

treating patients they are getting payments from the Government. There are better ways to treat patients, Mr. Speaker, especially diabetic patients.

To get more specific, Mr. Speaker, there is a product approved by the FDA which has been shown through repeat success to have healed repeatedly diabetic ulcerations and to have eliminated the need for amputations. This product is called Multidex. HCFA, however, is restricting the use of Multidex through bureaucratic redtape and needless Government road blocks. The way they are restricting the use of Multidex is by routinely denying reimbursement to providers who use it on patients.

If ever there was an effective way to stop the use of a medicine or a medical product, this is it. This is because most of the patients who have these amputations are senior citizens who are on Medicare. Between the ages of 65 and 74, nearly 17 percent of the U.S. white population, 25 percent of African-Americans, and more than 33 percent of Hispanic-Americans have diabetes. Each year we are spending \$1.5 billion on diabetic amputations. Within 3 years of a major amputation 30 to 50 percent of diabetic patients will die, yet many thousands of these amputations could be prevented with proper care, and this product Multidex, which is being restricted by HCFA, is the most effective treatment available today for these diabetic ulcerations.

I would like to show four pictures, Mr. Speaker, which demonstrate the effectiveness of Multidex, and I apologize for the graphic nature of these pictures, and while these pictures all show the same foot at different stages, and these are the same case, huge numbers of pictures and tests and data have been presented to HCFA from many, many other cases showing similar results.

This first photograph shows the foot of a 75-year-old diabetic patient with a massive ulcer of the right foot. It is a stage four wound with heavy infection, gangrene, and amputation of the left toe. The second photograph shows the same foot 19 days after treatment with Multidex has begun. The infection has cleared, and the healing has begun. The third photograph shows the same foot 25 days after the treatment with Multidex has begun. It is obvious that the treatments are working. The final photograph shows the same foot at the time of discharge. Without Multidex or some similar product this foot would probably never have healed. The foot might have had to have been amputated if Multidex had not been used.

This is obviously a situation where the system has broken and needs fixing. Clearly helping the body to heal itself is a much better choice than amputation from both a quality-of-life point of view and a cost-of-Medicare point of view.

If any part of the Federal Government needs reinventing, Mr. Speaker, it is Medicare. Here is a vital Government service where artificial barriers

need to be broken down and effective products like Multidex need to get to these desperately ill patients. I call on HCFA to stop restricting the use of Multidex by denying reimbursement when it is used. It is a scandal of major proportions to think that thousands of senior citizens might have to have amputations in the next few months because of this bureaucratic redtape.

USDA ACCOUNTABILITY AND EQUITY ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, when the history of this century is written, it is my hope that the year 1997 will be recorded as significant in the effort to change the course and the culture of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Known as the People's Department, USDA was established when President Lincoln signed the law on May 15, 1862. It is ironic that the very Department created by the President who signed the Emancipation Proclamation today faces widespread and documented charges of unfair and unequal treatment to socially disadvantaged and minority farmers.

Farmers and ranchers are invaluable resources to all of us. The farmers and ranchers of America, including minority and limited resource producers through their labor sustain each and every one of us and maintain the lifeblood of our Nation and the world. These people do not discriminate. Their products are for all of us. Therefore, it is important that we do all within our power to ensure that each and every producer is able to farm without the additional burden of institutional discrimination rearing its ugly head.

It greatly concerns me, Mr. Speaker, that in my home State of North Carolina there has been a 64-percent decline in minority farmers just over the last 15 years, from 6,996 farms in 1978 to 2,498 farms in 1992.

There are several reasons as to why the number of minority and limited resource farmers are declining so rapidly, but one that has been documented time and time again is the discriminatory environment present in the Department of Agriculture, which was the very agency established by the U.S. Government to accommodate and to assist the special needs of all farmers and ranchers.

Mr. Speaker, the issue was first raised in 1965, when the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights established that USDA discriminated both in internal employee action and external program delivery activities. An ensuing USDA employee focus group in 1970 reported the USDA was callous in their institutional attitude and demeanor regarding civil rights and equal opportunity.

In 1982, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights examined this issue a second

time and published a report entitled "The Decline of Black Farming in America." The Commission concluded that there were widespread prejudicial practices in loan approval, loan servicing, and farm management assistance as administered by the Farmers Home Administration.

However, as no improvement was forthcoming, in 1990 the House Committee on Government Operations, chaired by my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS] investigated this matter again. In their report entitled "The Minority Farmer: A Disappearing Resource; Has the Farmers Home Administration Been the Primary Catalyst?", the same conclusion was reached in 1990 as had been reached in 1982. That conclusion was that, "Ironically, the Farmers Home Administration had been a catalyst in the decline of minority farming."

In 1997, the General Accounting Office published yet another report on the matter, entitled "Farm Programs: Efforts to Achieve Equitable Treatment to Minority Farmers." While much of the report was inconclusive due to its limited scope, the GAO did find instances of discrimination. Two cases out of the 28 closed in fiscal year 1995 and 1996. The GAO also found that the disapproval rate for loans was 6-percent higher for minority farmers than the 10-percent rate for the non-minority farmer.

The very next month, two additional reports were released: The Office of Inspector General Evaluation report for the Secretary on Civil Rights Issues and the Civil Rights Action Team report. The authors of these hard-hitting reports came to the identical conclusion that those who had looked at this issue 32 years previously, there are significant problems with discrimination within the Department of Agriculture.

On February 28, 1997, the Civil Rights Action Team report was issued and entitled "Civil Rights at the United States Department of Agriculture." It was done by the Civil Rights Implementation Team at USDA, and it documents the decades of discrimination against minorities and women within the Department. Ninety-two recommendations for change were made in the report, 13 which require legislation action.

I have introduced the bill, H.R. 2185, that seeks to implement most of those legislative recommendations within the CRAT report. The bill is entitled the "USDA Accountability and Equity Act of 1997." It consists of three titles; title I, Program Accountability, making changes to the structure of the county committees as well as to the status of county committee employees. County committees are retained, and the tenure of county committee employees is preserved and protected. Title II, Program Equity, makes provisions for those producers who are of marginal financial standing to continue to participate in USDA loans and programs. These provisions recognize

the financial hardship created by USDA.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that through this legislation and other efforts we will continue with steady movement toward an emancipation proclamation for socially disadvantaged farmers and minority farmers.

REVISED 602 ALLOCATIONS AND REVISED ALLOCATIONS IN NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, I hereby submit revised 602 allocations and other appropriate budgetary levels. Subsection 211(d)(5) of Public Law 104-193 amends section 103(b) of the Contract with America Advancement Act of 1996, Public Law 104-121, which provided for an adjustment in the various budgetary levels established by budget resolutions to accommodate additional appropriations for conducting continuing disability reviews [CDR's] under the supplemental security income program.

Public Law 104-121 directed the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to revise the

discretionary spending limits, 602(a) allocations, and the appropriate budgetary aggregates when the Appropriations Committee reports an appropriations measure that provides additional new budget authority and additional outlays to pay for the costs of continuing disability reviews.

The Committee on Appropriations has reported H.R. 105-2264, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Health & Human Services, Labor, and Education, and related agencies for fiscal year 1998. This legislation provides \$245,000,000 in budget authority for continuing disability reviews. The resulting outlays are \$232,000,000.

The revised allocations and other budgetary levels are as follows:

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[In millions of dollars]

Discretionary	Current allocation		Change		Revised allocation	
	BA	O	BA	O	BA	O
General Purpose	520,657	549,376	+245	+232	520,902	549,608
Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund	5,500	3,592			5,500	3,592
Total	526,157	552,968	+245	+232	526,402	553,200

The aggregate levels for budget authority and outlays for fiscal year 1998 are increased as follows:

[In millions of dollars]

Current aggregates		Change		Revised aggregates	
BA	O	BA	O	BA	O
1,386,700	1,372,000	+245	+232	1,386,945	1,372,232

Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 84, The concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a revised allocation for the House Committee on Appropriations to reflect \$100,000,000 in additional new budget authority and \$98,000,000 in additional outlays for payment of international arrearages.

Section 206 of House Concurrent Resolution 84 states that:

*** after the reporting of an appropriation measure *** that includes an appropriation for arrearages for international organizations *** the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall increase the appropriation allocations, *** by an amount provided for that purpose in that appropriation measure.

The House Committee on Appropriations has reported H.R. 105-2267, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for fiscal year 1998 which includes \$100,000,000 in budget authority and \$98,000,000 in outlays for international arrearages.

The adjustments are as follows:

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[In millions of dollars]

Discretionary	Current allocation		Change		Revised allocation	
	BA	O	BA	O	BA	O
General Purpose	520,902	549,608	+100	+98	521,002	549,706
Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund	5,500	3,592			5,500	3,592
Total	526,402	553,200	+100	+98	526,502	553,298

The aggregate levels for budget authority and outlays for fiscal year 1998 are increased as follows:

[In millions of dollars]

Current aggregates		Change		Revised aggregates	
BA	O	BA	O	BA	O
1,386,945	1,372,232	+100	+98	1,387,045	1,372,330

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight, and we are in really the final hours of the budget negotiations with the balanced budget and tax cut plan close at hand, and as the final details are worked out concerning a number of issues, I want to, on the one hand, talk about some of the major achievements that I believe Democrats have succeeded in accomplishing if this budget agreement is finally concluded also talk about some of the things that I think that Democrats and the President need to continue to stand firm on to make sure that this balanced budget

agreement, when it is concluded, is something that helps the average American, the average working American family.

One of the things that I am most proud about is the fact that the President indicated very strongly today that the final agreement will contain \$24 billion to expand health insurance for kids. Those of us who have been involved with this issue for a number of months, actually more than a year now, know that a few months ago when the initial budget agreement was

THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for