

GYNECOLOGIC CANCER EDUCATION
AND AWARENESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the passage of H.R. 2941, to renew and enhance "Johanna's Law" to increase public awareness and knowledge of gynecological cancers. I am pleased to have introduced this important bill with Representatives DELAURO, ISSA, and BURTON.

Johanna's Law established a national public information campaign to educate women and health care providers about the risk factors and early warning signs of gynecologic cancers. This bill before the House carries on that important work by extending funding of Johanna's Law for 3 more years, from 2011 to 2014, and providing funds for demonstration projects to identify the most effective educational tools.

The law was named after Michigan resident Johanna Silver Gordon, a loving mother and dedicated public school teacher, who, despite visiting her doctor regularly, was blindsided by a late stage diagnosis of ovarian cancer, learning only after her diagnosis that the symptoms she had been experiencing were common symptoms of that disease. Tragically, Johanna lost her life to ovarian cancer 3½ years after being diagnosed.

Johanna's story is far too common. Although, it has been 10 years since Johanna Silver died of ovarian cancer, and 4 years since Congress passed this important legislation, each year over 71,000 women in U.S. are diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer and over 26,000 women are lost to one of these serious cancers. Many of those deaths could be prevented if more women knew and recognized the early symptoms of gynecologic cancers and received prompt treatment. For all gynecological cancers, early detection dramatically improves a woman's chance of survival. For instance, ovarian cancer causes more deaths in women than any other gynecological cancer; however, it has a 90 percent survival rate if detected in Stage One, but only a 20 percent survival rate if detected in Stage Three or Four.

Right now, awareness, education, early diagnosis, and treatment are the most effective weapons we have in our war against gynecological cancers. I urge my colleagues to support Johanna's Law so we can prevail in our battle against these terrible cancers that cut short the lives of our mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, partners and friends. I urge the House to join me in voting for this vital legislation.

GESTATIONAL DIABETES ACT OF
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today as the sponsor of the Gesta-

tional Diabetes Act and urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

I would like to thank my colleague and an original sponsor of the legislation, Dr. BURGESS and his staff member, James Paluskiewicz for their efforts on behalf of this legislation. I would also like to thank the Committee staff who worked tirelessly to bring this bill to the floor today. Specifically, I would like to acknowledge Anne Morris of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Emily Gibbons of the Health subcommittee who is also a former member of my staff.

Madam Speaker, every single year 135,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with gestational diabetes. And, while gestational diabetes generally goes away after pregnancy, it can have significant health impacts upon both the mother and baby. In particular, women are at much higher risk of developing Type 2 diabetes in the future, and their children are at higher risk of obesity and/or the onset of Type 2 diabetes as adults.

This is why I introduced the GEDI Act. This bill aims to lower the incidence of gestational diabetes and prevent women afflicted with this condition and their children from developing Type 2 diabetes.

We need to have a greater understanding on how to prevent and treat this condition. There is currently an insufficient system for monitoring cases of gestational diabetes to uncover trends and target at risk populations. In addition, new therapies and interventions to detect, treat and slow the disease need to be identified. The GEDI Act will help us accomplish those goals.

This legislation is supported by the American Diabetes Association, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, American Association of Diabetes Educators, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Women's Association, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, the International Community Health Services, and the Society for Women's Health Research.

The statistics surrounding diabetes are staggering, but we must always remember there is a human face behind every number, with far too many of them being pregnant women and their children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

NEGLECTED INFECTIONS OF IM-
POVERISHED AMERICANS ACT
OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5986, the Neglected Infections of Impoverished Americans Act of 2010.

H.R. 5986 would require HHS to submit a report to Congress on the current state of parasitic diseases that have been overlooked among the poorest Americans.

A 2008 study by the George Washington University and Sabin Vaccine Institute identified high prevalence rates of parasitic infections in the poorest areas of the United States and along our border regions.

Scientists estimate that there may be up to 100 million infections of the neglected diseases identified in our legislation including Chagas Disease, Cysticercosis, Toxocariasis, Toxoplasmosis, and Trichomoniasis and other neglected diseases of poverty in the United States.

These diseases and other neglected diseases of poverty collectively infect up to 1.7 billion people around the world, but they disproportionately affect minority and impoverished populations across the United States, producing effects ranging from asymptomatic infection to asthma-like symptoms, seizures, and death.

This study is especially important because these neglected diseases receive less financial support than they deserve. A mere \$231,730 of research funding was allocated by NIH since 1995.

This discrepancy in funding is known as the "10/90 gap"; a mere 10 percent of global health research funding is directed towards diseases affecting 90 percent of the global population.

The Neglected Infections of Impoverished Americans Act of 2010 would provide an up-to-date evaluation of the current dearth of knowledge regarding the epidemiology of these diseases and the socioeconomic, health and development impact they have on our society.

I'd like to thank Rep. HANK JOHNSON and Rep. GINGREY for their efforts on this legislation. This will mark the second time we've passed this legislation out of the House and I'm hopeful we can swiftly move it through the Senate.

I'd also like to thank Chairman WAXMAN, Chairman PALLONE, and Ranking Member BARTON for their efforts on this bipartisan legislation.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE
WITH AMENDMENTS IN SENATE
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3619, COAST
GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, a bill to authorize the important activities and programs of the United States Coast Guard.

This comprehensive legislation includes new and enhanced port security programs that will help the Coast Guard protect and defend our nation's seaports, coastlines and waterways.

Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Coast Guard has assumed additional security-related responsibilities and has improved its port and maritime border security and readiness capabilities.

Accordingly, the bill includes a strong port security title that builds upon the Coast Guard's current initiatives to safeguard the public and protect vessels, harbors, ports, facilities, and cargo within the jurisdiction of the United States.

For example, the bill's expansion of rapidly deployable specialized forces will enhance the