NOT VOTING—13

Boucher	DeFazio	Rangel
Carson (IN)	Ford	Rothman
Chambliss	Frost	Wexler
Cooksey	Lowey	
Cubin	Quinn	

□ 1637

Mr. CROWLEY changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 2001

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 717) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Duchenne, Becker, limb girdle, congenital, facioscapulohumeral, myotonic, oculopharyngeal, distal, and Emery-Dreifuss muscular dystrophies, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 17, after line 6 insert:

SEC. 7. STUDY ON THE USE OF CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall enter into a contract with the Institute of Medicine for the purpose of conducting a study and making recommendations on the impact of, need for, and other issues associated with Centers of Excellence at the National Institutes of Health.

(b) AREAS OF REVIEW.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Institute of Medicine shall at a minimum consider the following:

(1) The current areas of research incorporating Centers of Excellence (which shall include a description of such areas) and the relationship of this form of funding mechanism to other forms of funding for research grants, including investigator initiated research, contracts and other types of research support awards.

(2) The distinctive aspects of Centers of Excellence, including the additional knowledge that may be expected to be gained through Centers of Excellence as compared to other forms of grant or contract mechanisms.

(3) The costs associated with establishing and maintaining Centers of Excellence, and the record of scholarship and training resulting from such Centers. The research and training contributions of Centers should be assessed on their own merits and in comparison with other forms of research support.

(4) Specific areas of research in which Centers of Excellence may be useful, needed, or underused, as well as areas of research in which Centers of Excellence may not be helpful.

(5) Criteria that may be applied in determining when Centers of Excellence are an appropriate and cost-effective research investment and conditions that should be present in order to consider the establishment of Centers of Excellence.

(6) Alternative research models that may accomplish results similar to or greater than Centers of Excellence.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the contract is entered into under subsection (a), the Institute of Medicine shall complete the study under such subsection and submit a report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the appropriate committees of Congress that contains the results of such study.

Mr. TAUZIN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I certainly shall not object as the sponsor of this legislation. I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and also the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for their hard work and cooperation on this issue, along with expressing my thanks to the ranking members, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), as well as to my principal cosponsor, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON).

Mr. Speaker, let me just briefly say that this legislation left this House with a unanimous vote and 310 cosponsors, and it will authorize the Centers of Excellence at the National Institutes of Health as well as an epidemiological survey at the CDC for Duchenne muscular dystrophy and other forms of childhood muscular dystrophy.

I have to say that I cannot think of a better Christmas present during this time between Thanksgiving and Christmas for the tens of thousands of parents whose children suffer from this lethal disease. Duchenne muscular dystrophy, as the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) knows, is the most common and most lethal form of childhood genetic disease. By the passage of this legislation tonight, we are giving honest, real hope to the parents of these children and to the entire American people who want to fight this disease. My appreciation goes to everyone.

I have been a strong supporter of NIH and all of the scientists and dedicated professionals at the National Institutes of Health. I want to thank them for their cooperation for helping us write a better bill than I had originally offered. I am grateful to everyone, and my hat is off to the Duchenne muscular dystrophy parents who have actually made this possible.

With those words of thanks and appreciation, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana under my reservation.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to commend the gentleman for his extraordinary work in this area. Not only will this bill, because of his great work, authorize NIH to do extensive new research on Duchenne muscular dystrophy, but also other forms of childhood muscular dystrophy. What we have learned is when they do extensive research in these areas, very much of it is genetic research and that genetic research yields all sorts of information on other diseases, such as Friedreich's ataxia, which is a disease of my culture, the Cajun culture. We learn a great deal every time we do extensive research into these genetic disease areas and as the gentleman said, not only tens of thousands of parents whose children suffer with these disease, but countless tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of families who may get an answer to diseases comparable or similar to these may come out of this research.

I want to thank the gentleman for his great work on it; and again, I think not only many families will receive this as a great Christmas gift, but future generations are going to be grateful for the work he has done on this bill.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time under my reservation, I thank my chairman. I will simply conclude by saying it is not often that we are surprised with this legislative business, but I think the speed with which this legislation swept through the House of Representatives and also the other body has taken my breath away. My hat is off to the leadership of the House and to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN).

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 717.

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

There was no objection.

ACCESS AND OPENNESS IN SMALL BUSINESS LENDING ACT OF 2001

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to introduce the Access and Openness in Small Business Lending Act of 2001, a bill that I hope will dramatically improve lending practices that benefit women and minority-owned small businesses.

This legislation will amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and require depository lenders such as banks, credit