

Hillary died from an overdose of GHB that was put in her soda in a teenage nondrinking club on August 5, 1996. The gentlemen from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and (Mr. STUPAK) have seen the same kinds of deaths in Michigan.

My bill, H.R. 75, directs the Attorney General to schedule GHB as a Schedule I drug and to establish programs throughout the country to educate young people about the use of controlled substances. The DEA has been working to place this drug on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act at the Federal level, and we are looking forward to the testing and report by the Food and Drug Administration.

Do we realize that the GHB formula is on the Internet and it is made by the tub loads for these parties around the Nation. We realize that young people who have never been drug users are silently using this by way of those who think it is a joke or would like to see them immobilized and are dropping this in their nonalcoholic drinks. It has no taste or smell.

Scheduling the drug on the Federal Controlled Substances Act allows Federal prosecutors to punish anyone who uses the drug under the Drug Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act. Certainly, it would prohibit these untimely and tragic deaths. Specifically, my bill would increase the sentence for someone using GHB to commit a sex crime to 20 years imprisonment.

GHB has been used to render victims helpless to defend against attack and it even erases any memory of the attack. It is responsible for as many as 60 emergency room admissions in the past 6 months in Houston.

The recipe for this drug and its analogs can be accessed, as I said, on the Internet. In checking some of the web sites that focus on GHB, I was shocked to discover how easy it was to find misleading information on the effects on this drug. It is being touted as an anti-depressant, an aphrodisiac, a euphoriant, and as a sleep aid. One site even contends that the deaths attributable to GHB are actually caused by other underlying health problems.

How about that? A 17-year-old volleyball player died with an overdose of GHB where a grandmother could not wake her the next morning, and she never made it to the hospital.

I do believe if there are medicinal purposes for GHB, we can work through it. But the testimony last week before the subcommittee showed there is great evidence from law enforcement, DEA and other victims to suggest we must do something about GHB. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues, Mr. STUPAK and Mr. UPTON and Mr. KLINK, Mr. BLILEY and Mr. DINGELL and Mr. BILIRAKIS to ensure that we stop this siege now.

Oh, yes, many people will say too many laws, but there are never enough laws to save our teenagers. What do we say to a family who says, she was a good kid, she never took drugs, she was athletic. I know she would not do this

to herself, and yet she is now dead, along with other teenagers younger than her.

So as a mother and a legislator, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and our efforts to protect women from violent sexual assault and as well, those innocent victims who now have lost their lives. We can do no less in tribute to them. Let us move this legislation, this collaborative legislation that we can work together on swiftly, quickly, fast, expeditiously, so that we can go on record in this Congress for saving young lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MAKING THE R&D TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the R&D tax credit, a program that has done a lot to help our technology sector in the United States, and as these charts show, the technology sector has done a lot to contribute to the job growth in this country. It is the key, the cornerstone to the growth that we are going to experience in the years ahead and most of the growth that we have experienced in this decade to this point. We must do everything we can to encourage the technology sector.

The R&D tax credit is set to expire, as it does every year. I urge that we do not reauthorize it, but we make it permanent.

The first big point is that the technology sector drives job growth, and the chart that I have brought with me shows how the computer industry and the technology sector in general, first of all, it pays more. The jobs that we have in this sector on average pay twice as much as typical jobs in other areas of the economy. It also shows that the job growth, the jobs that are being created, are coming predominantly from the high-tech sector. Also, in the 10 years ahead, that is going to become even more the case. Technology is what is driving our economy, and the R&D tax credit helps that technology grow.

The second chart that I want to show shows specifically how the R&D tax credit helps. It helps because it helps increase the productivity of companies across all sectors. Because computers are a part of a company whether one is in the technology business or not, whether one makes computers or software for the Internet or if one makes airplanes or furniture or just about anything, having money for R&D helps

you increase your productivity and more and better jobs. This has just some of the various sectors of our economy that have benefited substantially from the R&D tax credit that has created jobs.

That is what this is all about. We may look at these industries and sectors and think well, gosh, I do not work in the pharmaceutical industry or the computer industry, but no matter where one works in the American economy, technology touches us, and the R&D tax credit helps advance that.

I would like us to make it permanent this time instead of doing the year-after-year reauthorization. First of all, as I have argued, this is a very good program and should be made permanent, but more importantly long term planning of companies that depend on this tax credit could be greatly enhanced if they knew it was going to be there from year-to-year. They could invest even more in the R&D tax credit over the long haul, knowing that it is going to be around, knowing that every year they are not going to have to come back and try to seek reauthorization. This is a program that should be permanent because it does so much for our economy.

Technology touches on a lot of issues, the R&D tax credit being just one of them. I strongly urge that our government get in touch with high-tech issues in the high-tech industry and find out what we can do to help them. It is critical to our job growth. Technology crosses all sectors. Yes, there are the ones that we think of off the top of our heads when we think of technology. We think of telecommunications, we think of hardware and software, we think of the Internet. But just about any industry we have benefits from a better computer system, from better software, from access to the Internet. They can make better products, they can transfer that information all across the world to various segments of their business to help that business grow. This touches everything. We will not find an industry that is not high-tech.

I ran into someone from the company Kosco out in my area which sells food and various other products on a sort of wholesale retail basis, and they thought of themselves as not being a high-tech company. But they too are dependent on the computer systems that help them keep track of their inventory, that help them track their financial records, their sales records, and the faster and better those systems become, the more efficient and the more productive their business becomes. It does not matter what sector of the economy one is in. Technology affects us, and the R&D tax credit can help us have better jobs that pay more and will also help create more and more jobs for those who do not have them yet.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge this body to adopt a permanent authorization of the R&D tax credit as soon as

possible for the sake of our future economic growth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DOOLEY of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WISE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

H.R. 961, THE OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH AND INFORMATION AMENDMENTS OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I have recently introduced H.R. 961, the Ovarian Cancer Research and Information Amendments of 1999, and would like to invite my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

H.R. 961 builds upon the Ovarian Cancer Research and Information Amendments of 1997, H.R. 953 which had 85 cosponsors in the 105th Congress.

The Ovarian Cancer Research and Information Amendments of 1999 has three components. First, it authorizes \$150 million of ovarian cancer research. One half to be spent on basic cancer research and one half on clinical trials and treatment.

Of this research, the bill requires that priority be given to: developing a test for the early detection of ovarian cancer; research to identify precursor lesions and research to determine the manner in which benign conditions progress to malignant status; research to determine the relationship between ovarian cancer and endometriosis; and requires that appropriate counseling, including on the issue of genetic basis, be provided to women who participate as subjects in research.

Second, the bill provides for a comprehensive information program to provide the patients and the public information regarding screening procedures; information on the genetic basis to ovarian cancer; any known factors which increase risk of getting ovarian cancer; and any new treatments for ovarian cancer.

Finally, it requires that the National Cancer Advisory Board include one or more individuals who are at high risk for developing ovarian cancer.

Unlike the bill from the previous Congress, H.R. 961 does not contain the section authorizing a Specialized Program of Research Ex-

cellence (SPORE) for Ovarian Cancer. Although this was a major component of the previous bill, I am pleased to report that the Scientific Advisory Board at the National Cancer Institute approved a SPORE for Ovarian Cancer last year and funding for it should be released this summer.

I would like to commend the National Cancer Research Institute for their efforts on this particular subject.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and help to give women a fighting chance against ovarian cancer.

H.R. 473—PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS FOR CROP DISEASES AND VIRUSES

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced H.R. 473, to ensure that farmers who suffer crop losses due to plant viruses and plant diseases are eligible for crop insurance and noninsured crop assistance programs and that agricultural producers who suffer such losses are eligible for emergency loans.

Pandemics of plant viruses and diseases regularly destroy the crops of entire farms and often the crops of entire geographic areas. A single plant virus or disease outbreak can send farms into bankruptcy and farmers are left without any means of recovering. Agriculture producers can qualify for emergency loans when adverse weather conditions and other natural phenomena have caused severe physical crop property damage or production losses, however, under current law, crop viruses and diseases are not considered "natural disasters" and thus are not eligible for these types of loans.

For example, in Hawaii, the State recently ordered the eradication of all banana plants on the entire island of Kauai and in a 10 square-mile area on the Big Island in an effort to eradicate the banana "bunchy top" virus. A court order required compliance of all who did not cooperate and farmers were ordered to destroy their entire farm and livelihood without any compensation. These farmers do not qualify for emergency loans or disaster assistance and many were left with no other option but to sell their farms.

The survival of our Nation's farmers is largely dependent upon the unpredictable temper of mother nature. We provide our farmers with assistance when adversely affected by severe weather but that is not enough. Emergency loans and disaster assistance must be made available to farmers for crops suffering from calamitous plant viruses and diseases.

H.R. 473 would enable farmers to qualify for crop insurance programs, noninsured assistance programs, and low-interest emergency loans, when devastated by crop losses due to plant viruses and diseases.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this worthy legislation and I urge immediate consideration of H.R. 473 in the House.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that is absolutely crucial to our

democracy, and that issue is the issue of reforming our campaign finance system.

America is built, I say to my colleagues, on a system of a marketplace of ideas where we enter into elections, we debate ideas, we are out front, trying to figure out where we should move as a country, what direction we should go in as a country. That marketplace of ideas is being interfered with today, because what is happening is the biggest checkbook is determining what goes on in America, rather than the people's voices.

As one person said, "The poor man's soap box does not equal the rich man's checkbook." So we need to return to those basic democratic principles, and if we reform our campaign finance system, we can do that.

This is an issue that calls for bipartisanship. We have got to see the kind of bipartisanship that we have seen on this issue in the past. The Shays-Meehan bill, which is the bill I have signed on to and many Members of my freshman class and many Members from both sides of the aisle have signed on to, last year passed the House of Representatives 252 to 179 in August of 1998. This year, we have seen even more support than last year. We have more cosponsors at this point. Mr. Speaker, we have 110 cosponsors at this point, with 27 Republicans.

When we take the new Members, we have more support than we did last year, and it is bipartisan support, it is encouraging to see friends from both sides of the aisle rising and joining on an issue that is so important to our democracy.

People say that there is no support. I have heard the comment over and over again. People say there is no support for campaign finance reform. We cannot limit in any way the system. People do not want it. Well, I say to my colleagues, the voters are disenchanted and part of the reason they are disenchanted is because they view the system as one that is being controlled by money. They view the system as one that is controlled by special interests, and they do not believe that their voices are being heard. The undue influence of money is an absolutely crucial issue.

This bill, the Shays-Meehan bill, would ban soft money. It would take soft money completely out of the system. Some people have described soft money as the cancer on our democracy, I think a very apt description.

Let us talk a little bit about the disenchantment of citizens. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago in this Nation, 75 percent of the people, 75 percent of the people when they were asked the question said, they trusted government to do the right thing, trusted elected officials to do the right thing most of the time, and 25 percent said they did not. Now, a generation later, we have 75 percent of the people saying they do not trust elected officials to do the