

drug data in a readily retrievable manner, and do not routinely maintain comprehensive charts documenting residents' clinical or physical status. Thus, we believed that identifying general characteristics associated with inappropriate drug use might prove useful in future efforts to target residents for whom drug-utilization review may be especially warranted. Residents with a larger number of regularly scheduled prescriptions were more likely than others in the sample to receive at least one inappropriate drug. Thus, the number of prescriptions may serve as a simple indicator for targeting residents at higher risk of inappropriate drug use. Indeed, in other arenas, having five or more prescriptions has been used as one indicator of the need for the services of a consultant pharmacist.

The Health Care Financing Administration recently published a final rule on regulation for drug-utilization review programs for Medicaid-covered prescription drugs. These regulations—which were not targeted specifically for residential care facilities—require that state Medicaid agencies have pharmacist counseling programs to ensure that prescriptions are medically necessary, appropriate, and unlikely to produce adverse side effects. We suggest that state board and care regulations be systematically reviewed with an eye toward incorporating and stimulating the development of pharmacy counseling and drug-utilization review programs that are specific to conditions faced in these facilities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY RIGHT TO PROTECT CHILDREN RESOLUTION

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Community Right to Protect Children Resolution, designed to reaffirm the right of State and local governments to pass laws intended to preserve and protect the safety of children.

In response to a series of gun related incidents at county recreation and teen centers, Fairfax County, VA, officials passed legislation, written to apply only in their county, that would have prohibited guns, knives, and other weapons from community recreation and teen centers. This common sense measure aimed at curbing crime in centers designated as safe havens for children to congregate, set the special interests groups in motion. Unable to discriminate between measures designed to protect children and those aimed at restricting gun rights of law abiding citizens, the myopic self interest powers vigorously protested, ultimately convincing Governor Allen to veto the bill. Governor Allen's veto not only struck down a good law, but also severely limited the ability of communities to fight crime and provide weapon free schools and recreation centers on a local level.

I am here today because I believe that the ability of local governments to pass effective laws that strengthen public safety should neither be constrained nor denied. I am, therefore, introducing this important legislation which expresses the sense of Congress that State and local governments should be encouraged and have the right to respond to the needs of their communities by enacting laws

and ordinances designed to preserve and protect the well-being of young people, including those that seek to ban the possession of firearms and other weapons in community facilities. The Community Right to Protect Children Resolution seeks to reverse the trend of putting children and public safety concerns second to special interest groups. The Virginia case illustrates the tragic consequences of what happens when the interests of children rank second to those of specialized interests with powerful political connections.

I think that Members on both sides of the aisle will agree with me that when it comes to addressing the unique public safety concerns of our districts, one size does not fit all. Local governments require flexibility—not legal straightjackets that bar their actions to protect children. This resolution recognizes that different problems require different solutions, that what works in rural areas may not be enough for urban areas where crimes committed with guns are more likely to occur. Local and State governments are fighting the crime problem on many fronts, including innovative policing and social programs, but their hands are tied when it comes to enacting any restrictions on guns. Reasonable gun and weapon restrictions, such as the measure passed by Fairfax County, VA, are an essential ingredient in our effort to reduce crime, particularly among juveniles. To suggest otherwise, ignores the incidence and pervasiveness of the problem, notably that nearly 90 percent of homicide victims 15 to 19 years of age were killed with a firearm. Juveniles are both perpetrators and victims of crime committed with firearms. Arrest rates are consistently and substantially higher for young people than for all other age groups. Between 1987 and 1994, annual rates of firearm homicide for youth aged 15 to 19 years of age increased 155 percent, totaling 8,116 deaths in 1994. This amounts to an average of 22 youth homicide victims per day in the United States, earning the United States the dubious distinction of leading the industrialized world in the number and rate of gun-related child homicides.

Strategies that limit the ability of local governments to respond to community needs, ensure that the war on crime will not be fought, much less won. We should be empowering rather than disabling and limiting the ability of local governments to fight crime. We need to ensure that communities have in their arsenal every tool available to curb the growth and incidence of juvenile crime. Federal and State law, and policy must not stand in the way of State and local governments' efforts to protect its citizens. Let us encourage them to accomplish what the Federal Government has limited ability to do—enact reasonable controls over firearms and other weapons that threaten public safety and the well-being of our children in their schools, recreation centers, or other areas in their communities.

WHAT MY FLAG MEANS TO ME

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the following poem inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This poem entitled "What My Flag Means To Me" was written by William Watkins, a fifth grader at Alto Park Elementary School in Rome, GA.

WHAT MY FLAG MEANS TO ME

Have you ever stopped to think about our flag, about what it means, and how it came to be? Have you ever thought about it's history and what the glorious stripes and stars stand for? To me, the flag stands for freedom and liberty. It stands for pride and peace. It stands for wars that we fought, not only for ourselves, but for other countries and for things we just didn't think were right. Thankfully, my peers and I haven't been through anything like that, through all of that hatred and through all of that fear.

To me, the flag also stands for being our own country. We have our own government and are not ruled by anyone. It means that no matter what color your skin is, whether it is black, white, or red, everyone is treated equally. It means that no one can tell us what church to go to, where to live, how to live, where to go to school, or anything like that. We are our own country.

The beautiful red, white, and blue stars and stripes stand for fifty glorious and magnificent states; each with fitting nicknames like 'The Sunshine State' and 'The Peach State' (which are, by the way, Florida and Georgia). The stripes stand for the thirteen original thriving colonies. When I look at the Flag, I think of everyone who takes a part in making this big beautiful country work. I think about the people who risked their lives to come from Spain, France, Germany, England, and other countries to make this great country.

I hope our country is always safe, self-governmental, and beautiful for today, tomorrow, and on into the future. I also hope that everyone will respect our land forever.

TRIBUTE TO CLOVIS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Clovis Unified School District [CUSD]. In a joint powers agreement, CUSD and Fresno Unified School District [FUSD] will open a Center for Advanced Research and Technology [CART] in Clovis, CA. An extended branch of the educational system in Clovis, CART will allow students in the community to adequately prepare for the technological challenges of the future.

Scheduled to open in the fall of 1999, CART pilot programs have been slated to begin in the fall of 1997. CART was made possible by a combination of grants and a partnership between local businesses and the educational departments of the community.

As a center striving to meet the employment needs of the community by adequately preparing students to take advantage of post-secondary options, the course work presented at the center will be responsive to the changes in American industry. CART will offer courses that require sophisticated laboratory environments and interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates higher order mathematics, sciences, and technology education. This course work will focus on the intellectual processes of problem solving, analyzing, team building resource allocation, and self-assessment