

Defense, DOD, Peer-Review Prostate Cancer Research Program.

No one in this Chamber has been spared the tragedy of cancer taking the life of a family member or friend. Many of those lives, in fact, have been taken by prostate cancer, as it is the leading cause of cancer deaths in men. Because baby boomers are entering the risk age for prostate cancer at a rate of one every seven seconds, the 2 million men currently impacted by the disease are increasing at about every 8 percent per year. Still, lives can be saved and finding a cure can be accelerated.

The DOD Peer Review Prostate Cancer Research Program continues to prove to be a success and many new treatments to end the pain and suffering due to prostate cancer are on the horizon. That is why I support a \$100 million earmark for fiscal year 2005.

The return on this investment is well worth it. In recent years, the DOD Breast Cancer Program funded groundbreaking research, such as the discovery of the drug Herceptin, which prolongs the lives of women afflicted with a particularly aggressive type of advanced breast cancer. In fact, Herceptin when used appropriately with chemotherapy increases the chances of survival by about 33 percent.

Those breakthroughs are possible in prostate cancer. This disease needs a Herceptin-like drug, and it is possible with adequate and fair funding for the DOD Peer Review Prostate Cancer Research Program.

This one-of-a-kind research program uses an innovative granting structure that brings scientists and consumers together to make key policy decisions about prostate cancer research. Since its inception eight years ago, this far-reaching, influential program has literally changed the way prostate cancer research is done. It has become a model that other research programs have sought to replicate.

The program has funded two key research grants, the Prostate Cancer Consortium Awards, which could help us unravel prostate cancer's challenge. These grants cover a 3-year period and are designed to produce an intervention—drug, device or procedure—to bring us all closer to finding a cure for this devastating disease.

This program is not only a shining example of streamlining effective research; it is an outstanding model for best business practices. Every penny spent by this program is accounted for at a public meeting every 2 years. Ninety percent of the funds go directly to research. This kind of efficiency and prudence in spending is unheard of in some of our Nation's best businesses and charities let alone other federally funded research programs and agencies.

According to reports of this business conscious program, the DOD Peer Review Prostate Cancer Research Program cannot conduct human clinical trials without the earmark funding of \$100 million for fiscal year 2005. The

program must help treat men, not just mice.

Unfortunately, the language in the Senate Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005 threatens both the funding and unique structure of the Prostate Cancer Peer Review Research Program. The Senate bill combines all of the congressionally directed cancer research programs into one account and reduces the total funding available to all.

Because the Senate version lumps all the cancer programs into one pot, rather than maintaining separate earmarks, the proposal will have multiple, negative outcomes. As written, the Senate bill dismantles the unique accountability over research and seriously threatens the consumer-scientist driven integrity of the DOD prostate cancer research program. The proposal relieves the government of accountability while forcing cancer groups to compete with one another for reduced funding. And, a particularly dangerous component of the proposal transfers funding to other cancer projects that are not recommended by a scientific peer reviewed process

As the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005 goes to conference, I urge my colleagues to support the language passed in the House and preserve this critical program for prostate cancer research.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING CAPTAIN CHRIS CHRISTOPHER

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I speak today to honor the service of CPT Chris Christopher, who is currently the Deputy Director for Future Operations, Communications and Business Initiatives at NMCI. Captain Christopher comes to this position after nearly 20 years of distinguished service to the Navy in the fields of aviation, public affairs and intelligence.

Captain Christopher has spent most of his life in New Orleans, and he has made a wonderful home there with his wife Patti and their two daughters. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of New Orleans, and his work with NMCI still brings him back to the UNO campus. Though he is now stationed in Virginia, his heart and family remain in New Orleans. As a Louisiana Senator, I like that!

Captain Christopher's work at NMCI has been truly outstanding. The Navy Marine Corps Intranet is a progressive project whose ultimate goal is to transform the Department of the Navy's computer networks. NMCI will revolutionize command and control efficiencies within the Navy, and between the services, to ensure that our forces are operating in unison. This will save American lives, increase combat readiness and effectiveness, and, ultimately,

make us stronger. Under Captain Christopher's leadership, many of these goals have been brought closer to reality.

From June 20-23, Captain Christopher organized the 2004 Navy Marine Corps Intranet Symposium in New Orleans. This event was an opportunity for all parties involved in NMCI to continue their dialogue on reshaping information technology in the Navy and Marine Corps. Captain Christopher made this event happen and I have been informed that it was a complete success.

I once again want to thank my friend, CPT Chris Christopher, for his efforts on America's behalf. Future generations of sailors and Marines will no doubt reap the benefits of his labor and America will be safer as a result. I am proud of Chris's "Louisiana-bred" success, and I wish him well in his future endeavors.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN E. COLLINS

• Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I am proud to join family, friends, and colleagues in recognizing and celebrating the incredible life and dedicated work of Steve Collins. His tireless efforts on behalf of our disadvantaged citizens have greatly benefited the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and his fighting spirit is an inspiration to us all.

Steve began his career as an advocate for the importance of human services over 25 years ago, and has continued his passion for helping others ever since. His career history includes work at a mental health center for youth, supervision of the Uphams Corner Health Center in Dorchester, case management at Minuteman Home Care, and direction of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Massachusetts. Steve's most sweeping impact, however, has come through his work with the Massachusetts Human Services Coalition, where, after years of participation in the Coalition's efforts, he became Executive Director in 1999.

Steve comes from a family committed to working for the public good. He is the son of a high school teacher and a newspaper editor, and it was his father who from early on taught him to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." Taking this motto to heart, Steve has, for many years, been a voice for the voiceless citizens of Massachusetts by monitoring State policy and budgets and advocating for the vital services that aid the disadvantaged. With unwavering devotion, Steve has embraced his role as David to the sometimes Goliath government bureaucracy, and he has continually won tangible results.

Armed with an amazing ability to inject humor into his noble struggles, Steve calls upon governors and legislators to look more critically at the effects of their policies with events like