

**INCREASE FUNDING FOR RARE DISEASE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently I met Jill Wood from my district in Brooklyn. I was very moved by this meeting as she described the struggles of her son, who is diagnosed with a rare genetic disease known as Sanfilippo syndrome.

Before we met, I was not familiar with this particular disease, but she touched my heart to hear about her child's courage. Every day he has to overcome physical disabilities that make it almost impossible for him to complete a very simple task that we complete with ease. I was inspired by the strength of their family and the bond that they share.

I have long been a strong advocate for rare disease research and development. In fact, this is why I am working with my colleague from Florida, Congressman STEARNS, on H.R. 3737, the ULTRA Act. This bill would codify the flexibility the FDA needs to encourage development of treatments for rare diseases like Sanfilippo syndrome.

It is our duty, as Members of the United States Congress, to come together and support measures that aid the rare disease community. Imagine being afflicted with a disease your physician has never heard of and has no idea as to how to treat it. Can you imagine the devastation this would cause to your family?

We must provide the National Institutes of Health with additional funding to support the important research for orphan and rare diseases. We must also give flexibility and support to the FDA to help the agency bring potential cures and treatments to the market much sooner.

How long must we wait and continue to suffer until lifesaving treatments are available?

Nearly 30 million Americans are affected by 7,000 rare diseases. We must do everything in our power to support education, advocacy, research, and patient assistance to bring this number down. Imagine the families out there watching their loved ones suffer because we have not yet provided enough support for this cause.

We are a great Nation of innovation, but that innovation and drive only goes so far without the proper support coming from the government. Our constituents need to know that we hear their needs and that, as their elected officials, we are determined to make available the resources that will support them.

The next time I speak to a family affected by rare diseases, I want to be able to look them in the eyes and tell them that we have helped, that we made available the means necessary to support lifesaving research and development, we care and we will do everything in our power to ensure that ev-

eryone has the chance to live full, healthy, and prosperous lives.

Thank you, Jill, for bringing this to my attention.

I urge my colleagues to support the ULTRA Act and increase funding for rare disease research and development. It is so important that we do everything possible to be able to bring the numbers down.

**OFFICER KEVIN BRENNAN, NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently, in one of New York's neighborhoods, gunshots rang out. One of NYPD's finest, Police Officer Kevin Brennan, quickly responded to the call. When he arrived at the scene with his partners, they recognized a familiar face. It was outlaw Latin Kings gang member Luis "Baby" Ortiz. Brennan gave the suspect a chance to turn himself over to the police by yelling, "Stop. Police," but Ortiz took off running in the darkness of the night. The officers gave chase. Officer Brennan cornered Ortiz in a hallway, and rather than give up, Ortiz shot Officer Brennan, point blank, in the head. Ortiz was trying to flee the scene of the shooting so fast that he ran out of one of his shoes and left it at the crime scene.

Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said Ortiz may have tried to fire off a second shot into Officer Brennan's head. Obviously, Ortiz has a total disrespect for human life.

When Police Officers Michael Burbridge and Christopher Mastoros arrived and found Officer Brennan, he was lying in a pool of his own blood, left to die. But Officer Brennan miraculously survived this attack.

The outlaw was captured. When "Baby" was brought to court, he made a mockery of the judicial system, waving at the cameras, asking them to take his photograph, while blowing kisses to his family. His family, too, showed disdain for the justice system and the police by yelling obscenities to the police and banging their hands and fists on a police cruiser that led Ortiz back to the jailhouse.

On Ortiz's second appearance in the court, the courtroom was packed with a sea of blue. NYPD had come to support their wounded fellow officer.

Disturbing, but not surprising, this would-be assassin has been arrested 14 times in his just 21 years of a lifetime of crime and lawless, worthless existence. His crimes have included drugs, assault, and armed robbery; yet he has walked free every time, beating the system.

One more detail worth noting. The weapon used to shoot Officer Brennan was the same one used in a New Year's Day murder in New York. Coincidence? Probably not.

Officer Brennan, a 6-year veteran of NYPD, is married and has a young baby daughter.

Mr. Speaker, in my other life, I was a prosecutor and a criminal court judge in Texas. I have been privileged to meet a lot of Texas peace officers and other officers in the United States. I've had the opportunity to meet many New York police officers when I go to New York to do presentations and training. After we get through the language barriers, I've found them to be a remarkable bunch of dedicated crime fighters.

Officer Brennan and thousands of his comrades throughout America wear the blue uniform of the law every day. They pin the shield and badge over their chest, over their heart, as a symbol of their duty to defend the people against outlaws like Ortiz. They are the last strand of wire in the fence between the fox and the chickens. They are all that separate the lawful citizens from the lawless bandits.

They go into dangerous areas of our city looking for drug dealers, child molesters, wife beaters, robbers, bandits and other street terrorists that would do the rest of us harm. They deserve our respect, our admiration, and our appreciation. We thank the Good Lord for people like Officer Brennan and the others of NYPD blue.

As for "Baby," it's past time that "Baby" met the long arm of justice.

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He's looking at doing 40 years behind bars in the "Do-Right" Hotel.

Our society cannot allow street trash like Ortiz to get away with their desire to wreak havoc in their neighborhoods and shoot peace officers. After all, Mr. Speaker, "We've got too many gangsters doing dirty deeds, too much corruption and crime in the streets. A man has to answer for the wicked things he's done because justice is the one thing you should always find." May it be swift and harsh, because justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

**FOOD STAMP PRESIDENT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I have to admit that when Newt Gingrich first used the phrase the "food stamp President," I was outraged, but then I started looking at the facts. I did my homework. I crunched the numbers, and I have to admit, food stamp President might be on target.

I think we have to be willing to understand the numbers and speak the truth even when that truth might hurt. So I've come to the floor today with some facts and figures—all sourced and backed up—because I know that Newt Gingrich wouldn't have it any other way. So let's learn about the food stamp President.

Here are the facts:

It clearly shows that the food stamp President increased spending on food stamps by more than \$19 billion. Let me repeat that: under the food stamp