

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLINICAL
RESEARCH ACT OF 2005**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE to introduce the "Clinical Research Act of 2005." This bill will address many of the problems confronting our Academic Health Centers as they attempt to leverage the enormous biomedical research gains made in the past century, and in the past several years in particular as the budget for the National Institutes of Health has doubled.

Breakthroughs in basic biomedical sciences over the past 5 decades, including human genomics, biomedical engineering, molecular biology, and immunology, have provided an unprecedented supply of information for improving human health. As a member of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee I am proud to say that the remarkable strides that have been made in basic science would not have occurred without the support of Congress and the general public. While we realize that research may not produce results overnight, we, as stewards of the taxpayers' dollar have every right to expect that the fruits of that research will result in better treatments for patients. This requires a federal commitment to clinical research, including a commitment to ensuring that the infrastructure is capable of translating, in a systemic and rational way, the fruits of basic research into improved patient care.

I, along with many of my colleagues in the Congress and the public in general, have become increasingly concerned that we have been too slow in getting improved patient therapies and interventions from the enormous investment we have made in basic research. The Congress and both the Clinton and Bush Administrations made significant commitments to doubling the NIH budget. Significant strides and advancements have been made in basic research. Unfortunately, I hear on an ongoing basis from patient advocacy groups concerned that this significant taxpayer investment has not had much direct benefit to those suffering from disease. In addition to hearing from patient advocacy groups, I hear from my colleagues about the apparent disconnect between the promise of basic science and the delivery of better health care for the citizens of this country. I believe that we can and should do a better job of moving the bench research to the bedside. That is what this bill is aimed at doing.

Without strong Academic Health Centers capable of conducting clinical research, the promise of improving the health of the American people will continue to elude us.

Unfortunately, the clinical research environment in the Academic Health Centers is encumbered by rising costs, inadequate funding, mounting regulatory burdens, fragmented infrastructure, incompatible databases, and a shortage of both qualified investigators and willing study participants. Without changes to help Academic Health Centers meet these challenges, these breakthroughs in basic science will remain in the laboratories. Rat after rat will continue to be cured, but due to

the burdensome costs and the lack of clinical researchers cures for humans will not materialize. Let's face it, bench research is less burdensome and less costly than applying clinical therapies to human beings suffering various diseases. Furthermore, because of the rising cost of healthcare delivery and the fiscal pressures weighing on academic health centers, many of these physician researchers face institutional pressures to spend more and more of their time seeing billable patients rather than conducting innovative clinical research. The clinical researcher is a diminishing breed, yet they play a vital role in bringing cures out of the laboratory to the suffering patient.

It is also important to recognize that many of the potential cures for patients utilize therapies and interventions for which there is not a patentable product. In other words, there is no profit motive for large corporate backer to invest resources in developing these therapies. Without federal support for this clinical research, most of these trials and likely cures will remain out of the reach of patients.

The bill that Representative DOYLE and I are introducing today, through its clinical research support grants, infrastructure grants, and "partnerships in clinical research" grants, will provide our Nation's Academic Health Centers with the crucial resources they need and the opportunity to meet the public's expectations. This bill is specifically aimed at improving the translation of this new medical science knowledge to directly benefit those suffering from a wide array of diseases that impact all too many lives.

If we are going to reap the benefit of the enormous investment of taxpayer dollars in biomedical research it is important that we move this legislation forward.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE MARINE CORPS
TRIKE PROGRAM OF CITRUS
COUNTY**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since 1997, the Marine Corps League has presented trikes to handicapped children in Citrus County, FL.

Local Detachment #819 was involved with the Marine Corps League Auxiliary in conjunction with the Toys for Tots Program in starting and implementing the current trike program.

This past weekend I joined the Marine Corps League to help present modified tricycles to some of the handicapped children in Citrus County.

Each tricycle is modified to accommodate the individual handicap of the child.

I can tell you from firsthand experience that the Marines are doing an amazing service to these young children, and should be commended for their service and dedication to the community.

I would hope that other Members would identify Marine Corps Leagues back home in their districts, and help participate in this worthy program.

HONORING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO COM-
PETED IN THE 2005 NATIONAL
SCIENCE BOWL**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five outstanding individuals, Eric Chang, Harrison Hsu, Aditya Panda, Zhengyang Zhang, and Alex Zozula who competed in the 2005 National Science Bowl representing East Brunswick High School. These five students exemplify the true academic spirit and scientific drive that our country needs as we enter the 21st century.

Since 1991, the National Science Bowl, through the sponsorship of the United States Department of Energy, has brought together more than 100,000 high school students to promote serious study of all fields of science, from biology to physics, from botany to astronomy. These students have prepared throughout the year for the regional elimination tournaments, where only the best-prepared and most scientifically-minded teams move on to the National Science Bowl.

The team of five, under the guidance of coach and teacher Paul Kimmel won their regional elimination tournament held at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

As a scientist, I cannot stress enough the importance of science and math education. Science provides a bridge that connects all aspects of our lives. These disciplines form the basic building blocks that make up our knowledge of the world around us. Science and math education is the key to guiding future generations in their understanding of an ever changing world. Through programs such as the National Science Bowl, America's youth is exposed to this vital branch of learning in a way that sparks their interest and promotes serious study in these fields.

Part of this year's Science Bowl featured a Model Fuel Cell Car Race, where teams were able to build a model car powered by hydrogen to compete in a speed race or a king-of-the-hill climb. The participating students also had the opportunity to attend presentations by well known scientists that covered important scientific issues of today. The five exceptional students from East Brunswick team gained valuable knowledge from their participation in this year's Science Bowl that they will surely share with their fellow peers.

It is also important to acknowledge the parents, mentors, friends, and family who have helped these students succeed in their academic efforts. I applaud the Science Department at East Brunswick High School for preparing these exemplary students.

I congratulate the members of the East Brunswick High School science team for their successes and wish them the best of luck in their future scientific endeavors.

CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today, Mexican-Americans across

the country celebrate Cinco de Mayo—a day that commemorates the past and relishes the present by embracing American culture. So many Mexican-Americans have made positive contributions to our Nation.

One area in particular where Mexican-Americans have made great strides is in the Armed Forces. There are many Mexican-Americans proudly serving and giving back to their country right now. I want to share the story of Daniel from South Gate.

He is the son of Mexican immigrants, who came to this country to make a better life for his family. Growing up, Daniel said he always felt patriotic. When I asked him what he thought patriotism was, he replied, "I think it's working for freedom. I have always felt that I needed to earn my rights and that I had to contribute, even for the right to vote."

He went on to say that serving in the military was his civic duty. So as soon as he was able, Daniel enlisted in the Marines and graduated boot camp at 17. Daniel was one of the first Mexican-Americans that many Iraqis had ever seen. I can think of no better ambassador for our country. While he was shot at, he returned to southern California unharmed.

As you can see by this story, Mexican-Americans share the same goals as other Americans of freedom, opportunity, and a chance to build a better life. On this day, let us salute Daniel, and all other Mexican-American soldiers and veterans for their great service to this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING "COVER THE
UNINSURED WEEK" May 1–8, 2005

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation recognizes "Cover the Uninsured Week", I rise today to bring attention to the plight of the 45 million Americans who lack health insurance and access to healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, we are facing a health insurance and healthcare crisis in our country. While our Nation spends more per capita than any other country on healthcare, our delivery systems are disjointed and ineffective.

There was a time when it was assumed that having a job meant having health insurance. This is no longer the case. More than 80 percent of uninsured Americans are workers, most with full time jobs. Within my own state of Maryland, 90 percent of the 750,000 citizens lacking health insurance are employed.

Increasingly, more Americans lose health coverage every year, and those who have coverage pay more for it. Healthcare and drug costs are rising, as are premiums. As a result, many small businesses struggling to stay competitive in today's economy cannot afford to offer their employees insurance coverage. As a result, workers with access to employer-based group insurance plans often cannot afford the costs they must bear for insurance premiums.

The inability to obtain medical insurance unduly affects minorities. A staggering 1 in 3 of Hispanics are uninsured, compared to 1 in 10 of the Nation's white population.

Whereas, the African American community is disproportionately affected by diabetes, car-

diovascular disease, and other health problems that require regular access to healthcare, 1 in 5 African Americans unfortunately are also uninsured.

The consequences are severe. Citizens without health insurance are less likely to seek preventative care or help with minor medical problems, leading to major, more costly medical problems. Without insurance, a person's health is compromised, and their lifespan is shortened. In fact, there are 18,000 deaths each year in this country caused by a lack of health insurance—these deaths are preventable.

The increase in the uninsured population affects not only the health of our citizens, but the health of our economy as well. In fact, nearly half of all bankruptcy filings result from medical expenses. Having just one uninsured family member suffer from just one major medical problem or hospital stay can devastate the financial and emotional resources of an entire family.

To stop the drain on our healthcare infrastructure, our society, and our economy, we must provide insurance coverage to all Americans. We must find a way to lower healthcare and drug costs. We must find a way to make premiums more affordable for employees and employers.

Our small businesses should not have to choose between economic success and meeting their employees' healthcare needs. Workers should not have to refuse insurance for themselves and their children because premiums are too high.

Please join me in supporting the goals of Cover the Uninsured Week. Join me and those stalwarts like Congressmen JOHN CONYERS, PETE STARK, CHARLIE RANGEL and FRANK PALLONE, and Congresswomen TAMMY BALDWIN, BARBARA LEE and DONNA CHRISTENSEN—as we continue our commitment to solving our health insurance crisis and to making sure that all Americans have access to healthcare.

Congress must urgently examine ways to transform our healthcare system so that it is comprehensive, universal, and sustainable. I look forward to taking part in that discussion.

GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL, RECIPIENT OF THE COLLEGE BOARD
2005 INSPIRATION AWARD

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of an extraordinary New Mexico school. Gadsden High School in Anthony, New Mexico is the recipient of the College Board 2005 Inspiration Award. In its tireless pursuit of student success, Gadsden High School has seen a remarkable increase in Advanced Placement course enrollment and those taking the SAT, and record numbers of students are enrolling in and attending college.

Gadsden High School has helped students achieve equitable access to higher education despite social, economic and cultural challenges. It has made significant strides in exposing its students to higher education options and opportunities. One example of the

school's ingenuity in this endeavor is a pre-college program called MESA that focuses on math, engineering and science. Students who achieve core requirements may earn up to \$1,000 in college tuition, which some admitting colleges and universities elect to match.

In addition to the progress Gadsden High School has made in helping its seniors search and apply for scholarship opportunities, the school supports a summer camp for grades 9–12 to address college questions and planning. The staff also plans to develop an Applying to College Handbook to promote greater parental involvement. These efforts have resulted in an exceptional 57 percent matriculation rate, 98 percent of whom are first-generation college attendees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Gadsden High School on this well-earned distinction and express my gratitude for the leadership and innovation they have demonstrated. I commend Gadsden High School for the hard work they continue to perform, and I am proud to recognize Gadsden High School—a true model of commitment to higher education—today before my colleagues.

Gadsden High School's motto puts it best by saying "Believe, hope and look for miracles." With an unwavering will to overcome adversity and find creative solutions, Gadsden High School is working to create its own "miracles."

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT
LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce comprehensive legislation to protect and restore the Great Lakes. I am pleased to be joined by Rep. MARK KIRK and 17 bipartisan original cosponsors.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure, providing drinking water to millions of people and supporting billions of dollars in trade, fishing, and recreation. While we have taken steps to improve environmental conditions in the basin, the Great Lakes still suffer from pollution from contaminated sediments, storm water and agricultural runoff, and wetlands and coastal habitat loss.

As its name indicates, the Great Lakes Environmental Protection and Restoration Programs Reauthorization Act reauthorizes several federal Great Lakes environmental programs in one comprehensive package. The bill also provides a mechanism for coordinating activities among the various federal agencies that carry out these programs, along with a process for coordination and future planning among federal, state and local program managers and the private sector. Finally, the bill reauthorizes the State Revolving Loan Fund under the Clean Water Act, in order to address wastewater infrastructure needs.

The bill provides about \$4 billion over 6 years by increasing the authorization levels for current major environmental programs operating in the Great Lakes Basin. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the most effective way to undertake a major restoration initiative is to do so