

women without symptoms, gynecologic cancers have clear risk factors and early warning signs. A recent study found that almost 90 percent of women with early stage ovarian cancer had symptoms before being diagnosed. That's why public education is key—if women and their doctors know the risk factors and early signs, a specialist can use diagnostic tools to rule out cancer or detect it in the early stages.

I first became aware of the tremendous opportunity for the federal government to save lives when I heard the story of one of my constituents, Johanna Silver Gordon was a health-conscious public school teacher who died of ovarian cancer after being diagnosed in a later stage—leaving friends, family, and students heartbroken that they and she had not known the early warning signs. Unfortunately, her story is all too common. I first heard Johanna's story from her sister, Sheryl, and I introduced legislation to create Johanna's Law, a national public education campaign to eradicate gynecologic cancer death. Thanks to Sheryl's work and that of thousands of other tireless cancer survivors, family members, and physicians, Johanna's Law has the support of a majority of the House of Representatives and provided the inspiration for the language in this bill.

The language in this bill directs the Secretary of HHS and the Office of Women's Health to coordinate their education and outreach efforts on gynecologic cancers into a national public education campaign, focused on early detection. The bill provides \$100,000 in dedicated resources, in addition to the resources HHS already has for cancer education. It is a small but important first step toward ensuring that what happened to Johanna does not happen to other women. I commend the conferees for its inclusion, and hope we can work in a bipartisan fashion to build upon this effort.

I also want to commend my colleagues, DARRELL ISSA, ROSA DELAURO, and KAY GRANGER, who have worked tirelessly with me to promote Johanna's Law and raise awareness of gynecologic cancers. I hope we can continue to work together to build on this start.

URGING OBSERVANCE OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to urge President Bush to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish history month. I further urge all Americans to share in this commemoration to have a greater appreciation for the role the Jewish American community has had in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Americans.

In 1654, Jewish refugees from Brazil arrived on North American shores and formally established North America's first Jewish community in New Amsterdam, now New York City. America welcomed Jews among the millions of immigrants that streamed through our Nation's gates. The waves of Jewish immigrants arriving in America helped shape our great Nation.

Jewish immigration to America throughout the last 350 years brought with it legions of notable researchers, lawyers, statesmen, inventors, entertainers, artists, scientists, authors, musicians, doctors, ethicists, entrepreneurs and spiritual leaders—men and women who substantially transformed this nation and its urban communities.

In this month of observance of American Jewish history, I think it is also important that we also focus on our country's relationship with Israel. Israel has been one of our strongest and most committed allies since its conception in 1948. For 50 years, the United States and Israel have worked closely to pursue peace in the Middle East. I strongly believe that the dream of peace and stability in the Middle East can become a reality within our lifetime.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution and urge President Bush to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish history month. A proclamation by the President will honor the contributions of American Jews throughout our nation's history, but also reiterate the continued importance of our taking an active role in the peace process in the Middle East. We have both an obligation and a vested interest in supporting Israel in its road to secure itself in peaceful, stable, and democratic region. I will leave you with a quote from one of the most famous Jewish American immigrants, Albert Einstein. He said "He who cherishes the values of culture cannot fail to be a pacifist." Let's urge the President to reaffirm the value of the Jewish American Culture to the United States, and in doing so take one small step towards peace in the region.

RECOGNIZING MR. GEORGE KAITSA

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Kaitsa for his dedication to public service as he prepares to return to private life.

Mr. Kaitsa has a record of dedicated public service as a Member of Council and leader for Powell, Ohio. I am certain that his foresight and commitment to building a brighter future for the citizens of Powell will continue to inspire others. Providing Powell with the best representation and leadership possible has always been George's goal, and his service in office and commitment to his constituents over the years ensures his legacy will continue to be felt far into the future.

Thank you, George, for your service. Please allow me to join your friends and family in wishing you good health and prosperity.

WOOD CHIP CO-GENERATION SYSTEM TO HEAT AND POWER VERMONT HOSPITAL

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share with you some information regarding a

bold new system that will help a small hospital in my state save hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in energy costs, while dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental pollutants.

North Country Hospital in Newport, Vermont, has instituted an ingenious heating and electricity co-generation system that utilizes biomass wood chips instead of traditional heating oil as its fuel source. It is believed to be the first use of such technology in any hospital in the country. At today's energy prices, this new biomass gasification system could save the hospital as much as \$328,000 annually in energy costs.

In addition to providing heat for the hospital complex, the process heats water from the chips into steam, which not only provides a supplemental source of electricity, but will produce the hospital's hot water and also help operate other critical equipment within the hospital, such as sterilization equipment, dishwashers and clothes dryers.

Energy cost savings realized by this environmentally sound energy choice will save the hospital, and hence its patients, substantial money that can be better directed toward critical healthcare services. This system provides an innovative example to hospitals and other public buildings in Vermont, across the country, and throughout the world.

Already, business people, government officials and hospital administrators from other regions are touring the new facility with an eye toward implementing such a system themselves. A company in Spain is designing a system based on North Country's model, with the exception that it will actually burn tomato vines instead of wood chips as its energy source. Surely, a system so versatile has tremendous potential to be effectively used far and wide.

Wood chips are a renewable source of energy, which recycles carbon that already exists in the natural carbon cycle; meaning no new carbon dioxide is added to the atmosphere from this biomass energy source. Wood chips are supplied from within Vermont; hence money spent on wood chips stays in the local economy and supports jobs in the area's forest products industry. For buildings 50,000 sq. ft. and larger, fuel cost savings likely more than offset capital financing costs and additional maintenance staff time requirements; hence, in many cases, a system can pay for itself in 5 to 10 years.

I enthusiastically commend the Board of Trustees at North Country Hospital and their innovative staff, especially Larry Labor, Steve Wolff and Terry Robbins, for taking energy matters into their own hands and raising the bar for how local leadership can have national and international significance and positive impact. Each of them deserves high praise for their efforts. They have given us a sterling example of how American hospitals can save substantial money on energy costs, help improve environmental conditions related to heat