

These diseases, which include lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, fibromyalgia, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Graves' disease, Epstein-Barr virus and chronic active hepatitis, are heartbreaking and debilitating. In virtually all of these diseases the female-to-male ratios are dramatically skewed toward women, in some cases by ratios as high as 50 to 1.

Autoimmune diseases remain among the most poorly understood and poorly recognized of any category of illnesses, and although science suggests they may have a genetic component, they can cluster in families as different illnesses. For example, a mother may have lupus; her daughter, diabetes; and her grandmother, rheumatoid arthritis.

To help women live longer, healthier lives, more research is needed to shed light on genetic as well as hormonal and environmental risk factors that contribute to the causes of autoimmune diseases, as well as providing early diagnosis and treatment.

The legislation I have introduced addresses all of these issues. It directs the Office on Women's Health to conduct or support research to expand the understanding of the causes of, and develop methods for preventing, autoimmune diseases in women, including African American women and other women who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups. It calls for more epidemiological studies to address the frequency and natural history of these diseases and the differences among women and men.

The bill also promotes the development of safe, efficient and cost-effective diagnostic approaches to evaluating women with suspected autoimmune diseases, as well as clinical research on new treatments and rehabilitation for women. Finally, it provides for expanded information and education programs for patients and health care providers on genetic, hormonal, and environmental risk factors associated with autoimmune diseases in women, as well as the prevention and control of such risk factors.

Autoimmune diseases run the gamut from mild to disabling to life threatening. Nearly all affect women at far greater rates than men. The question before the scientific community is "why?" We have come a long way in the diagnosis and treatment of autoimmune disease. But more work is desperately needed, more information must be made available, and more resources must be devoted to this effort.

The Women's Autoimmune Diseases Research and Prevention Act can contribute to the growing body of knowledge about these awful illnesses. But it is not enough to simply understand these diseases well. We must ensure that the millions of American women stricken with autoimmune disease also live long, and well.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROXANNE GRIDER

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I rise to honor Roxanne Grider of Bullitt Central High School in Shepherdsville, KY.

I am extremely proud to announce that Ms. Grider is one of only 10 special education teachers in the Nation to receive the 2002 Shaklee Award for outstanding teachers of students with disabilities. She also is the first Kentuckian to receive this distinction since the award's inception 5 years ago. This award is given by the Glenda B. and Forrest C. Shaklee Institute for Improving Special Education and includes a \$1000 prize and a trip to Wichita, KS for a conference featuring previous award winners and representatives of the Shaklee Institute.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in history and secondary education from Centre College in Danville, KY, Roxanne looked for a job as a high school history teacher. Fortunately for the special education community, she had no luck finding a teaching job in the field of history. Due to the rising demand for special education teachers, Roxanne was immediately offered a position in the Hopkins County School system. After going through an emergency certification process, Roxanne headed back to the classroom to focus her studies on helping those less fortunate individuals. She eventually received her master's degree, special education certificate, and Rank 1, which means she took 30 hours beyond her master's degree, from the University of Louisville. Ten years has now passed since she took that first job, and I believe Roxanne has taken full advantage of what appeared to be a professional mishap.

In her teaching career, Roxanne has set herself apart due to her innovative mind and enduring spirit. In the classroom, she empowers her students with real-life responsibilities such as planning and cooking meals, cleaning, and shopping. In the fall, her class has its own business, the B.C. Cookie and Candle Co., which sells glass jars filled with layers of cookie ingredients and topped with fabric covered lid. She wants all of her students to believe in themselves and what they can accomplish in life. It would be very easy and probably convenient for her to treat these children as if they were helpless, but she refuses to look at them in such a manner. For Roxanne, these children have the opportunity to live a proactive life full of adventure and action. Ultimately, she wants all of her students to have a job when they finish. Although it may not have been the field she wanted to enter, special education turned out to be the field Roxanne was destined to enter. She has touched many lives and truly made a difference.

I once again congratulate Roxanne for being honored with such a prestigious award. I am proud to have such an amazing and talented woman looking after Kentucky's special children.●

HONORING THOMAS V. DOOLEY OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Thomas V. Dooley for his years of devotion and commitment to the Middlesex County, NJ AFL-CIO Labor Council. Mr. Dooley is retiring from his position as president after many years of outstanding service.

A devoted father and husband, Mr. Dooley has played an important and prominent role in Middlesex County labor. Labor has a long history in this country for speaking up for the concerns of workers who would otherwise not be heard. But through the leadership and guidance of people such as Thomas Dooley their voices are being heard and action is being taken. As the International Representative for the Paper, Allied Industrial, Chemical and Energy Worker International Union of New Jersey, Thomas has been an effective and powerful voice for his members on a variety of critical issues.

Thomas Dooley has also been very involved in the community. He is currently vice president of the David B. Crabel Scholarship Foundation, the Assistant Treasurer for the Middlesex County Board of Social Services and is a member of the Board of Directors for New Brunswick Tomorrow. He has excelled in his career, in his community and has dedicated his entire life towards helping others.

So I join with Thomas Dooley's brothers and sisters in the labor movement in recognizing his service to the community, his countless acts of compassion, and his commitment to working men and women. May his spirit of service and community be a model for all of us to admire and emulate.●

IDAHO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

● Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, today President Bush is recognizing the national Teacher of the Year, and I want to join him in recognizing teachers across America for the vital work they do. I come from a family of educators, so I have seen firsthand the impact teachers have on children. They do this because they care about each and every child they teach. These public servants deserve our gratitude and thanks.

While I believe this can be said of all teachers, I would like to recognize one particular teacher today who embodies this sentiment. She is Jennifer Williams, of Nampa, ID, and she was chosen by my State as Teacher of the Year.

One look at her career shows why she was chosen as the Teacher of the Year. She has dedicated 29 years of her life to teaching, and those 29 years have been full of innovation and a real love for education. Not only has she been busy in the classroom, she has also found time for activities which enrich the community and help kids outside of school. For example, she has co-chaired Boise's Art for Kids project and created