

that Judge Reynolds has embraced, from his days working in the lumber industry through his many years of unselfish public service. Judge Reynolds has never given up on his belief that to be an Oregonian is to love the land and to treat it with great respect.

The Judge has worked tirelessly at the local level to promote and support good stewardship and sound policies that protect our communities and our precious forests from the threats of catastrophic wildfire, windstorms, and bug infestation. In a county where the majority of its land is in public ownership, it is imperative that county officials and local leaders have a strong working relationship with State and Federal Government. People in all levels of government have appreciated Dennis' polite and straightforward approach. During his tenure, Judge Reynolds has been an effective leader, steadfastly advocating for the wellbeing of all rural communities by promoting an effective use of natural resources that recognizes not only the economic value, but also the social value of a productive environment.

Mr. Speaker, as Grant County's chief executive, he has led the county through tough financial times, overseeing essential projects that have improved the way of life for those who reside in this beautiful Blue Mountain region of Oregon. These projects include the construction of a new county health services center, a new criminal justice center, a remodel of the Grant County Courthouse, a new facility to house the Grant County Road Department, and a new building for the fairgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, although these projects of bricks and mortar and concrete and steel will benefit Grant County for many years to come, Judge Reynolds' real impact has been how he has treated his fellow man and the heart with which he has approached every task. Dennis has cared deeply about the people he has so ably served.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Reynolds' distinguished accomplishments are well known throughout Oregon. However, those who know Dennis know that he would list his most rewarding accomplishments as marrying his wife Julie and together raising their three sons, Percy, Beau, and Jake. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Judge Dennis Reynolds, a man of vision, a man of heart, and a man of service.

RECOGNIZING COACH GENO
AURIEMMA UPON HIS SELECTION
TO THE NAISMITH MEMORIAL
BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to recognize a man who has long been one of Connecticut's, and America's, great sports treasures.

For 21 seasons Geno Auriemma has coached the University of Connecticut's Lady Huskies Basketball team. During that time he has led the Huskies to 5 national championships. His teams have compiled an incredible record of 589 wins with only 116 losses. In his tenure as head coach the team has gone to

the Final Four eight times and achieved two perfect seasons—that is an NCAA record for consecutive wins. He is the only coach to take a team to 5 straight Final Fours. For the 2002–03 season Coach Auriemma was named the Big East Coach of the Year as well as the United States Basketball Writer's Association Women's Basketball Coach of the Year; he was also named Coach of the Year by the Associated Press.

His leadership, his personal integrity and his deep commitment to his players, both on and off the court, has now earned him the ultimate recognition that his sport can bestow. This year Coach Geno Auriemma will be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. He is a first-time candidate, which makes this honor all the more a special.

The personal story of Coach Auriemma is inspirational. It is truly an American story. Born in Naples, Italy, his family was poor. At the age of 7 Geno arrived in this country unable to speak English. But he grew up to achieve the American Dream.

His rise from poor Italian immigrant to one of the most successful coaches in college history stands as an example of what happens when hard work coupled with an indomitable spirit meets opportunity.

In 1985, while assistant coach at Virginia, Coach Auriemma was offered the head coach position with the University of Connecticut Lady Huskies. He had long desired such an opportunity. Now, at that time UConn's Lady Huskies had no great tradition of winning and no significant fan base. In their 11 year history, the Lady Huskies had compiled only 1 winning season. But the coach had a vision and he took the job. He set goals for himself and for his team and within a few years the Lady Huskies were a rising force.

Through hard work, a profound understanding of his sport and the ability to motivate his players in such a way that they draw the best that is within them, Coach Auriemma has transformed the Lady Huskies into a force to be reckoned with on the court. UConn fans across Connecticut and the United States look forward every year to cheering on the Huskies and they know they're going to see a top team that is prepared and ready for Showtime.

But the real lesson to be learned from the Huskies is that winning does not begin on the court. Winning begins in the preparation, both mental and physical. That is a lesson all great coaches teach their players and it is a lesson all great athletes understand. And it is something that all winners throughout our society know. To prepare for a game or a test, to get ready for a challenge or a certain moment—that is what winning is about.

For more than 20 seasons Coach Auriemma has been a winner and he has communicated what it takes to achieve to the athletes that have gone through his program. The fact that those players have all gone on to attain success long after they left UConn is a testament to their mentor—Coach Geno Auriemma.

Congratulations, coach, and thanks for 21 wonderful seasons. We look forward to the next 21.

AVASTIN, A PHARMACEUTICAL
USED ON CANCER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I sent the attached letter in support of compulsory licensing for Avastin on February 21, 2006.

FEBRUARY 21, 2006.

MIKE LEAVITT,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY LEAVITT: I request that you issue a compulsory license for Avastin in order to bring the price under control and to send a clear signal to the pharmaceutical industry that price gouging will not be tolerated.

As you know, the New York Times reported on February 15, 2006 that Roche and Genentech plan to charge \$100,000 for a year's supply of Avastin to late stage lung and breast cancer victims. This represents a price increase over the already astronomical \$50,000 price tag for its current use for colon cancer. These exorbitant prices bear little on the cost of production, which is "a fraction of what Genentech charges for it."

Roche and Genentech's pricing decisions will force many cancer victims to choose between extending their lives and leaving their family a burden of irreconcilable debt. In fact, the Times reports that some are already opting for less life for cost reasons. Furthermore, the poorest and sickest among us will be the most likely to refuse the treatment. Even those patients with insurance are not protected because the copays are likely to approximate \$1000 per month for Avastin alone, to say nothing of the cost of chemotherapy pharmaceuticals that often accompany it.

Pricing schemes like these will have ripple effects. They will make it easier for other companies with similar drugs to charge higher prices. Insurance companies will pass on much of the cost, accelerating already out of control health care costs. If the trend of this legal price gouging proceeds unchecked, Medicare's own future is imperiled, especially in the absence of the ability to negotiate prices with drug manufacturers.

In the past, the pharmaceutical industry's excuse for charging substantially higher prices for their drugs as compared to the cost of generics in the U.S. has been that they needed to recover their research and development costs. But Roche and Genentech cited a different reason: it is what they can get away with charging. "As we look at Avastin and Herceptin pricing, right now the health economics hold up, and therefore I don't see any reason to be touching them," said William M. Burns, the chief executive of Roche's pharmaceutical division and a member of Genentech's board."

Roche and Genentech have the legal latitude to act in this way through the patent system, which gives pharmaceutical companies a monopoly on drugs they bring to market. But it is not an absolute, unchecked right to extort.

You have the authority to issue a compulsory license. Doing so would allow other manufacturers to compete with Roche/Genentech and therefore drastically lower the price of Avastin. Roche and Genentech would be guaranteed "reasonable and entire compensation" as required by law (28 USC 1498). A compulsory license would also send a clear signal to the pharmaceutical industry that abuse of the patent system, especially when at the expense of health, will not be tolerated.

I look forward to your immediate response.
Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

IN HONOR OF LOVIS CLARISA
HOWELL DOWNING

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Lovis Clarisa Howell Downing of Hoxie, AR, a fine businesswoman, a friend, a devoted family member, and someone who spent her entire life trying to make others happy.

Lovis was born in Imboden on September 12, 1912. She grew up during World War I and the Great Depression, accepted a job as a school teacher, and eventually became the longtime owner of the Flower Basket in Walnut Ridge, AR, until she retired at the age of 79. Lovis also helped her father-in-law, Terrell Henry Downing, run the Downing's Ice Cream Parlor and Grocery from the mid 1930s until the 1950s.

In addition to being a hard worker, Lovis was an active member of the Hoxie Methodist Church and the Hoxie Hooking Club. She was known for her service to the community, and was a frequent volunteer in church and civic activities.

Lovis and her husband Brooks Downing have one son, Terrell Henry Downing, II, of Hoxie, and two daughters, Dr. Suzanne Gibbard and Dr. Frances Hunter of Jonesboro. They also have nine grandchildren, Kyle Downing of Fayetteville, Amy West of Jonesboro, Jason Willett of Jonesboro, Felicia Willett of Memphis, Mike Deloache and Scott Hunter, Jr., of Jonesboro, Lisa Melton of Houston, TX, Kelley Pillizzi of Libertyville, IL, and David Gibbard of Memphis, and six great grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lovis Clarisa Howell for 93 years of achievement and contributions to her community. She opened her home to so many during her life, and will be remembered as a wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend, and a fine American.

WOMEN AND THE BUSH BUDGET

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, as in previous years, President Bush has proposed a budget that would harm women and girls across the country.

At a time when over two-thirds of low-income elderly people are women and 56 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are women, the President has proposed substantial cuts in Medicare, food stamps, and food delivery programs.

On top of the \$22 billion cut in Medicare that was passed by this Republican-led Congress and the President in February, the Bush budget calls for \$105 billion more in cuts over the next ten years.

The President's budget also would eliminate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program which serves 420,000 seniors and 50,000 women and children with nutritious food packages, often delivered to their homes.

Replacing this home delivery food program with food stamps is not the solution, as most people on the program are elderly and in need of home delivered food to survive and maintain their health. Moreover, many people now on the food delivery program do not qualify for food stamps for various reasons. That does not mean they are not in need of home delivered food.

Even if we assumed food stamps were the answer for this group of seniors, women, and children, the Bush budget could cause 300,000 Americans to lose their food stamp benefits.

The problems with the Bush budget do not end with cuts in Medicare, food stamps, and food delivery programs. Bush also intends to cut programs that have helped women and girls succeed in education and the workforce.

In 1973, the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) was introduced by a champion for women, the late Representative Patsy Mink. For more than 30 years, WEEA has funded hundreds of programs to expose girls to careers traditionally dominated by men, develop teaching strategies for math and science that engage girls, and to help schools comply with Title IX.

At a time when the President is touting the need for a greater emphasis on science and math education, his budget would eliminate WEEA, along with \$664 million in Federal Perkins Loan funds, just 2 months after Congressional Republicans cut college aid by \$12 billion.

This comes at a time when only 21 percent of master's degrees in engineering are awarded to women. The statistics are even worse for women of color. Of engineering master's degrees awarded to women, only 11 percent go to Asian-American women, 4 percent go to African-American women, and less than 4 percent go to Latinas. It seems that the President's "competitiveness agenda" does not apply to women.

Furthermore, instead of closing the wage gap, the Bush budget would increase the gap by eliminating Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations program (WANO), which provides grants to employers to help recruit, train and retrain women in non-traditional, well-paying jobs.

Statistics show that women in WANO were 47 percent more likely to enter a high-paying, technical occupation than women who were not a part of the program.

Bush would eliminate this program at a time when women still earn less than men—on average 76 cents to every dollar that a man earns. Moreover, in high-paying, high-technology jobs, women who hold Ph.D.s in computer science and engineering earn \$9,000 less than men.

Women in the workforce faced with a wage gap and great need for child-care assistance would be turned away by the Bush budget.

Since the beginning of the Bush Administration, 250,000 children have lost their child-care assistance. Bush would continue that trend by freezing funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant for the fifth year in a row. At this rate, 400,000 more children will lose their child-care assistance in the next 5 years, cre-

ating a situation where 25 percent less children receive this assistance than did in 2000.

The Bush budget would also leave behind women who end up in violent situations, cutting \$19.5 million in Violence Against Women programs and completely zeroing-out funding for new programs authorized by this Congress last year in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005.

From birth to old age and in their most vulnerable periods in life, the Bush budget would leave women and girls behind. I join my fellow members of the Women's Caucus today to call on Congress to reverse the harmful effects of the Bush's proposed budget on women and girls.

PROCLAIMING APRIL 5, 2006
PATIENT ASSISTANCE DAY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that affects millions of Americans—affordable medications. Millions of Americans lack health insurance and cannot access these vital innovations. While the government looks for sensible ways to help the 45 million uninsured citizens there are private-sector programs in place that are helping millions of Americans no matter where you live.

One program I have shared with my constituents is the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA). The PPA is a national clearinghouse that links uninsured and underinsured people to patient assistant programs that offer drugs for free or nearly free. America's pharmaceutical research companies, along with 1,300 community and patient organizations launched the PPA in April 2005 and have since helped more than 1.9 million patients. Given the rising cost of prescription drugs, any attempts made by the private sector to alleviate the burdensome costs should be applauded.

It is refreshing that this private-sector program has been so successful and committed to helping Americans in need access life-saving medicines. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in proclaiming April 5 "Patient Assistance Day" and do their part on this day to inform their constituents about the great service the PPA provides to Americans in need.

I have also included a statement from the Partnership for Prescription Assistance about "Patient Assistance Day" and an article from the Charlotte Observer that discusses the PPA's many successes in North Carolina.

[From the Charlotte Observer, Mar. 21, 2006]
PARTNERSHIP FOR PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE
LAUNCHES NATIONAL "PATIENT ASSISTANCE
DAY" CELEBRATION ON APRIL 5, 2006

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), a national program sponsored by America's pharmaceutical research companies to help patients in need access prescription medicines will commemorate its one-year anniversary by launching the first annual "Patient Assistance Day" on April 5, 2006 and announcing a major enhancement to the program. The celebration will consist of educational activities across the country to raise awareness of and help educate the public about patient assistance programs. The PPA has