago Food Depository for its enduring commitment to providing food for hundreds of thousands of hungry people in Cook County. In addition to addressing immediate needs, the Greater Chicago Food Depository strives to end hunger throughout the region by empowering people to break the cycle of poverty.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository, founded in 1979, is one of the largest not-for-profit food distribution systems in the nation, distributing donated and purchased food through a network of 600 pantries, soup kitchens and shelters to more than 91,000 adults and children every week. Last year, the Food Depository distributed more than 40 million pounds of non-perishable food and fresh produce, dairy products, meat, poultry and fish—the equivalent of more than 84,300 meals per day.

In addition to its food distribution programs, the Greater Chicago Food Depository runs Chicago's Community Kitchens, a chef-training program designed to empower unemployed and underemployed Chicago residents. Featured on November 28th in a front-page article in the Wall Street Journal, this free twelve-week program teaches participants the basics of food preparation and employment skills, enabling them to develop a successful career in

the food service industry. Students create nearly 2,000 meals a day for delivery to the Kid's Cafes, an after-school program also run by the Food Depository that provides children with a daily hot meal, a safe haven, tutoring, and other educational programs.

Chicago's Community Kitchens is an innovative program that empowers graduates looking for "a new lease on life", and inspires them to give back to the community themselves. Many of the students in Chicago's Community Kitchens are soup kitchen regulars or homeless shelter residents and, after graduating and securing a full-time job, have returned to volunteer at a soup kitchen themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Greater Chicago Food Depository for its tireless efforts to provide food for hungry people, to provide people with the tools necessary to break the cycles of poverty, and to end hunger in our community. I wish its staff, volunteers, and supporters every future success in their continuing work toward meeting the needs of Chicago's hungry men, women and children.

UNBORN CHILD PAIN AWARENESS
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. This legislation is based on the scientifically unsubstantiated assertion that a fetus feels pain at 20 weeks of pregnancy.

This is not the first time this Congress that Members have been asked to substitute our judgment for that of scientists or physicians. It is bad policy for Congress to substitute its opinion for the considered medical judgment of doctors and I have consistently opposed legislation that does this.

By passing this legislation, Congress will force doctors to provide information to patients that is not scientifically proven to be true. These doctors will be subject to fines if they do not provide women with a brochure published by the Department of Health and Human Services explaining that a fetus feels pain at 20-weeks and that administering anesthesia for the fetus will reduce pain. The bill goes so far as to outline for the Department of Health and Human Services what must be included in the brochure. The language that this bill requires HHS to include in the brochure asserts that there is conclusive scientific evidence that a fetus feels pain. According to the legislation, the brochure must read: "There is a significant body of evidence that unborn children at 20 weeks after fertilization have the physical structures necessary to experience pain. There is substantial evidence that at least by this point, unborn children draw away from surgical instruments in a manner which in an infant or an adult would be interpreted as a response to pain. There is substantial evidence that the process of being killed in an abortion will cause the unborn child pain, even though you receive a pain-reducing drug or drugs." This is, at best, misleading. We should not use legislative language to interpret scientific data that we do not understand and to

direct physicians in their considered professional practice.

In August 2005 a literature review in the Journal of the American Medical Association concluded that "evidence regarding the capacity for fetal pain is limited but indicates that fetal perception of pain is unlikely before the third trimester." The review also concludes that administering "fetal anesthesia or analgesia should not be recommended or routinely offered for abortion because current experimental techniques provide unknown fetal benefit and may increase risks for the woman."

As policymakers, we should consider very seriously our actions that may overstep what is scientifically proven. In formulating public policy on scientific issues like global warming, stem cell research, alternative energy, and others, it is essential that we use science as a basis for legislation and not use legislation to attempt to make science.

I oppose this legislation because I believe that the decision of whether to have a baby should be left to individuals, their doctors, and their families without interference from the Government. I also oppose this legislation because of its circumvention of scientific evidence.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 6099.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT LESSENCO

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished career of Mr. Gilbert Lessenco and to congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Lessenco has dedicated his half century of legal practice to not only his clients, but his community and his country.

Mr. Lessenco's superior performance as a lawyer was recognized early in his career when he received the "Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year" from the District of Columbia Bar in 1965. Mr. Lessenco has been in private practice for 50 years, but prior to that he served in the United States Air Force as chief, legal officer at Hanscom Air Force Base in Lexington, MA. He continues to serve his community to this day as a member of the faculty at Johns Hopkins University School of Professional Studies in Business and Education, teaching marketing and business law. His commitment to his students was honored publicly when he received the "Above and Beyond" faculty award from the Department of Marketing. Mr. Lessenco earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1953 and his B.S. from the Johns Hopkins University in 1950.

Mr. Lessenco has also had an active civic and political career. He has been an active supporter of the Democratic Party since 1958. From 1970-74, Mr. Lessenco was a member of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee and has been engaged in Democratic Party politics ever since. He served as a commissioner of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission from 1987-92 and as its chairman from 1989-90. He has also served as chairman of the International Visitors Service Council, 1962, trustee of the Meridian House Foundation, 1970-80, president of the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County, 1980-82, and president of the Jewish