

Additional Congressional leadership, ongoing support and federal funding is necessary to ensure that the nation has an adequate supply of nurses to care for the patients of today and tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present on the legislative days of March 12th and March 13th for rollcall votes 136 through 141.

If I were present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 136, "yea" on rollcall vote 137, "yea" on rollcall vote 138, "yea" on rollcall vote 139, "yea" on rollcall vote 140, and "yea" on rollcall vote 141.

IN HONOR OF PHILLIP CONNELLY

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Phillip Connelly for his service to thousands of professors and students as well as for his years in the Navy and in public service. Mr. Connelly is also an outstanding representative of the Irish-American community of the city of Bayonne.

Phillip Connelly is vice president of Administration and Finance at Kean University in Union, NJ. Mr. Connelly is responsible for multiple vital departments of the university that assist in the learning and welfare of 13,000 students and 12,000 employees.

Mr. Connelly spent most of his professional career as a dedicated public servant. For 7 years, Mr. Connelly was the business administrator of the city of Elizabeth, the fourth largest municipality in the State. His experience in public service was acquired early on as accountant for the city of Bayonne. Mr. Connelly was promoted to assistant and business administrator. During that time, Mr. Connelly was elected to the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, where he served for 3 years.

Phillip Connelly traces his Irish heritage to County Fermanagh where both his mother and grandmother were born. Mr. Connelly is known as being dedicated and loyal. For his contributions to the Irish-American community he is being honored with the "Friends of Brian Boru 2007 Man of the Year Award."

Let us honor this accomplished native and resident of Bayonne, and join me in congratulating his wife Maryann and son Patrick for the distinction bestowed upon this outstanding New Jersey family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
MICROBICIDE DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, today, on International Women's Day and as

we prepare to recognize National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on March 10th, I am proud to introduce the Microbicide Development Act. This legislation will advance and accelerate efforts to develop an effective microbicide product to protect against HIV infection. While the primary users of microbicides will be women, an effective microbicide would also make significant contributions to the reduction of HIV infections among men and among infants.

The Microbicide Development Act will bolster and coordinate microbicide research and development programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Specifically, this legislation would establish for the first time a clearly-defined branch dedicated to microbicide research and development at the NIH and require the development of a strategic plan to expedite research.

In the 25 years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, more than 25 million people have died from HIV/AIDS. Among persons aged 15 to 59, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death worldwide. With nearly 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide and more than 4 million new HIV infections in 2006 alone, HIV/AIDS continues to be a major global health problem, threatening the economic, social, and political stability of many nations.

Unfortunately, there is today no cure for HIV or AIDS and no magic bullet for prevention. In the global fight against HIV/AIDS, scientists have stressed the need for a comprehensive approach that includes care and treatment for individuals already infected as well as a range of prevention strategies to stop further spread of the disease. Microbicides represent a critical strategy within this comprehensive approach to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, particularly for women. With women accounting for nearly half (48 percent) of all HIV/AIDS cases across the globe and nearly 60 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases (76 percent of HIV/AIDS cases among 15–24 year olds) in sub-Saharan Africa, HIV prevention technologies meeting the special needs of women are increasingly important. In some areas of sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, infection rates among young women are up to six times higher than among young men. The devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on women is certainly not limited to third world nations. HIV/AIDS is also a major problem for women in the United States, as AIDS is the leading cause of death for African American women between the ages of 25 and 34 in the United States.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease of the NIH, has emphasized the role of gender inequality in fueling the HIV/AIDS epidemic among women and the need to empower women with strategies over which they have control. In a March statement recognizing National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, he stated:

"Globally, the vast majority of women with HIV/AIDS became infected through heterosexual intercourse, frequently in settings where saying no to sex or insisting on condom use is not an option because of cultural factors, lack of financial independence, and even the threat of violence. These issues compel us to develop HIV prevention tools that women can use in situations when negotiating with sexual partners is difficult or

impossible. One critical avenue of research is the development of safe, effective and acceptable topical microbicides—gels, creams and foams that could be used prior to sexual intercourse to prevent infection with HIV and other sexually transmitted pathogens. The development of these woman-controlled agents is a top HIV/AIDS research priority of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)."

Current prevention approaches are not practical for everyone, particularly women. The major route of transmission for HIV around the globe is heterosexual sex. Abstinence is often not an option for women. Around the globe, unmarried women are not always in the position to refuse sexual advances and may be the victims of violence. Married women are rarely in the position to be able to refuse sexual advances of their husbands, even if they know that their spouse is infected.

Many women who are infected with HIV or at risk for infection are monogamous and do not practice high risk behaviors. Frequently, they are married or in committed relationships in which they are placed at risk by the behavior of their male partner, which they have limited power to change.

Condoms represent the most effective prevention technology currently available. However, male condoms require male cooperation and even female condoms require the consent and cooperation of male partners, placing women's risk for HIV infection under the initiation and control of men. Women, particularly married women and those women in committed relationships, are often powerless to insist on or even request condom use by their male partner. Such requests can be interpreted as evidence of infidelity on the woman's part or accusations of infidelity on the man's part, either of which can result in serious penalties for women, including violence.

Topical microbicides represent a woman-initiated method of prevention that would not require cooperation from a male partner and may even permit conception. Microbicides are a class of products under development that could be applied topically to prevent the spread of HIV infection. Microbicides may eventually take the form of gels, creams, and films, and be used in cervical caps, pre-loaded diaphragms, or rings. These methods may be invisible to male partners, which would allow women to use these products with or without the knowledge of her partner. While the contraceptive effects of barrier methods such as condoms present an obstacle for women who want to or are expected to bear children, microbicides may be available in both contraceptive and non-contraceptive formulas. With the ability to discreetly protect themselves and the potential to continue to bear children unimpeded, microbicides address the reality of women's prevention needs.

Mathematical models predict that even a partially effective microbicide could prevent 2.5 million infections over 3 years and that gradual introduction of newer and better microbicides could ultimately save a generation of women. In addition, several prominent scientists anticipate that an effective microbicide will be available within the next 5 to 7 years. Significant advances have been made in the development of microbicides in recent years. By the end of 2006, there were 36 organizations involved in microbicide R&D, with 10 microbicide candidates currently in clinical development and over 30 in preclinical development. We cannot let this momentum slow; we

must continue to prioritize microbicide research and development since an effective microbicide is within our reach.

The Microbicide Development Act affirms our commitment to microbicide research and to the women whose lives will be saved by microbicides in the future. The global community supports microbicide research. Around the world, there is heightened attention to the urgency of meeting the unique prevention needs of women. For the past few years, G8 communiqués and UN declarations have listed microbicides high among key global health priorities requiring focus and support. Numerous governments and donors have provided funding for microbicide development, including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, European Commission, World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Within our own Nation, the Microbicide Development Act has garnered the support of over 120 community groups, including the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the American Public Health Association, the Global Campaign for Microbicides, the Guttmacher Institute, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, the National Minority AIDS Council, and the National Women's Health Network.

On this day, International Women's Day, we need to take a firm stand to validate and affirm the rights of women across the globe. This legislation recognizes the feminization of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the important role that gender inequity plays in the increasing rates of infection among women. It addresses those gender inequities by recognizing the reality of women's lives and providing women with tools to protect themselves within the context of this reality. Microbicides represent a woman-initiated and woman-controlled method of prevention that will allow women to protect themselves from HIV even in settings where negotiation with male sexual partners is difficult or impossible. This legislation demonstrates that we, as a Nation, value women and it will take the necessary steps to protect their lives and their futures.

HONORING AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three outstanding citizens from the Town of Auburn, MA, a community I am both privileged and proud to represent in the U.S. Congress. Tonight the Auburn Democratic Town Committee will rightfully recognize Patricia Bukoski with its FDR Outstanding Public Service Award, and Charles and Joan Baker with its Democratic Lifetime Achievement Award at their annual Irish Night Dinner. I regret that rollcall votes prevent me from attending the event to personally congratulate them for their remarkable contributions to the greater Auburn community.

Pat Bukoski is synonymous with the Auburn Housing Authority having directed the agency for fully 28 years. During her tenure, the Au-

burn Housing Authority received more than \$4 million in Federal funding for the construction of the 60-unit Stoneville Heights Development. Pat also presided over the expansion of the Packachoag Village Development and courageously shepherded the Pheasant Court Family Housing Project to its completion. Her constant care and compassion for Auburn's elderly and less fortunate is renowned. A woman of extraordinary faith, Pat's legacy of public service is nothing short of inspiring and serves as a sterling example of what one person can accomplish on behalf of others.

Charlie and Joan Baker are among the most devoted democratic activists the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has ever produced. Their tireless efforts on behalf of dozens of democratic candidates for local, State and national office now span more than half a century. I have personally benefited from their wise counsel and steadfast support and will forever be grateful for their loyalty. Few couples can lay claim to having helped elect as many leaders as Charlie and Joan Baker. The only reward they have ever sought was the quiet pride and satisfaction of having supported good and decent people for public office. Charlie and Joan's political activism is rivaled only by their combined record of service to the Town of Auburn. Charlie's tenure as a town meeting member, selectmen and now Town Moderator is without equal. Joan also served as a town meeting member and together they are widely regarded by many as the "first couple" of Auburn.

Madam Speaker, Patricia Bukoski, Charlie Baker, and Joan Baker are richly deserving of the recognition bestowed upon them tonight by the Auburn Democratic Town Committee. The United States of America owes each of them a debt of gratitude for their service and I humbly offer the congratulations of the U.S. House of Representatives to them on this very special occasion.

CHINA'S "ANTI-SECESSION" LAW

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, it has been two years since the "legislature" of the People's Republic of China passed the so-called "anti-secession" law. The enactment of this law by China's rubber-stamp parliament represented a clear-cut, belligerent and dangerous step toward a military attack of a peaceful and democratic ally of the United States. Moreover, it underscored once again that the government in Beijing is not sincere about resolving its differences with Taiwan in a peaceful or rational manner.

America's position is clear: Any change in the status quo between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan must have the assent of the people of Taiwan. As such, resolving the differences between these two nations can only be achieved through honest and direct state-to-state negotiations without preconditions. They cannot be resolved by intimidation, indignant bluster or threats of military force from Beijing.

Unfortunately, in the two years since Beijing created this "legal framework" for starting a war with Taiwan, little has changed. China

continues to point some 900 ballistic missiles at Taiwan and continues to ramp up its military spending and its military activities—none of this indicates that China is pursuing a peaceful settlement with its neighbor across the strait.

Madam Speaker, the truth is that Taiwan and China are not united. They are not "one country" as the communists in Beijing are so fond of asserting. If they were there would be no talk of "unification." China must accept that it does not have jurisdiction over Taiwan, and abandon this kind of counter-productive saber rattling.

I hope that the family of free nations will join me in condemning the "anti-secession law" with a unified voice, making it clear to China that any resolution of cross-straits tensions must be peaceful and above all acceptable to the people of Taiwan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE HONORABLE WYATT BROWNLEE

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th birthday of a living legend from my Congressional District, Judge Wyatt C. Brownlee. Born in Hodges, S.C., one of 11 children born to James and Elizabeth Brownlee, Judge Brownlee is the last living sibling of the family which migrated to Cleveland in 1921. His life has been an example of the power of courageous determination and faith in God.

Judge Brownlee attended Cleveland Public Schools, but was forced to drop out of Kennard Junior High School to help support his family. Because of his desire for an education, he attended night school, part time, until he received his high school diploma. His quest for knowledge continued and he graduated from: "FDR" Junior College in 1936; Fenn College (Cleveland State University) in 1940; and Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1944.

During his distinguished legal career he served as an Ohio Assistant Attorney General; Cleveland City Prosecutor and acting City Law Director. In 1957 he was appointed Cleveland Municipal Court Referee, and in 1977 he was appointed Cleveland Municipal Court Judge, where he served until his 1981 retirement. Judge Brownlee continued private practice after retirement.

Judge Brownlee has been involved in his community and has been recognized in "Who's Who in the National Bar Association," "Who's Who in American Law," and he has been honored by Black Lawyers and Black Judges. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Prince Hall Masonic Organization, and is a lifetime member of the Cleveland Marshall Alumni Association.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States Congress and the citizens of the 11th Congressional District, Ohio, I extend Happy 100th birthday wishes to the Honorable Wyatt C. Brownlee. Thank you, for being friend, teacher, and role model for so many of us. Judge Brownlee made an indelible imprint on my life. As a young lawyer, he nurtured me. When I