

Whereas over 10 percent of adults and nearly a quarter (23.1 percent) of people in the United States age 60 and older have diabetes;

Whereas diabetes is a serious chronic condition that affects people of every age, race, income level, and ethnicity;

Whereas Hispanic, African, Asian, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes and suffer at rates much higher than the general population;

Whereas 15,000 youth in the United States are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes annually and about 3,700 youth are diagnosed with type 2 diabetes annually;

Whereas 1 in 3 people in the United States born in the year 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime, this statistic grows to nearly 1 in 2 for minority populations;

Whereas diabetes costs the United States an estimated \$174,000,000,000 in 2007 and \$1 in every \$10 spent on health care is attributed to diabetes and its complications;

Whereas approximately \$1 out of every \$4 Medicare dollars is spent on the care of people with diabetes;

Whereas every day 230 people with diabetes undergo an amputation, 120 people enter end-stage kidney disease programs, and 55 people go blind from diabetes;

Whereas there is not yet a cure for diabetes;

Whereas there are proven means to reduce the incidence of and delay the onset of type 2 diabetes;

Whereas people with diabetes live healthy, productive lives with the proper management and treatment; and

Whereas National Diabetes Month is celebrated in November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Diabetes Month, including encouraging people in the United States to fight diabetes through raising public awareness about stopping diabetes and increasing education about the disease;

(2) recognizes the importance of early detection, awareness of the symptoms of diabetes, and the risk factors for type II diabetes, which include being over the age of 45, coming from certain ethnic backgrounds, being overweight, having a low physical activity level, high blood pressure, and a family history of diabetes or a history of diabetes during pregnancy; and

(3) supports decreasing the prevalence of diabetes, developing better treatments, and working toward an eventual cure for type I and type II diabetes through increased research, treatment and prevention.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 914, recognizing November as National Diabetes Awareness Month. I would also like to thank Congresswoman DEGETTE for sponsoring this resolution.

Because someone in my family has diabetes, I know how awful it is. Diabetes affects nearly 24 million adults and children nationwide. Even more frightening is the fact that an additional 57 million more are at risk for Type II diabetes. According to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, diabetes is currently the 7th leading cause of death in New Hampshire. Approximately 7.2 percent of the population between 18–64 years of age have been diagnosed with diabetes.

We need to increase awareness about this epidemic. Not only is it a health issue, but it is a financial issue. Diabetes treatment costs total \$174 billion a year in this country. If we

place emphasis on prevention, we can drastically reduce these costs.

We must be more aggressive in preventing, diagnosing, and treating this disease. We also must continue striving for a cure.

Raising awareness and increasing funding to tackle the root of the problem is essential. As a proud cosponsor of this resolution, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the fight against diabetes.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 914.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

TERMS OF SERVICE IN THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to discharge the Committee on House Administration from further consideration of the bill (S. 1860) to permit each current member of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance to serve for 3 terms, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1860

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TERM FOR MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE.

Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 301(e)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1381(e)(1)), any individual serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance as of September 30, 2009, may serve for 3 terms.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the statute we are amending limits the terms of the current Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance to two consecutive five year terms. The Board consists of five legal practitioners from around the country, each of whom is an expert in labor and employment matters. They were originally appointed in 1999 and 2000, and reappointed to second terms in 2004 and 2005. The terms of three Board members expired last month, and the terms of the remaining two Board members will expire this coming May. The Congressional Accountability Act does not allow for holdovers, so the current Board has already lost its quorum.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found in 2004 that term limits for Board members caused a loss of leadership, and negatively impacted the Office's continuity of

operations. To avoid that negative impact, the Committee proposes to amend the law to allow the current Board to serve for an additional term.

This particular Board has demonstrated extraordinary productivity and balance in its handling of multiple cases, and its issuance of a number of substantive regulations. The current Board operates collegially, and appreciates the operating environment in which they perform their responsibilities. Over the last decade, the Board has met its statutory mandate without cause for concern from the Congress. The Board has been a neutral body, committed to advancing safety, health, and workplace rights, while working with the Congress to promulgate regulations that reflect the unique nature of the Legislative Branch.

The Congress amended the Congressional Accountability Act five years ago to allow for a second term. The GAO's 2004 report on the operations of the Board noted that, in comparable administrative regulatory agencies, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Federal Labor Relations Board, and the National Labor Relations Board, there were no limitations on board members serving consecutive terms.

The Board members have provided an excellent balance, and unnecessary change to the composition of this Board creates a risk of loss of such balance. The Committee therefore recommends that the term limits for the current Board members be extended by an additional five year term. By enacting S. 1860, we will accomplish this purpose.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD on S. 1860.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today on a motion offered pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2009, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 214, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Schenectady County Community College on its 40th anniversary of founding. Over the last 40 years, Schenectady County Community College has met the educational needs of tens of thousands and offered a pathway to career success and prosperity.

SCCC has recently expanded its educational offerings to meet the needs of the 21st-century workforce. The college offers a cutting-edge Nanoscale Materials Technology program that trains students for top careers in the high-tech industry. The Culinary Arts program at SCCC attracts students from around the country and is a model for other community colleges as well. In addition, the college offers one of the only aviation programs currently available at a community college.

As testament to the college's importance to the community, full-time enrollment at the campus has increased by 15 percent over the past year.

On behalf of the residents of the 21st Congressional District, I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Quintin Bullock and Schenectady County Community College for 40 years of educating students and preparing tens of thousands for successful futures. We look forward to your continued achievement, and express our heartfelt congratulations.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S BENEFIT CONCERT SERIES

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Miami-Dade County Public Schools for its Superintendent's Benefit Concert Series. This groundbreaking event will bring together singers, dancers and performers from throughout our public school system. Entitled "Listen to the Music," their first event will be tomorrow, Friday, November 20, at Miami Beach Senior High School, located in my congressional district. This uplifting event supports the "cultural passport program," which provides kindergarten through 12th-grade students with a different cultural experience each school year.

This unique program will ensure that our students get to visit local museums and art galleries, as well as experience live musical theatrical and dance performances before they graduate.

As a former educator and Florida certified teacher, I am proud to see our teachers, our students, and our community working together to make this great series a success. I encourage all in south Florida to attend this historic event tomorrow and enjoy a great performance for a great cause. I congratulate Superintendent Alberto Carvalho

for doing such professional work in a challenging economic environment.

NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month, and I rise today to help bring awareness to the month and to this year's theme, which is "Talk About It." Epilepsy is a neurological condition that affects more than 3 million Americans and more than 50 million people worldwide. It affects people of all ages, nations, and races. A burst of electrical energy in the brain can cause an individual with epilepsy to experience a seizure. Seizures can be mild, but sadly, in some cases, they are fatal.

In 2008, Congress passed legislation to establish epilepsy centers of excellence within the Veterans Administration. A traumatic brain injury can put a servicemember at greater risk for developing epilepsy in later years. And these centers of excellence will help ensure our veterans receive top-of-the-line care.

Fortunately, research into epilepsy has resulted in the development of medications and other treatments that have proven successful in controlling epileptic seizures. However, these treatments are not effective for everyone with epilepsy, which means more work remains.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Epilepsy Awareness Month and to pay tribute to all those working to promote a greater understanding.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1963. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide assistance to caregivers of veterans, to improve the provision of health care to veterans, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the National Council of the Arts:

The Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL).

□ 1645

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN IRAQ

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the fall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq has unleashed tremendous religious violence against the Christian community there.

According to the London Times, "In the chaos after the U.S.-led war invasion of Iraq in 2003, Christians found themselves targeted by Islamic terrorists."

Archbishop Paul Faraj Rahho said Christians in Iraq faced three bad choices: either they fled, converted to Islam, or risked being killed. Then in 2008, Archbishop Rahho himself was kidnapped and murdered.

These horrendous human rights violations and crimes against Christians in Iraq were brought to my attention by one of my constituents, Susan Dakak, a civil engineer who is a native of Iraq. Iraq's Christian Ambassador, the Iraqi Ambassador to the Vatican, my constituents tell me, is doing almost nothing to call attention to the plight of these people.

The U.S. should do more to aid the Christian minority in Iraq. At least one-third, maybe closer to one-half of these Christians, have fled the country. They should be allowed to return. The killings, kidnappings, and religious persecutions must stop.

The U.S. Government should substantially reduce our aid if Christians are not allowed to freely express their religion in Iraq.

IN RECOGNITION OF MYRA FARR

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Myra Farr for a lifetime of service and volunteerism.

In 1938, when Myra Farr married, the National Council of Jewish Women Miami Chapter gave her a gift of membership. She then served NCJW as its president and honorary national vice president. Throughout the 70 years since, Myra has given of her time and energy to improve our community.

She became one of the original volunteers of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, where she continues to serve on the board of directors as a lifetime appointee. Myra has also served on the National Conference of Christian and Jews and in various capacities with Jewish Family Services, American Jewish Committee, and the University of Miami Women's Guild. She was a delegate to the White House Conference on Families and has been awarded the Call to Service Award from the U.S. President's Council on Volunteerism.

Myra Farr has dedicated her life to advocating for the well-being of others. At age 94, Myra continues to mentor generations of women—including me—and has improved the lives of countless individuals. She sets a remarkable example for all Americans.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN M. DECROW

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the