

tough negotiations, he helped me lead the Quality Care Coalition and was successful in getting the Value Modifier for Physician payments included in health care reform. That provision incorporated quality and cost metrics as a factor in physician reimbursements for the first time. Additionally, he helped me successfully advocate for the small business exchanges and small business tax credits in the ACA, which were modeled after legislation that he had worked on.

Apart from his successes during health care reform, Travis was integral on the staff level in negotiating the successful adoption of the SMART Act Secondary Payer Reform into law. Being in the Minority can make legislative successes fleeting, but Travis had the talent to work with the Majority to get meaningful things done in one of the most dysfunctional congresses of all time.

As my Legislative Director, Travis effectively cultivated junior staff into successful Legislative Assistants who continue to be an asset to my team. Over the past year, Travis has served as my Chief of Staff in Washington, D.C. Under his tenure, my office was legislatively successful, despite being in the Minority in a very polarized Congress. I am proud that he has helped my staff to remain legislatively productive despite great challenges.

Next year, Travis will join the staff of the American Hospital Association, where he will continue to work on important health policy challenges. While I am sorry to see him leave my staff after almost 6 years, I wish him the best of luck in his new role. Travis embodies the term public service and has worked tirelessly to make our nation a better place, which has not been easy given the current toxic environment. It is unfortunate that we are losing such a competent and dedicated public servant.

Mr. Speaker, on my behalf, thank you to Travis for his service and dedication to not only the constituents of the Third District of Wisconsin, but to all Americans.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT OF  
2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2014*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in strong support of H.R. 5656, the Feed the Future Global Food Security Act of 2014, on the eve of passage of the Fiscal Year 2015 Omnibus that provides just over \$1 billion to the Feed the Future Program. The passage of this bill would authorize this USAID program for one year at just under Fiscal Year 2014 level, bringing stability to this successful program while giving Congress future oversight.

Feed the Future through its whole-of-government approach has been successful in promoting both agricultural-based and market-based development and in improving the nutrition of women and children. This creates healthy populations and gives livelihoods to these families, both of which grow these developing economies.

The focus on food security and agriculture development of Feed the Future started during the Bush Administration and has continued through today.

But, Mr. Speaker, today more than 800 million people around the world still suffer from

chronic hunger. Many of the world's poor live in rural areas and rely on agriculture for a living, and growth in the agriculture sector is one of the best ways to spur the kind of economic growth that reduces poverty.

In 2013 alone, Feed the Future reached more than 12.5 million children with nutrition interventions to help ensure a stronger and more successful future. It has helped nearly 7 million farmers and food producers use new technologies and management practices. And it has leveraged more than \$10 billion through complementary efforts in private sector commitments in African agriculture—the majority from African businesses.

With broad support from U.S. universities, NGOs, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and beneficiaries, Feed the Future authorization offers an opportunity for Congress to put its stamp on this program and ensure that we have the appropriate oversight measures in place.

Passage of this legislation will demonstrate that we are serious about finding common-sense solutions to one of the world's greatest challenges—hunger—creating economic stability overseas that will benefit the American people as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 5656, the Feed the Future Global Food Security Act of 2014.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR  
ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2014*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in support for increased funding for Alzheimer's research.

There is no other way to put it: Alzheimer's is a terrible disease. It destroys your memory and thinking skills, and eventually even the ability to carry out the simplest of tasks.

In the United States, more than 5 million Americans currently have Alzheimer's, and about half of those with the disease do not know they have it. In fact, every 67 seconds, someone in this country develops Alzheimer's—a staggering statistic, no doubt—but by 2050, it will be every 33 seconds. To make matters worse, Alzheimer's is the only cause of death in the top 10 in America without a way to prevent, treat, or slow the progression of the disease. In other words, there is no cure.

It should not be a surprise that Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in America. In 2014, caring for people with the disease and other dementias will cost the United States an estimated \$214 billion. Medicare and Medicaid spending will shoulder the majority of the care cost, an estimated \$150 billion this year alone. This means that roughly 1 in 5 Medicare dollars are spent on someone with Alzheimer's. And unless something is done, the costs of Alzheimer's to Americans will total \$1.2 trillion, in today's dollars, including an over 500% increase in Medicare and Medicaid spending on Alzheimer's.

Congress has already taken action to address this very serious issue. Specifically, Congress unanimously passed the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) in 2010, calling for the creation of a National Alzheimer's Plan. That plan has resulted in some notable accomplishments, including the NIH creating a

blueprint for Alzheimer's research. However, for the progress this disease requires, scientists need additional funds to carry out the blueprint.

While Congress provided a much needed addition of \$100 million in Alzheimer's research, a chronic underinvestment in Alzheimer's research persists. Congress must continue its commitment to the fight against Alzheimer's by increasing funding for Alzheimer's research in Fiscal Year 2015 by \$200 million.

Democrats and Republicans alike should be united in tackling Alzheimer's. After all, it is a disease that affects individuals regardless of party preference, a disease that affects our very own constituents and loved ones, and a disease that we, as elected officials, have a responsibility to do something about.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL WAHL,  
MD

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2014*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael Wahl, who I am pleased to nominate for the Wave Maker Award for the 5th Annual Unsung Heroes of Public Health Campaign. This award recognizes individuals for their work on a major regional or national program that has had a significant positive impact on an important public health issue.

Dr. Wahl has devoted his life to improving public health and safety in Illinois. Since 1998, he has served as the Medical Director for the Illinois Poison Center—the oldest poison center in the United States. During his tenure, Dr. Wahl initiated the Poison Center Hotline, which currently treats over 90% of incoming accidental poisoning calls at home without a trip to a medical facility. The Hotline saves the State of Illinois \$52 million in unnecessary health care costs each year and has prevented thousands of severe medical emergencies. Building on this successful model, Dr. Wahl has set up similar state hotlines for H1N1, Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and currently Ebola, which provide the general public and health care providers with vital information during infectious disease outbreaks.

Dr. Wahl and the Illinois Poison Center have also done important work in conjunction with the Office of the Illinois Attorney General and law enforcement to observe trends in synthetic drug use and provide local officials with data and surveillance on these chemicals. Because of these initiatives, synthetic drug use in Illinois has not reached the high prevalence experienced by other states. Finally, Dr. Wahl lends his time and experience to the Illinois Department of Public Health Work Group to reduce the alarming rate of heroin use by prescription drug abusers. In these many challenging endeavors, Dr. Wahl brings an unparalleled passion for service and a commitment to improve lives throughout the State of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in honoring Dr. Michael Wahl