

refugees and generous disaster relief builds good will with our neighbors.

If we end this Institute once and for all, we will show that the priorities of the United States are with democratic and civil institutions. A more cooperative, less unilateral foreign policy that clearly demonstrates respect for international human rights standards would help the United States regain influence around the world.

It is time to sow the seeds of peace; we must stop sowing the seeds of war. As a great Nation and blessed people, we must heed the words of the spiritual—"I am going to lay my burden down, down by the riverside. I ain't gonna study war no more." We do not need this school. My colleagues, I urge you to vote in favor of this amendment.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
JAMES "JIM" H. SHIMBERG

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to herald the life and philanthropic contributions of James "Jim" H. Shimberg, and to acknowledge our pride in the communities he founded in the Tampa Bay area.

A native of Syracuse, New York, Jim Shimberg served as a First Lieutenant in World War II. After he received his degree from the University of Chicago Law School, he practiced law in New York for nearly 10 years. Jim then relocated to the Tampa, Florida area in 1958 to launch a community business. By 1983, his development of over 6,000 homes, several recreation centers, schools, and shopping centers in northwest Hillsborough County laid the foundation of the Town 'N Country community.

Jim's success in community development led him to become President of the Tampa Home Builders Association and the Florida Home Builders Association, as well as Vice President of the National Association of Home Builders. He was co-founder of the National Housing Endowment and was inducted into the National Housing Hall of Fame in 1985. After developing the Town 'N Country community, Jim served as chairman for the Hillsborough County Charter Review Board and was largely responsible for the expansion and development of eastern Hillsborough County.

The philanthropic contributions of Jim Shimberg have unquestionably improved the lives of thousands of Floridians. His dedication to the well-being of Floridians led him to found the University Community Hospital in 1968. He served as the first Chairman of the Board for 9 years, and as chair of the investment committee for the duration of his life. His commitment to providing quality health care services led him to serve as Vice-President of the Judeo Christian Health Clinic for 25 years. In addition, Jim endowed the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing at the University of Florida in 1991, and funded the philanthropic National Endowment in Washington, DC.

As a result of his immense lifetime philanthropic contributions, Jim Shimberg was honored as Tampa's Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 2007. He and his wife, Amy Shimberg,

were also honored as the 2003 Philanthropists of the Year by the Tampa Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The Tampa community honors the life of Jim Shimberg, his wife Amy, daughters Janet and Nancy, sons Jim, Richard, and Robert, and the entire Shimberg family for their outstanding contributions to the Florida community. Jim Shimberg's life serves as an inspiration to all who knew him, and will continue to benevolently impact the lives of Floridians in the future.

THE EXTENSIVELY DRUG RESISTANT-TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENT: A POORLY COORDINATED FEDERAL RESPONSE TO AN INCIDENT WITH HOMELAND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for holding this very important hearing to discuss and investigate a possible breakdown in security procedures or the lack of adequate safety measures sufficient to safeguard against and minimize a potentially very serious public health security threat, namely the contraction of the extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB). I would also like to take this time to welcome our witnesses, Dr. Martin S. Cetron, Dr. Jeffrey W. Runge, and Mr. W. Ralph Basham, (accompanied by Jayson P. Ahern).

Mr. Chairman, 2 weeks ago, Mr. Andrew Speaker, an individual known to be infected with multi-drug resistant-tuberculosis (MDR-TB) was subsequently confirmed to be infected with extensively drug resistant-tuberculosis (XDR-TB). He disregarded a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to seek medical treatment in Italy, and returned to the United States by altering his flight itinerary, flying to Canada, and then driving through the U.S.-Canada border. A number of homeland security and public health processes were utilized to manage the situation and failed at a variety of points.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide Members with the opportunity to (1) determine where weaknesses exist with homeland security processes designed to prevent entry into the U.S., (2) explore the inefficient interactions between the Department of Homeland Security (the Department) and the CDC when addressing public health security issues, and (3) identify areas for immediate and longer term improvement.

According to current U.S. public health policy, the CDC must be apprised when MDR-TB appears also to be extensively drug resistant so that the CDC can provide laboratory confirmation of XDR-TB. A very important question immediately comes to mind in Mr. Speaker's case: given the increasing incidence and prevalence of all types of TB, including MDR- and XDR-TB, should the CDC have been apprised sooner?

Mr. Chairman, in urgent matters such as preventing the spread of potentially serious and very harmful public health risks such as XDR-TB, time is most certainly of the es-

sence. In January, Andrew Speaker, a 31-year-old Atlanta lawyer, fell and hurt his ribs. He received an X-ray, revealing an abnormality in the upper lobe of his right lung. This suggested tuberculosis. Speaker began meeting regularly with Fulton County health officials for treatment. In early March, Speaker underwent a procedure to get a sample of sputum from his lungs. By the end of the month, lab cultures revealed he had tuberculosis (TB).

Though it is still unclear, it appears that the CDC was not notified of these events until May 17 when it was called in to test for XDR-TB. Health officials determined Speaker had a multiple-drug resistant (MDR) form of TB. According to press accounts, Fulton County health officials called the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) on May 10, but gave the impression that the problem was "largely hypothetical." The GDPH then made a call to the CDC. Some questions still persist and will hopefully be answered in this hearing. It is extremely important to know when the CDC was notified about Speaker's case of MDR-TB. It is also helpful for this Committee to know what the formal procedure by which the CDC was asked to perform its analysis. It is reported that the CDC was called in to test for XDR-TB on Thursday May 17. Was this the proper protocol to follow? If not, why wasn't the CDC asked to perform the analysis earlier?

Notifying the CDC of potential public health threats in a timely manner is also important because the sooner the CDC is notified the sooner public safety authorities can put measures in place to protect the public. Had the CDC been notified, the CDC may have been able to prevent Mr. Speaker from traveling and subjecting the public to potential risks of contracting XDR-TB.

As the Chairwoman of the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, what I find even more alarming is the fact that the Transportation Security Administration was not notified until after the incident took place; after he had already posed a threat to the lives of hundreds of Americans and non-Americans. Had the TSA received forewarning, the identity of Mr. Andrew Speaker could have been disclosed in such a manner and he would have been placed on the "no-fly" list.

Mr. Speaker was simply given too many opportunities to create a public health crisis in this country and abroad. On May 12, Speaker departed Atlanta on Air France flight 385. Speaker arrived in Paris on May 13. On May 14, Speaker flew from Paris to Athens on Air France flight 1232. Speaker flew from Athens to Thira Island on Olympic Air flight 560 the following day. The CDC called in to test for XDR-TB. On May 17, the GDPH was notified that Speaker had flown overseas. Four days later, tests came back positive for XDR-TB. Meanwhile on that same day, Speaker flew from Mykonos to Athens on Olympic Air 655 and then he flew from Athens to Rome on Olympic Air 239.

Mr. Chairman, questions still persist about the ability of the Federal Government to quarantine an individual. DHS officials told Committee staff that Federal officials do not have the authority to quarantine. This is inaccurate. The President may issue an executive order for federal isolation and quarantine for the following communicable diseases: cholera, diphtheria, infectious tuberculosis, plague, smallpox, yellow fever, viral hemorrhagic fevers,