

Kristen Pelio, Kinnelon—"Made for Mod".
 Carlos Avilez, Lenape Valley Regional—"Faith".
 Katherine Brueckner, Madison—"Nature's Quilt".
 Steve Fleming, Madison—"Mountain Lodge".
 Pamela Schwartz, Madison—"Dark Garden".
 Sunnie Kim, Livingston—"Submerged".
 Guilianna Ruiz, Livingston—"Lost".
 Laura Cummings, Millburn—"Joe".
 Michelle Jacobs, Millburn—"Sequence".
 Yana Kimelblat, Millburn—"A Vision".
 Natalie Tarashehanska, Millburn—"Untitled".
 David Cheng, Montville—"Subway Riders".
 Spencer Chi, Montville—"Dawn of Spring".
 Chris Jonas, Montville—"Garden State Cowboy".
 Jillian Lin, Montville—"Autumn Stone".
 Susan Petrarca, Morris Hills—"Euphoria".
 Leo Redmond, IV, Morris Hills—"Blue Still Life".
 Alan Schenkler, Morris Hills—"Revelation".
 Brian Watkins, Morris Hills—"Rocky River".
 Patrick Leavy, Morristown—"Suburban Landscape".
 Michael Castellana, Mount Olive—"Accidental Resemblance".
 Kerrie Dempsey, Mount Olive—"Diaphanous".
 Michale Montenat, Mount Olive—"Cold Light".
 Nick Gonzalez, Pequannock—"The Scitzophraenic".
 Erin Marsh, Pequannock—"Golden Reflections".
 Courtney Rankin, Pequannock—"Still Life in Shadow".
 Laura Sido, Pequannock—"Lobster Buoys".
 Jennifer Carberry, Randolph—"Strike".
 Hope Dector, Randolph—"Self-Portrait".
 Mary Katherine Flaherty, Randolph—"The Tree".
 Garrett Ricciardi, Randolph—"Untitled #1".

We had more students participate this year than any other, 48 in all. That is a tremendous response and we'd very much like to build on that for next year's competition.

This year, Mr. Speaker, the winner of "An Artistic Discovery" was Mary Katherine Flaherty from Randolph High School for her work entitled, "The Tree." Second place went to Patrick Leavy from Morristown High School for "Suburban Landscape." And third place went to Travis Lett of Chatham High School for "Troubled Town."

Each year the winner of the competition will have an opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, to meet Congressional leaders and to mount his or her art work in a special corridor of the U.S. Capitol with winners from across the country. Every time a vote is called, I get a chance to walk through that corridor and am reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women.

Of course, it's always difficult to select a winner, and this year was not different. The judges had an extremely hard time with the awards process, and as usual, they wished that they could declare every entry a winner.

Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

PROGRESS REPORT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Speaker, I want to thank our distinguished colleagues, Congresswoman CONNIE MORELLA and Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER, for reserving this special order. I take pride in joining my colleagues as we engage in vital dialog on women's health.

Women's health is one of the most important issues facing this Congress and our Nation. As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee which funds health programs, I can say that substantial progress has been made. As a result of our efforts on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we have been able to increase funding for important health initiatives such as the Ryan White AIDS Programs, the CDC Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, and the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. We have also been able to direct increased Federal research dollars to the National Cancer Institute, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. Yet, while we recognize that much as been accomplished, we must remain committed to the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I am also proud to join this special order in my capacity as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. Since its founding in 1971, the Congressional Black Caucus [CBC] has played a crucial role in addressing the health challenges which impact the African-American community. When the CBC Health Braintrust convened last fall, a special panel closely examined issues regarding the health status of African-American women.

If you look at the statistics, you will discover that African-American women suffer disproportionately from many chronic and debilitating diseases. For example, African-American women are more likely than white women to die of breast cancer. This is in spite of the fact

that they experience a lower rate of incidence of this disease than their white counterparts. According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer mortality for African-American women was 31.2 per 100,000 compared to 26.0 per 100,000 for white women.

Cardiovascular diseases have ravaged our Nation's minority communities as well. African-American women are more likely than non-minorities to die of such diseases before age 45 and even later in life. In fact, studies show that African-American women between ages 35 and 47, are 38 percent more likely to die of a heart attack than white women.

Another disease taking its toll on the lives of African-American women is AIDS. In a recent report, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted that, between 1990 and 1994, the incidence of AIDS rose fastest among African-American women. In spite of a reported sharp decline in U.S. AIDS mortality during those years, the number of new AIDS cases in African-American women nearly doubled. During 1996, 59 percent of all AIDS cases in women were reported in African-American women compared to 21 percent in white women.

Additionally, African-American college-educated women are three times more likely than the general population to give birth to a low birthweight baby. Infants born to this group of mothers have an 80-percent higher risk of dying during their first year of life than infants born to white college graduates.

In Congress, we must support legislative initiatives that address the startling disparity that exists in the health and number of excess deaths of African-American women and other minorities. We should support research efforts aimed at improving the health status of all Americans, and we must work to increase every American's access to affordable health care services.

Support of these efforts will send a signal to the American people that we are serious about establishing a level playing field for the provision of accessible and affordable health care. Such support will also serve as evidence of our commitment to effectively address the issues of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, and mortality that compromise the lives and health status of all women. By promoting these efforts we will show all women across the Nation that we are dedicated to providing the resources needed to find ways to improve the quality of life for those who suffer from disease and to finding viable methods of cure.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to participate in this special order. I would like to again thank my colleagues for bringing this important issue to the House floor.