

populations. We cannot tolerate a reductive one-size-fits-all solution to HIV infection, a complex epidemic.

We should not simplify our efforts to prevent HIV transmission. In fighting the epidemic of HIV, we have learned a great deal from our colleagues in scientific research. Because I believe that needle exchange programs have proven to be an effective and cost-effective way of reducing the spread of HIV, I am delighted to also be a cosponsor of H.R. 2212, the HIV Prevention Outreach Act of 1997, introduced by Representatives Elijah Cummings and Nancy Pelosi.

A single clean syringe costs less than 10 cents, and treatment for one HIV-infected individual costs over \$100,000. More than half a billion dollars in health care expenditures could be avoided through the implementation of needle exchange programs. There is a tragic cost to not acting and implementing needle exchange programs. The Cummings-Pelosi bill would end the ban on federal funding of needle exchange programs, and along with H.R. 1219, it enables us to battle AIDS in such a way that does not ignore the inroads we have already made into how the disease has affected certain populations.

It is my pleasure to announce that I am not alone in my sentiments about needle exchange. The findings of the scientific community support my view that needle exchange is a necessary and extremely efficient way of dealing with HIV transmission. To date, six federally funded studies, including a Consensus Development Conference by the National Institutes of Health and also a study by the University of California, San Francisco for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, all demonstrate the effectiveness of needle exchange in reducing an important risk factor for HIV transmission. It is not a coincidence that by providing clean needles to injection drug users who comprise nearly 50% of newly infected HIV victims, we are slowing the spread of HIV not only to those who will use the needles but to their partners and their children as well.

This information has found the ears of the American public, approximately 66% of which support needle exchange. Distinguished and respected public health organizations such as the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, as well as public officials and legal groups such as the United States Conference of Mayors and the American Bar Association have all heard the facts supporting needle exchange and are supportive of preserving the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to determine if federal funds can be used for needle exchange programs.

In the matter of HIV transmission and infection, we should listen to what our scientific knowledge makes undeniable; we need comprehensive programs such as those authorized by the Pelosi-Morella bill, and we need to give our public health officials the means to combat HIV through needle exchange, as expressed through the Cummings-Pelosi bill.

I urge the Congress not to delay the use of federal funds for needle exchange programs. Furthermore, I want to reiterate the importance of learning from our research investigations of HIV infection and AIDS cases. The spread of HIV has taken a specific path that we have traced, and that we must take steps to counteract. The word is out that needle exchange is a successful way of addressing HIV transmission. The word is out that we can best approach this problem by funding research and funding programs that will allow states to target and address the specific developments of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We need to lift the ban on federal funding of needle exchange and to address

the needs of children, women, and minorities who are affected by AIDS and the HIV infection.

Thank you again for holding this important hearing. I hope you will be supportive of state and local officials in their efforts to combat HIV transmission and infection.

TRIBUTE TO DOYLE WILLIAMS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Doyle Williams, retiring Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the Plumbers and Steamfitters' Local 342.

Doyle has long been an active and committed member of Local 342. Being initiated as an apprentice in May 1959, Doyle soon became a leader amongst his union brothers. Understanding the importance of a strong union organization to his community's many working men and women, Doyle undertook to position Local 342 as an integral member of Contra Costa County's labor movement. His personal involvement with the California State Pipe Trades Council, the Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County, the Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council and many other such organizations, has benefitted not only the members of his own union, but all of those working in the trades.

I would like to personally thank Doyle for his activism in the area of public policy. On the numerous occasions that I have addressed the House on behalf of our country's working men and women—on such critical issues as the minimum wage, occupational safety, national trade policies, to name just a few—Doyle was always there to let me know that I spoke with the support of labor. His thoughts and counsel over the years have been invaluable to me, and it has been my honor to work with him.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives I would like to congratulate Doyle Williams and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Borough of Riverdale, Morris County, New Jersey. Although not an independent municipality until 1923, Riverdale has a long a rich history that extends well before the Revolutionary War.

Riverdale was first settled by Dutch and English pioneers in 1695 and was part of a larger area historically known as Pompton, after the local Indian village and tribe that bore the same name. The borough itself went through several name changes since its first settlement—called at First New Greenwich, then Townsha—and remained a subsection of

Pequannock Township until its official incorporation 75 years ago.

While the area was originally farm country, by the early 1800's Riverdale was a place of great activity. Along with the introduction of its first school house in 1812, there existed a thriving business in wooden staves, hoops and hoop poles. In the late 19th century, with the coming of the railroad and the establishment of several larger businesses—including Dupont, a rock quarry and two rubber factories—the population of Riverdale increased rapidly. Many more houses were erected in the area, and a newer, and larger, schoolhouse was built by 1904.

Interestingly, the issue of school size, and the desire to avoid being taxed for the construction of a large schoolhouse in the Pequannock section of town, was actually one of the decisive factors that spurred Riverdale residents to form an independent borough. After many long meetings by the New Jersey state legislature, Riverdale residents were finally granted the right in 1923 to officially separate from Pequannock, and incorporate as an independent municipality.

For the past 75 years, Riverdale Borough has prospered as a community and continues to thrive today. While still covering the same 1.8 square mile area that it has for several centuries—ranking it as the second smallest municipality in Morris County—Riverdale has nonetheless emerged as one of its fastest growing communities. By all accounts, the Borough of Riverdale will continue to prosper in the future, and I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues to congratulate all residents of Riverdale on this special anniversary year.

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES NEED ATTENTION

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the health of the national forests in the west and the economies of rural western communities are at risk from current national forest management practices. Severe threats from fire, insects and disease endanger the forests and the health, happiness and well-being of the citizens of Colorado. While properly utilized timber harvests can effectively contribute to restoring the health of forests, timber programs on the national forests have been almost completely eliminated in Colorado.

There has been an unprecedented increase in the annual net growth of national forests since the turn of the century. Historical records and studies of paired "then and now" photographs suggest that the growth potential of timber has been consistently and seriously underestimated. Many scientists believe that Colorado has more, and older, trees now than at any time in recorded history.

It is well established that healthy forests have a diversity of age classes and successional stages. However, our forests have changed with the passage of time. Decreased use of our resources appears to have resulted in the overgrowth of shade-tolerant understory plant species, the overload of forest fuels, increased numbers of trees, and, alarmingly, a