

bacteria can be reduced by preserving the effectiveness of current antibiotics through infection control, vaccination and prudent use of antibiotics, and by developing new antibiotics specifically to treat infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria."

In addition, there are problems of significant and inappropriate use of antimicrobials; a lack of adequate research to address the many facets of resistance, including basic, clinical, interventional, and epidemiologic research as well as research to support the development of new diagnostics, biologics, devices and, of course, drugs; a fractured and under-funded resistance surveillance system; and insufficient coordination of the federal response, which is critically needed as the solutions to addressing antimicrobial resistance involve multiple agencies and departments.

To begin to respond to the drug resistance problem, eight years ago Congress passed legislation that became Section 319E, "Combating Antimicrobial Resistance" of the Public Health Service Act. This law directed the Secretary to establish an Antimicrobial Resistance Task Force to coordinate Federal programs relating to antimicrobial resistance; required research and development of new antimicrobial drugs and diagnostics; established educational programs for medical and health personnel in the use of these drugs; and established demonstration grants for programs promoting the judicious use of antimicrobial drugs and the detection and control of the spread of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens. Authorization for these programs expired September 30, 2006. The STAAR Act reauthorizes these programs and builds on the Federal efforts that have been highlighted in the Public Health Service Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance, published in 2001 by the Task Force.

The Action Plan identified thirteen key elements (out of 84 elements) as top priority action items that are critically necessary to address the growing resistance crisis. Regrettably, the Action Plan has never been funded.

In spite of these past efforts to address the problem, antimicrobial resistance continues to grow. In 2004, the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) published, "Bad Bugs, No Drugs: As Antibiotic Discovery Stagnates a Public Health Crisis Brews" to highlight the lack of research and development for new antibiotics. Updates to this report continue to make the case that we need to do more. Antibacterial drugs are not profitable compared to those that treat chronic (long-term) conditions and lifestyle issues. In addition, when a new antibiotic comes on the market, it is discouraged from use to avoid the development of resistance. Also, antibiotics are taken for short periods of time—unlike those for chronic disease which may be taken daily. As a result, big pharmaceutical companies have pretty much turned their back on antibiotic development. IDSA has published several other reports that support many of the provisions found in the STAAR Act.

The "Strategies to Address Antimicrobial Resistance (STAAR) Act" is comprehensive legislation that advances the thirteen key elements identified in the federal Action Plan and authorizes adequate funding for these strategies.

My bill strengthens existing efforts by establishing an Antimicrobial Resistance office (ARO) within the Office of the Secretary of

Health and Human Services. The Director of the ARO would serve as the director of the existing interagency task force and work in conjunction with the many Federal agencies which share responsibility to address antimicrobial resistance to ensure accountability and progress on the Action Plan. Also, to encourage input from experts outside the federal government, and to ensure accountability, my bill would establish a Public Health Antimicrobial Advisory Board (PHAAB) to provide much needed advice about antimicrobial resistance and strategies to address it. The STAAR Act will strengthen existing surveillance, data collection, and research activities as a means to reduce the inappropriate use of antimicrobials, develop and test new interventions to limit the spread of resistant organisms, and foster the development of new tools to detect, prevent and treat these "bad bugs." Infectious diseases experts have said they strongly support this multi-faceted, strategic approach.

The STAAR Act has been endorsed by a number of organizations, including: Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA); American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN); National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA); American Public Health Association (APHA); National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID); Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE); and Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition (MARA); American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP); Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC); International Society of Microbial Resistance (ISMR); Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition (MARA); National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA); Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP); and Trust for America's Health (TFAH).

This legislation has been a long time coming. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and to work with me to give our federal agencies the tools they need to ensure that combating antimicrobial resistance becomes a priority.

NATHAN BOECK

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nathan Boeck who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Nathan Boeck is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Nathan Boeck is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Nathan Boeck for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the

same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to get to the House floor in time on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, and therefore unable to cast a vote on the House floor that afternoon.

However, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 348, congratulating the University of North Carolina men's basketball team for winning the 2009 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship.

SHELBY BEAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shelby Bean who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Shelby Bean is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Shelby Bean is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Shelby Bean for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

TEN HONORED AT ANNUAL SENIOR HALL OF FAME BREAKFAST

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, today in Tamarac, Florida, ten outstanding Broward elders will be honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame Breakfast. These ten seniors being honored have volunteered in their communities and have spent countless hours helping others. Their outstanding character and compassion have truly set them apart and make them worthy of this prestigious honor.

Dorothy Arbogast of Pembroke Pines, who has been battling Lupus for many decades, has been volunteering with the Senior Companion Program since 2004, serving over 3,300 hours with people with tremendous physical, developmental, and emotional needs; as well as frail elders in their homes; adult day care centers; and providing relief to caregivers

caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's. Dorothy also volunteers with the Lupus Foundation, the Street People of Oakland Park, Cancer Foundation and Leeza's Place, and serves with great compassion, dedication, and humility.

Mayor Samuel S. Brown of Lauderdale Lakes was elected mayor in 1998, and under his leadership, the City made numerous positive strides in redevelopment and capital improvement, while continuing to provide quality services to its residents. A unifying force in the community, Mayor Brown is involved in many charitable and philanthropic efforts and has been responsible for overseeing several community service projects. He also organizes an annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for seniors and has made it possible for hundreds of needy children to receive gifts during the holidays through the Angel Tree Gift Giving Program.

Joan Fink of Hillsboro Beach has devoted time to the Northeast Focal Point Senior Center for over 12 years and is currently Treasurer of the Children's, Alzheimer's, Seniors and Adult Services (CASA) Board of Directors, Auxiliary, and Child Development Center. She is active in many fundraising events, including the annual Auxiliary Fashion Show and the "Cuisine of the Region." Joan has also volunteered at the North Broward Medical Center and has been a member and recording secretary of the American Association of University Women—Pompano Beach Chapter for the past 13 years, where she has helped raise funds to promote educational scholarships for women.

Hazel Haas of Margate has used her formal theater education and vast experience with the performing arts to improve the lives of Broward County residents since 1989, adding humor to her volunteering efforts with several organizations, including the Northwest Medical Center and the Margate Chapter of the Parkinson's Support Group, and she shares her warmth, humor and knowledge of the community by presenting sessions for Continuing Education Credit at the Aging & Disability Resource Center's Annual Broward Aging Network Conference. Hazel's mother, Nettie Gross, was honored as a member of the Senior Hall of Fame in 1993, and for the past five years, Hazel has facilitated the link between generations by funding the Nettie Baron Gross Memorial Scholarship for Broward College students studying issues impacting seniors' lives.

Judy Henry of Tamarac has been volunteering for many years for a number of organizations, serving as President of American Woman's ORT, President of the Coral Springs Soccer Association, and as a Board Member as one of the Founding Families of Temple Beth Orr of Coral Springs. Judy has dedicated her time to the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale and the United Way of Broward County, and through her role as a Board Member of Cooperative Feeding, she has assisted in providing food, counseling and other basic needs for the homeless. She has also initiated mail boxes for the homeless, and as President of Volunteer Broward, has been working on an agricultural project, teaching neighborhoods how to garden and grow food for themselves.

Mayor Judy Paul of Davie has worked tirelessly for Broward County, as she is active on the boards of the 4-H Foundation, Broward County Farm Bureau, Junior Achievement,

Davie Area Land Trust, Broward Extension Foundation, Davie Boys and Girls Club, and South Florida Trail Riders. Mayor Paul served on the Davie Town Council from 1998 to 2007, as well as the Davie Charter Review Board from 1996 to 2007, and is President of the Friends of Davie Farm Park, Inc., and an honorary member of the Board of Directors for Old Davie School. A retired teacher, Mayor Paul is outspoken about caring for the environment, promoting enhancing green space and working on projects to provide the general public opportunities to learn more about agriculture.

Mayor Sylvia Poitier is a lifelong resident of Deerfield Beach and served on the City Commission from 1973 to 1985 and from 2005 until today, serving as Mayor in 1976 to 77 and acting Mayor since December 2008, as well as the County Commission from 1986 to 1998, and has committed herself to providing affordable housing to residents and senior program funding during her time in office. Mayor Poitier has also volunteered for many social service boards and committees, has served as an advocate for senior, Alzheimer's, and children services, as well as intergenerational programs. She is currently Chair for the Community Action Agency, a Member of the Salvation Army Board, and was the First African American President of the Broward County Council of Parent-Teacher associations.

Marcia Slow Sandler of Pembroke Pines has been working tirelessly for over 15 years in many capacities, including President and Member of the Children's Cancer Caring Broward Chapter and Founder of the Angels in the Outfield Chapter of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. She has also been a contributor to social service fundraising activities and served four years on the Aging & Disability Resource Center's Advisory Council, where she secured Fair Share Appropriations from local municipalities.

Senator Nan H. Rich is a lifelong resident of Weston and serves District 34 in the Florida Senate. Prior to entering politics, Nan devoted many years to volunteering with children and the handicapped, and in Tallahassee, her commitment to elders has been evidenced repeatedly through her voice and her actions, continuing to seek and secure critical funding for necessary services. Senator Rich is active on various boards in the religious sector and is highly respected as the true voice of reason in an atmosphere that too often disregards the oppressed and the victimized.

Greta Silver of Coconut Creek has an enthusiasm and energy that make her an invaluable volunteer at the Alzheimer's Family Center, where she helps clients to cope with their fears and frustrations. As a talented journalist, Greta also writes a quarterly newsletter called "The Volunteer Vine," and in December 2008 she coordinated a Holiday Volunteer Day for the Center, planning lunch, entertainment, favors, centerpieces, and guest speakers. Greta is also a trained volunteer for the Project Lifesaver Safety Program and is extremely active within her homeowner's association.

Madam Speaker, I would like to again congratulate these ten outstanding Broward County citizens who are being honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame, and thank them for their years of service to their fellow Floridians.

GABRIEL BARRIOS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gabriel Barrios who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Gabriel Barrios is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabriel Barrios is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Gabriel Barrios for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Highway Trust Fund Fairness Act of 2009. I urge all of my colleagues to support this common-sense legislation.

This year, Congress is tasked with the much larger mission of reauthorizing the country's surface transportation programs to meet the needs of a constantly-evolving highway and transit system. Later this year, we will have to really look at ways to make the Highway Trust Fund more solvent, but in the meantime, we can make smaller changes that would help ease the burden.

The Highway Trust Fund Fairness Act does just that. It allows the Highway Trust Fund to be treated like other federal trust funds by allowing refunds and credits through the General Fund. The bill will also allow the Highway Trust Fund to accrue interest on its balance. These are very basic, common-sense changes that will save money in the long-run.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy created National Transportation Week. He recognized that transportation was fast becoming one of the most sensitive and important issues facing our nation. It affects every person, every day. How do you get to and from school and work safely and efficiently every day? How do you visit family, friends, and loved ones?

When I was first elected to Congress, I served on what was then the Public Works and Transportation Committee. It is now the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chaired by my good friend and colleague Mr. OBERSTAR. I went on to eventually serve on the Ways and Means Committee where I chair the Oversight Subcommittee. Although we