

sponsored debates in which I have taken part. They have provided forums for discussion, most recently on health care. And more generally, but perhaps most important, they have been willing partners in the push to keep people interested and involved in the responsibilities of democracy.

I want to encourage the league, and to cooperate. I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the League of Women Voters for their hard work and in wishing them well for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 449, THE
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE EDU-
CATION ACT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, it's a well-known fact that America's growing emphasis on specialization in the physician work force has driven up the costs of health care and fragmented access to medical services. What is not widely known is that America will have a shortage of 35,000 primary care physicians by the year 2000 and a projected surplus of 115,000 specialists—Department of Health and Human Services. To reverse current trends in medical education and lower the rate of inflation on health care costs, I have introduced H.R. 449, the Primary Health Care Education Act.

In the past year, two separate Government-funded studies have produced substantial evidence that medical schools must respond now to compensate for our primary care needs of the 21st century. H.R. 449 is based on the findings and recommendations to the Congress found in both reports. These reports include: First the General Accounting Office's [GAO] October 1994 report to congressional requesters entitled "Medical Education: Curriculum and Financing Strategies, Need to Encourage Primary Care," and second, the Council On Graduate Medical Education's [COGME] fourth report to Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services entitled "Recommendations to Improve Access to Health Care Through Physician Workforce Reform."

At this time, I would like to briefly summarize the GAO's findings. Medical career decisions are usually made at three specific times during a student's education: First, at the end of college when students typically apply to medical school, second, during the fourth year of medical school when students choose the area of medicine to pursue and enter residency training, and third, at the end of residency training when residents decide to enter practice or to train further for a subspecialty. H.R. 449 attempts to encourage primary care as a career choice at all points in a student's academic career.

The choice of career paths in medicine were found to be significantly influenced by the curriculum and training opportunities students receive during their medical education. Foremost among these factors was whether the medical school had a family practice department. Students attending schools with family practice departments were 57 percent more likely to pursue primary care than those attending

schools without family practice departments. Second, the higher the ratio of funding of a family practice department in relation to the number of students, the higher the percentage of students choosing to enter primary care. Students attending medical schools with highly funded departments were 18 percent more likely to pursue primary care than students attending schools with lower funding. A third factor was whether a family practice clerkship was required before career decisions were made in the fourth year. Students attending schools which required a third-year clerkship were 18 percent more likely to pursue primary care. Fourth, a significant correlation was found between residents who were exposed to primary care faculty, exposed to hospital rounds taught by primary care faculty, and exposed to rotations which required training in primary care—and residents who were not—in choosing to enter general practice.

Given the health care needs of the 21st century, COGME recommends we attain the following physician workforce goals by the year 2000. First year residency positions should be limited to the number of 1993 U.S. medical school graduates, plus 10 percent. At least 50 percent of residency graduates should enter practice as primary care physicians. And, steps should be taken to eliminate rural and inner city primary care shortages.

To reverse the current trends toward specialization, the Traficant Primary Care Education Act directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give preference to medical schools which have established programs that first, emphasize training in primary care, and second, encourage students to choose primary care. Under H.R. 449, the Secretary must consider the GAO's findings when establishing the conditions a medical school must meet to receive preference.

The Secretary, however, is by no means limited to the GAO's findings. H.R. 449 was designed to give the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to shift the current trends in medical education to meet existing and future needs. It does this by giving preference, or awarding grants and contracts to schools which have designed curriculum that has been proven to increase primary care. The Traficant bill, however, by no means dictates, to the administering agency or medical schools, the best way to achieve the desired results. The Traficant bill, in fact, follows the intent of language of the Public Health Service Amendments of 1992, which was passed only by this body. It is my hope that HHS, as the expert agency on this issue, in consultation with medical schools, GAO, and COGME, will attain the health care and physician workforce needs of the 21st century.

If you support improved access to services and lower health care costs, I urge you to co-sponsor H.R. 449, the Primary Care Education Act.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY
REASSESSMENT ACT

HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I'm introducing the Nuclear Waste Policy Reas-

essment Act of 1995. Congress has shown little concern for the science of Yucca Mountain. Instead, the siting of the Nation's high-level nuclear waste repository has become nothing more than a political football.

My bill prohibits site characterization of Yucca Mountain for 3 years while the National Academy of Sciences conducts a study to determine if the current process of studying only Yucca Mountain makes scientific sense, or whether alternatives should be looked at. I believe that a body concerned with scientific objectivity can not possibly endorse the further site characterization of Yucca Mountain and the current exclusion of other options.

During the suspension of work on the Yucca Mountain site the legislation provides for funding of dry cask storage at existing reactor sites. As the deadline approaches for the Federal Government to take possession of this waste, we must provide some type of storage; onsite storage appears to be the most workable solution.

In recognition of slippage in the deadlines for study and construction of a high-level nuclear waste facility, this legislation moves the deadline for opening any nuclear waste dump back to 2015.

I have been consistently opposed to siting the Nation's high-level nuclear waste repository in Nevada, and I will continue to fight Congress' abuse of Nevada with all means available. It's not fair for Congress to make Nevada into the nuclear dumping ground for the rest of the country. I hope my colleagues will support my efforts to see that science prevails over politics.

TRIBUTE TO MUSICIAN/COMPOSER
GEORGE KATSAROS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, we owe a great debt of gratitude to those ancient Greeks who forged the notion of democracy and thus gave us a blueprint for our own democratic heritage. We owe another debt of gratitude to a man who has been called the greatest Greek folk song composer and singer of the 20th century. It is that man, my good friend George Katsaros, for whom I rise today to pay tribute.

Ironically, it was the promise of opportunity inherent in democracy that beckoned George to this country from the island of Amorgos in 1913 at the age of 25. Stepping off a steamship at New York Harbor with all his belongings in one hand and his guitar in the other, George Katsaros began a musical career that continues even today. Within hours of his arrival he was accompanying a Salvation Army street band and was invited to stay on. Now, more than 80 years later, his strong, nostalgic, mellow voice and unique style on the guitar have been heard in every corner of the world: in ballrooms, hotel clubs, coffeehouses, concert halls, steamships, private yachts—anywhere people gather to hear their memories and dreams and experiences put to music and sung from the heart.

Katsaros became so popular that in 1919 RCA Victor signed him as a recording artist. Contracts with Columbia and Decca followed,

and soon many of his compositions became favorites in Greece and other places where Greek music is played. His popularity grew because people related to his songs about life in unfamiliar surroundings and in difficult times; songs about the comfort of family and friends; songs about the joy of hopes fulfilled.

Now, even in his twilight years, George Katsaros still composes and performs. At 106 years of age he is immaculately dressed, his back straight, his eyes bright with ideas yet to be expressed. Accolades, such as his 1990 State of Florida Folk Life Heritage Award, or his selection as grand marshal of the 1994 Tarpon Springs Christmas parade, don't lull him into inactivity; they inspire him to continue on.

Steve Frangos, in his 1992 study of the international Greek entertainment industry, noted that Katsaros merits recognition on a national level "for his singular contributions not only to the ongoing development of Greek music but as one of the finest proponents of traditional ethnic music ever to perform in America." I am proud to call him a fellow American and a friend.

EL REGRESO FOUNDATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 23, 1994, I attended the graduation ceremony for El Regreso Foundation, a bilingual drug and alcohol abuse treatment program in the Williamsburg, Brooklyn section of my district. The event was an incredibly moving experience filled with tears and applause. The feeling of hope overcoming pain and abuse permeated the evening's festivities.

Overcoming the greatest odds and barriers, these graduates literally received a new lease on life, a life formerly plagued with violence, crime, and drug use.

This graduation was a perfect example of the ability of our people to take hold of their lives and turn them around, to be able to look into their selves and recognize that they do not want to become another statistic.

Events such as this one at El Regreso, are an inspiration to us all. They are of extreme importance to communities such as Williamsburg, which struggle daily for sources of hope. And while the media bombards us daily with stories of violence, crime, and despair, these and other success stories go unnoticed.

Success stories such as the one of Carlos Pagan. He too overcame heavy drug use and a hard street life, to become the founder and executive director of El Regreso. He is now a source of inspiration to untold numbers of men and women who go through El Regreso's Program, and a bright beacon of light illuminating the dark waters of addiction.

In closing, I salute Carlos Pagan and the staff of El Regreso for reminding our community that the best weapons against poverty, discrimination and even fear are not the escapes offered by powerful hallucinogenics. The best weapons against these enemies are the potency of pride and the power of belief in themselves.

NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT AND POLICY COMMISSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation establishing the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission. This blue ribbon panel will be composed of nine members—three appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, and three appointed by the President of the United States. One of the appointees should be a State Governor.

America is on a gambling binge. The question facing this commission will be: are we trading long-term economic growth and prosperity for short-term gain? Gambling is one of the fastest growing industries in the nation and is becoming America's pastime. In 1993, Americans made more trips to casinos than they did to major league ballparks. At the turn of the century, gambling was prohibited. Today, however, there are 37 State lotteries, casinos operate in 23 States, and 95 percent of all Americans are expected to live within a 3- or 4-hour drive of a casino by the year 2000. Only two States, Hawaii and Utah, forbid wagering.

Reports indicate that cash-strapped State and local governments will continue to authorize more gambling operations in the hope that they will be an economic bonanza. Governments often fail to consider, though, that gambling can bring on economic problems to their jurisdictions that far outweigh any benefits. Negative impacts on State and local economies, small businesses, and families can no longer be ignored. Crime and social problems related to gambling could add to already overburdened criminal justice and social welfare systems. This is an issue of national economic importance, and I believe the new Congress should examine it closely over the coming months.

The Commission established by this legislation will conduct a comprehensive legal and factual study of gambling in the United States. I will outline some of the specific matters to be studied and some examples of why they should be studied.

The Commission should review the costs and effectiveness of State and Federal gambling regulatory policy, including whether Indian gaming should be regulated by States as well as the Federal Government. Indian gambling accounts for about 5 percent of all casino gambling and that figure is growing at an extraordinary rate. Unlike New Jersey and Nevada which has extremely costly, mature, and effective regulatory structures, the Federal effort to regulate Indian gaming to prevent the infiltration of organized crime is scanty at best. There are less than 30 staff persons to regulate Indian gaming operations throughout the country. The Commission should recommend whether or not Indian gaming should be regulated by the States.

The Commission should examine the economic impact of gambling on other businesses. As gambling proliferates, job-creating wealth is shifted from savings and investment to gambling which creates no useful product. Income spent on gambling is not spent on

movies, clothes, recreation services, or other goods or services. Gambling cannibalizes other businesses such as restaurants. For example, the number of restaurants in Atlantic City declined from 243 in 1977, the year after casinos were legalized, to 146 in 1987.

The Commission should make a detailed assessment and review of the political contributions and influence of gambling promoters on the development of public policy regulating gambling. Proponents of gambling raised about \$14 million in their losing battle to bring casino gambling to Florida. Millions in contributions are given to lawmakers yearly by gambling interests. In my own State of Virginia, ten casino industry groups spent \$317,000 lobbying Virginia's legislators to roll the dice and bet on casino or riverboat gambling. Gambling interest's role in the formation of public policy is important because a recent study notes that most economic impact statements about gambling overwhelmingly are written from the gambling proponents perspective.

The Commission should make a detailed assessment of the relationship between gambling and crime. In one report, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement opposed legalizing casino gambling because they indicated "casinos will result in more Floridians and visitors being robbed, raped, assaulted, and otherwise injured." Sometimes organized crime is associated with gambling because of the huge amounts of cash involved, making it an easy target of money launderers. Drug money, extortion money, and prostitution money are all laundered through such operations.

Gambling may on occasion breed political corruption. Seventeen South Carolina legislators were convicted of taking bribes to legalize horse and dog track racing. Six Arizona legislators pleaded guilty in 1990 for accepting bribes on a bill to legalize casino gambling. Seven Kentucky legislators pleaded guilty of bribery for the same. In 1990, a former West Virginia Governor pleaded guilty to taking a bribe from racing interests. In 1994, a West Virginia lottery director was sentenced to Federal prison for rigging a video lottery contract.

Because of crime associated with casino gambling, regulatory agencies in New Jersey spend over \$59 million annually to monitor the city's casinos. In 1992, the Wall Street Journal reported that since 1976, Atlantic City's police budget has tripled to \$24 million while the local population has decreased 20 percent. During the first 3 years of casino gambling, Atlantic City went from 50th in the Nation in per capita crime to 1st. Overall, from 1977 to 1990, the crime rate in that city rose by an incredible 230 percent. Organized criminal activity is so pervasive that the American Insurance Institute estimates that 40 percent of all white collar crime is gambling related.

The Commission should also study the impact of pathological, or problem gambling on individuals, families, social institutions, criminal activity, and the economy. Gambling social costs include direct regulatory costs, lost productivity costs, direct crime costs, as well as harder-to-price costs such as suicide, and family disintegration. Various studies indicate that the mean gambling-related debt of people in compulsive gambling therapy ranged from about \$53,000 to \$92,000. Compulsive gamblers in New Jersey were accumulating an estimated \$514 million in yearly debt.