

treatment of autism to educators and physicians.

In December, we worked hard to win appropriations of \$3 million for Fiscal Year 2001 to fund the Centers of Excellence for CDC and begin larger-scale autism prevalence and incidence studies.

CDC expects to issue program announcements and requests for proposals in the early summer of 2001 to implement P.L. 106-310. Grants would be awarded to successfully completed applications to CDC for the "Centers of Excellence" sometime in the early fall of 2001.

Another provision in the Children's Health Act directs the Director of the NIH to establish not less than 5 Centers of Excellence to conduct basic and clinical research including developmental neurobiology, genetics and psychopharmacology.

The Members of C.A.R.E. will work to further advance the process of establishing these Centers of Excellence, which will lead to a better understanding of autism and related disorders.

The 106th Congress also significantly boosted total federal funding for autism. We want to take a page out of that playbook and repeat that success this year as well. CDC funding for autism increased from \$1.1 million in FY 2000 to \$6.7 million in FY 2001. Since FY 1998, when autism funding at CDC was a mere \$287,000, funding has increased by a net total of 2,246 percent! That's 23.5 times what CDC spent just four years ago.

At NIH, Congress won increases in funding for autism from \$40 million in FY 1999 to \$45 million in 2000. Funding for 2001 is also expected to increase. Since FY 1998, autism research has been increased by 66 percent at NIH. Maybe this year we can make yet another installment on our plan to double autism research at NIH.

Finally, at the request of interested Members of Congress and with grass roots support, the House has held two separate hearings on the problem of autism—one by the Commerce Committee and another by the Government Reform and Oversight Committee. Additional hearings are likely if Member interest stays strong. I know Chairman DAN BURTON at the Government Reform and Oversight Committee remains deeply interested in further hearings. And Chairman MIKE BILIRAKIS is another strong supporter of autism research and oversight.

IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE  
INSURANCE COVERAGE OF  
CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS ACT  
OF 2001

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, vaccines have made dramatic improvements in the lives of children and adults in the last century. Scourges such as polio and small pox have been eradicated thanks to advancements in vaccine research.

Childhood vaccinations prevent nine serious infectious diseases. Thanks to immunizations, children no longer have to suffer from the dangers of polio, measles, diphtheria, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German

measles), tetanus, hepatitis-B, and Hib (the most common cause of meningitis).

Immunizations are not only sound medicine, they're sound public health policy. Over \$21 are saved for every dollar spent on the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine. Almost \$30 are saved for every dollar spent on diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine.

Unfortunately, many children do not have access to these life-saving vaccines. In fact, one third of two-year-old children are under-immunized, and in some cities and urban areas, more than 50 percent of children are not fully immunized.

Part of the problem is that nearly one in five employer-sponsored health plans do not cover immunizations for infants and children. Nearly one in four children in Preferred Provider Organizations and indemnity plans do not have coverage for immunizations.

The Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunization Act of 2001 would address this problem by requiring ERISA governed health plans to cover vaccines for children under 18 years. Vaccines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule must be covered.

The federal government provides this benefit for its own workers, and twenty-four states have enacted laws to require state-regulated plans to cover vaccines. Unfortunately, ERISA plans do not have to comply with state laws. This legislation will ensure that all children, regardless of the type of insurance they have, will receive life-saving vaccines. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting immunization coverage for all children.

THE WORK FOR REAL WAGES ACT

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that helps correct a portion of the Welfare Reform Law of 1996.

Under the 1996 welfare reform law, states were allowed to enact workfare programs in which welfare recipients are forced to work off their welfare benefit, rather than receive real wages.

The Work for Real Wages Act requires that welfare recipients who perform unpaid work as a condition of receiving welfare benefits be credited with wages for the purposes of calculating the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

It is unfair to require unpaid work, yet credit nothing toward Social Security, unemployment compensation, and other wage-based benefits programs.

My bill credits the hours worked without direct compensation as though minimum wage were paid for the purpose of claiming earned income tax credits.

I urge all Members to cosponsor this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR.  
THOMAS J. DEMPSEY

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2001*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor one of the founders of the community of Mammoth Lakes, in my district in California, Mr. Thomas J. Dempsey. After a lifetime of hard work and dedication, my good friend Tom Dempsey passed away on February 1, 2001. He was 66 years old.

Tom was a very private man who quietly made possible the growth and development of Mammoth Lakes. While most people are unaware of his contributions to the community, he played a vital role in forming what it has become.

From the time he arrived in the early 1950's with dreams of becoming a professional ski racer, Mammoth Lakes was always near and dear to Tom's heart. In 1955, he helped build Chair I at Mammoth Mountain. After working as a carpenter for several summers, in 1961, he constructed his first home in Mammoth. That was but the beginning of great things to come. As the sole owner of Dempsey Construction Corporation, Tom became one of the foremost developers of mountain resorts and planned communities in the western United States. However, despite many successful developments elsewhere, the Snowcreek Resort in Mammoth Lakes has remained the corporation's flagship project.

In a very literal way, the town of Mammoth Lakes is what it is because of Tom Dempsey's vision and sense of civic duty. When he purchased the 355-acre Snowcreek Resort property in 1977, the town was under a building moratorium due to insufficient water supplies. That moratorium was lifted after Tom transferred significant surface and ground water rights from his property to the Mammoth County Water District and permitted the district to drill five major water supply wells.

It was also Tom Dempsey who provided a solution to the town's chronic lack of land for community facilities. In 1980, he completed a complicated land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service that involved 80 acres of government land. Of that land, Tom donated 21 acres for the Mammoth High School site, 20 acres for a future school site in Crowley Lake, and 9.5 acres to the town of Mammoth Lakes. Furthermore, Tom made Snowcreek lands available for a fire station, church, and a water treatment plant.

In addition to these efforts, Tom voluntarily contributed to many other community development projects. These include the landscaping of Main Street, improvements to the Whitmore baseball fields, landscaping and lighting improvements at the Mammoth/June Lake Airport, and restoration of the Mammoth Creek meadow.

While it was his passion for skiing that brought him to the beautiful Eastern Sierra, Tom also enjoyed many other athletic and outdoors endeavors. He was an avid windsurfer, bicyclist, tennis player, and hiker. The same deep love of the environment that drew him to outdoor activities is reflected in all of his development projects.

More importantly than his numerous professional and civic accomplishments, Tom