

This legislation also provides two discounts to the base fee to maximize the number of under-privileged children and disabled adults who attend camp. There is a 100% reduction proportionate to the number of participants who are physically disabled or children at risk, and there is a discount of 60% to recognize the benefits to the community of organizational camps serving certain character-building youth programs.

But even worthy organizations operating camp sites should pay the administrative cost of a permit. So, there is a minimum fee required that represents, on a regional forest basis, the average cost to the Forest Service to administer the permit. This fee is expected to be approximately \$300 to \$500 per year.

Our Federal lands are an important resource for our Nation. It's only right that we should give priority to children to learn, play, and enjoy these areas. We want them to grow up appreciating outdoors and environmental values, and to have a childhood filled with positive wilderness experiences.

This bill benefits camps of all types in every corner of America.

There are 320 camps in 25 States and Puerto Rico affected by this bill—from Arizona and California in the west, to Minnesota in the north, Florida and Tennessee in the south, and New Hampshire in New England.

This bill is supported by the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, various church groups, and the Forest Service. Even the Forest Service agrees that the current law is not fair. The administration supports this bill. In a letter dated October 9, 2002, USDA Under Secretary Mark Rey wrote:

The Administration supports H.R. 5316 and your efforts to revise the existing Forest Service organizational camp permit fee structure. . .

The Forest Service became concerned last year when it learned that some camp permit fees in Arizona would increase substantially as a result of the new appraisals and fee calculations required under the current system. Such increases would create significant financial burdens for many permit holders and could cause a number of sponsoring organizations to terminate and close their camps. These fee increases and possible camp closures are unacceptable to the Forest Service, just as they are to you. . .

Enactment of H.R. 5316 would provide sponsoring organizations and the Forest Service the mechanism to set and adjust the fee in a manner that would continue these important, long-term relationships that provide immeasurable benefits to America's youth.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not express my thanks and appreciation to the many folks in Tucson, Arizona, who have advised me and my staff on this fee structure change.

Dillard Broderick from the Church of Latter Day Saints has been an especially strong, stable force in the effort to Save the Camps.

Gail Gurney from the Sahuaro Girl Scout Council has worked tirelessly to do whatever was necessary to help.

Lou Salute from the Boy Scouts, David English from Southern Pines Baptist Camp, Bob Lofgren from Amphitheater Men's Club, and Lori Block from St. Mark's Presbyterian Church round out the phenomenal people who volunteer part of their lives to help children and want nothing more than to give back to the community.

I am proud that the House of Representatives is doing its part to help these kids, their parents, and the volunteers.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

BENIGN BRAIN TUMOR CANCER REGISTRIES AMENDMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to have witnessed real, grass root's effort and hard work come to fruition in the passage of S. 2558, The Benign Brain Tumor Cancer Registries Amendment Act, by unanimous consent of the House this evening.

In January of 2001, I introduced H.R. 239, The Benign Brain Tumor Cancer Registries Amendment Act. A little over a year later, Senator JACK REED introduced the Senate companion, S. 2558.

The origin of this bill goes back to my constituent, Lloyd Morgan, a brain tumor survivor. Lloyd is from Berkeley, and I first met him at a town hall meeting.

That day, Mr. Morgan brought to my attention the fact the National Program of Cancer Registries does not collect data on benign brain tumors and the critical problems that this public health oversight creates.

I agreed to introduce legislation to correct the problem and soon after introduced The Benign Brain Tumor Cancer Registries Amendment Act.

The bill is very simple. With the passage of S. 2558, "benign" brain tumors will for the first time be included in the data collection of cancer registries. Medical system organizations use cancer data in funding decisions, investigations, research, and care facilities. Because data is not being collected on benign brain tumors, these tumors do not receive critical research funding. Of course, lack of research directly impacts both survivors and patients.

Additional research is vital because of the threat to life that both benign and cancerous

brain tumors present. Brain tumors are the second leading cause of cancer death for children and the third leading cause of cancer death in young adults ages 15–34. The greatest increase in brain tumors has been among people 75 years of age or older.

Only 37 percent of males and 52 percent of females survive five years following the diagnosis of a primary benign or malignant brain tumor. Each year, approximately 100,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with a primary or metastatic brain tumors. Nationwide, the incidence of brain tumors has increased by 25 percent since 1975 and the reasons for this increase are unknown.

For many types of tumors, the distinction between benign and malignant is significant. For tumors of the brain, this distinction is not as clear. A tumor, whether malignant or benign, is a collection of cells that grow as rapidly as malignant tumors, however based on location and size, even benign brain tumors can be life threatening.

Benign brain tumors account for almost 40 percent of all brain tumors. Not including these tumors in the cancer registry underestimates the incidence of brain tumors in the general population. All brain tumors, both cancerous and benign, are potentially life threatening.

What would the passage of the Benign Brain Tumor Cancer Registries Act mean for my constituent Lloyd Morgan? In his words it means: "that the doctors pronounced that would surely end my life within days or hours of discovery (they were afraid to move me by gurney to surgery because my brain was about to split in two) will now be counted. It also means that Jan McCormack who has watched her sister Carla deteriorate and is now on a death watch in hospice care from a "benign" brain tumor will be assured that her sister's tumors and ultimate death will also be counted. It means that Jeff Licht' situation where his "benign" brain tumor has come back 4 times after it was "completely" removed the first time will provide data on re-occurrence. And it means that for countless others who suffer devastating brain deficits and shortened lives because of "benign" brain tumors will now have their tumors and their untimely deaths count. And by counting and having information on these "benign" brain tumors we may finally find the information that has been missing to point the way toward causation and therefore prevention of these devastating illnesses."

I sincerely appreciate Mr. Morgan for bringing this significant public health oversight to my attention, and for his tireless efforts in support of the legislation we initiated and ultimately passed here on the floor of the House tonight.

The passage of this bill truly represents democracy in action.