RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for S. 1793, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act.

We all know the troubling statistics. Since its inception, AIDS has claimed almost 600,000 lives in the United States. Over 1 million Americans are living with HIV/AIDS today. Recent data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest that HIV diagnoses are increasing, by as much as 15 percent in three years. As the AIDS crisis has continued year after year, it has become more and more difficult for anyone to claim that AIDS is someone else's problem.

Since 1990, the Ryan White program has helped establish a comprehensive, community-based continuum of care for uninsured and under-insured people living with HIV and AIDS, including access to primary medical care, pharmaceuticals, and other services. In New Jersey, Ryan White funding helps support the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which in 2008 provided almost 5,000 patients with needed HIV medications.

As we debate health care reform, it is important that we keep the needs of HIV/AIDS patients in mind. I have spoken out in favor of reforming Medicare Part D to work seamlessly with state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs and to ensure these patients have continuous access to their needed anti-retroviral prescriptions. These provisions are currently included in America's Affordable Health Choices Act, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to strengthen these policies for HIV/AIDS patients.

By passing S. 1793 today, Madam Speaker, we will affirm our commitment to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. We also will be affirming our dedication to sound public policy. By reauthorizing the Ryan White Act, we will give hope and a real chance for a better life to thousands of HIV/AIDS victims.

THE FOURTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH BAY FAMILY HEALTH CARE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of South Bay Family Health Care on the 40th Anniversary of its founding. Since 1969, SBFHC has provided health care to underserved residents in the South Bay region of my Congressional District, growing from a single-site family planning clinic serving 1,600 patients per year, to a system of four comprehensive health clinics serving more than 16,000 patients per year. Today, it is one of Los Angeles County's leading community health clinics and largest safety net providers to the uninsured and underinsured.

SBFHC has evolved and adapted to meet changing community needs. In the mid-1980s, in response to the emerging HIV/AIDS crisis, it opened the first and only HIV/AIDS center in the South Bay. In 2002, it changed its model from a free clinic to a Federally Qualified Health Center with a sliding pay scale, making the clinic eligible for federal funding to expand its services and the number of people served.

Today, with a budget of $9 million, SBFHC provides 70,000 visits per year. Its services cover a broad spectrum, covering preventative care, chronic disease management, prenatal and pediatric medicine, dental care, and social services including mental health and domestic violence prevention.

In an effort to bring service to patients, SBFHC sponsors a ''Healthy Kids Express'' mobile care center that provides immunizations and care for sick children at local school districts, community events and health fairs.

SBFHC also does fantastic work for minorities: 65 percent of their patients are Latino and 16 percent are African-American.

I also want to recognize the CEO of SBFHC, Jann Hamilton Lee, for her leadership and guidance to me as a member of my Medicine Cabinet—a bipartisan group of healthcare experts from my district who advise me on health policy.

My congratulations to Jann and everyone else who has proudly served the South Bay Family Health Center for 40 years of service. The residents of the South Bay—and your representative in Congress—are grateful.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LAWRENCE PARISH IN LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceville, Illinois. On October 18, 2009, a centennial liturgy was celebrated with Bishop Edward K. Braxton acting as the celebrant and homilist. A dinner was held after the service to honor the event.

On July 20, 1909, local Catholics met at Lawrenceville City Hall hoping to form their own parish. After land was purchased, 22 families celebrated the first mass in the unfinished church. Ruth August Diver was the first parishioner to be baptized in the new church on March 5, 1911. The finished church was dedicated in October of 1911. The parish has continued to expand, including the opening of a school in 1956.

I would like to congratulate the members of St. Lawrence Parish for reaching this milestone and wish them a blessed and joyous celebration as they mark 100 years of service to God and their community. I want to encourage the parish with the words of Matthew 5:16; ''Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.''

TRIBUTE TO JIM LIPTAK

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Liptak, a resident and community leader from Paso Robles, California, for his outstanding and exemplary leadership while serving as the 2009 President of the California Association of REALTORS®.

Jim has been a longtime successful leader in local real estate matters, reflecting immense enthusiasm, care, and commitment to his community. He has served the Paso Robles Association of REALTORS® in all levels of leadership and has served two terms as President since being named Realtor of the Year five times by his peers at the Paso Robles Association of REALTORS®.

Jim has also ably represented Paso Robles realtors and the Paso Robles community in the state and national association. He started his career in 1983 as a California Association of REALTORS® (C.A.R.) Director, winning an election for the position as a ''Write-in Candidate.'' He has since served as Chair on over 5 committees and was a 1995 Chairman of the California Association of REALTORS® Legislative Committee, where he holds the record for most bills introduced in a single session, 17. In 1998 he became the Honorary Director for Life in the California Association of REALTORS®, and is the first realtor in Region 31 of the Central Coast to be named a National Association of REALTORS® Director. Since 2006, Mr. Liptak has been an Honorary Life Member by the Paso Robles Association of REALTORS®, and is a ''National Ten Year Golden R'' Member—President's Circle.

A true mark of leadership is the generosity of time and talents that one gives on behalf of his neighbors and communities. Jim Liptak exemplifies this time-honored tradition. I commend Jim for his service and leadership as President of the California Association of REALTORS® and wish him and his family well as he continues to serve our community.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 3792, The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009. Nearly twenty years after the enactment of the landmark Ryan White Act, Congress renewed its commitment today to provide primary medical care and treatment for uninsured or underinsured people living with HIV/AIDS. For nearly two decades, low-income Americans living with HIV/AIDS have relied on the life-saving benefits offered under this program and I am pleased to join my colleagues in reauthorizing this important legislation.

Currently, New York State is home to 120,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS—the