

1982. As of April 1998, 2,955 Hoosiers have died from AIDS.

AIDS is certainly a global crisis, as almost every country has reported cases. The problem is particularly bad in developing nations. In certain regions of Africa and India, one out of four adults is infected. Lack of medical facilities and AIDS education make it unlikely that the rapid rate of infection will curb within the near future.

Can AIDS be prevented? According to the Surgeon General, the most certain way to control the AIDS epidemic is through using condoms, monogamous sexual relationships, and avoiding illegal intravenous drug use. There is no evidence that HIV can be transmitted through casual contact. With no cure for AIDS, educating those at risk of infection is currently the only way to halt the spread of the disease. Because needle sharing among intravenous drug users leads to the spread of HIV, some public health officials advocate the distribution of clean needles as part of drug abuse treatment programs.

What is the government doing? Since the 1980s, Congress has steadily increased funding for research, improving access to health care for AIDS patients and supporting public education initiatives. In 1998, the federal government will spend close to \$9 billion on HIV/AIDS programs, compared to the \$22 billion spent on cancer programs and the \$43 billion for heart disease.

State and local governments are also fighting the epidemic. Indiana will spend approximately \$1.2 million in state tax dollars on HIV/AIDS related prevention and health care services in 1998.

How are HIV/AIDS cost financed? HIV/AIDS cases are an enormous financial strain for individuals, insurance companies, and the government. The average cost of caring for an HIV/AIDS patient from infection to death is approximately \$150,000 or an average \$12,000 per year, largely spent on costly new drugs.

Private health insurance covers an average of 50% of the cost for caring for persons with HIV/AIDS. Medicaid also covers a sizeable amount of the cost of patient care. The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is the centerpiece of federal programs serving AIDS-related health care needs. CARE Act programs, implemented through public-private coalitions, are aimed at cutting the cost of care, reducing the need for expensive hospitalization, and developing support services across the nation.

Should there be mandatory testing? All donated blood is now screened for HIV, and testing is mandatory for military personnel and federal prisoners. There is broad agreement that individuals at high risk of contracting HIV should seek testing.

Due to costs, it is unlikely that sweeping mandatory tests, such as for medical practitioners, will be implemented. A preliminary HIV screening costs approximately five dollars per person. Each person who tests positive would require a follow-up test which would cost approximately fifty dollars. To implement nationwide tests would place a significant strain on government resources.

How are HIV/AIDS victims treated under the law? Americans with HIV/AIDS have often been targets of various forms of discrimination, although laws have been established to protect against discrimination. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, HIV/AIDS is considered a handicap, therefore making it illegal to discriminate against HIV/AIDS victims in hiring practices and in providing access to public facilities.

A recent Supreme Court decision declared that HIV infection without present symptoms is a disability due to the fatal nature of the disease. Thus, it is illegal for medical

providers to refuse treatment to HIV-infected individuals on the basis of their medical condition.

What progress has been made? A great deal of progress has been made on AIDS research in the past decade. For example, drug "cocktails", which involve a combination of as many as ten different medications, are allowing HIV-infected people to live longer with a higher quality of life.

In June, the first human trials were begun in the study for an AIDS vaccine. However, experts still have serious concerns as to the effectiveness of any vaccine in stopping the spread of the disease.

Conclusion: Much still needs to be learned and done about HIV and AIDS. An aggressive strategy to combat the disease is urgently needed. A heavy emphasis must be placed on prevention through grassroots education. Research to develop treatment, cures and vaccines must be continued and expanded. Help must be given to developing countries where HIV/AIDS is spreading at a staggering rate. All of this could save millions of dollars and millions of lives. It is a battle worth fighting.

THE RENO_x '98 CONFERENCE IN RENO, NEVADA

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, rarely have policy-makers been able to agree on approaches to attack our environmental problems. Both sides of the aisle seem to muddy the waters with rhetoric that does nothing more than to exacerbate emotionalism and further ignore scientific reality. It is for this very reason that I am proud to announce an event being held later this month in my home state of Nevada. This event is specifically designed to cut through such rhetoric and provide real solutions to fight one of our most pressing environmental problems—the control of oxides of nitrogen or NO_x, one of the most pervasive air pollutants.

The Gunnerman Foundation and numerous other federal, state, and industry organizations are sponsoring the ReNO_x '98 Conference in Reno from July 26th through July 28th. Developing solutions to NO_x is just yet another in a long line of success stories for Gunnerman Foundation Chairman Rudy Gunnerman. Ten years ago, Mr. Gunnerman was called an alarmist for bringing to light critical air pollution problems. I call him a pioneer. His leadership has spurred technology and policy innovations on air pollution issues for over two decades.

Similarly, this conference will stimulate action on the issue NO_x. This conference will bring together industry, government and community interests to address barriers and develop policy recommendations that will benefit NO_x reduction strategies.

NO_x emissions come from cars and trucks, coal-burning power plants, and industrial combustion and waste disposal operations. NO_x emissions increased over 220 percent between 1940 and 1996, with a 9 percent rise from 1970 to 1996.

NO_x interacts with other compounds in the air to form ground-level ozone and acid rain—primary threats to human health and the environment. These critical air pollution problems have levied serious costs on our society,

which range from asthma and other respiratory illnesses to the deterioration of our lakes, forests, soils, and our national monuments.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Gunnerman Foundation and Rudy Gunnerman for sponsoring this worthwhile forum. I invite my colleagues to join this effort to develop real solutions to an environmental problem that deserves our attention and commitment.

HONORING JOHN KORREY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Korrey of Liff, Colorado who recently earned first place at the International Livestock Auctioneer Championship held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Along with farming and ranching, Mr. Korrey and his wife, Janna, own Korrey Auction Services and co-run Primary Livestock Sales Management in Liff.

John Korrey decided to be an auctioneer when his father, a produce farmer, took him to livestock sales. He listened and watched the auctioneers and adopted each trait that appealed to him. When describing his auctioneering experiences, Mr. Korrey stated, "I didn't become a quality auctioneer overnight. It takes years of practice and learning. I learn everyday. Sales or mistakes, I always learn. If you are too old to learn, you are in major trouble."

With that energetic attitude, Mr. Korrey found himself competing in the International Livestock Auctioneer Championship. In the International competition 30 competitors auctioned cattle at the Alberta Fed Beef Expo in Strathmore, Alberta on the first day. On the second day, the top 10 auctioneers auctioned 3,000 cattle at the Calgary Fair.

Five judges measured competitors on appearance, mannerisms, and deportment, worth 20 points; spotting bids, repartee and time; worth 40 points. Each judge could award 100 points to each competitor. The competitors score was averaged over the two days with the high and low score tossed out. Korrey walked away from the competition with the top prize including \$5000, a custom designed silver belt buckle, and an invitation to Jones and Vold Auction Company in Ponoka, Alberta.

Korrey's daughters, Heidi and Lacey, were at the auction cheering him on and had eight of the 10 winners placed correctly. When asked if his daughters placed him first, Korrey laughed and said, "They better. It was special to have them here."

This was Korrey's sixth year at the championship and he always finished in the top five. Although he will not be eligible to compete in next year's competition, Korrey can look forward to his new role as the contest's master of ceremonies. He will introduce all the competitors and conduct the auction at the Calgary Fair's champion livestock pens.

As a member of Congress representing Colorado's Fourth District where John Korrey lives, works, and shares his passion for auctioneering with his community, I am proud to honor this talented man. I congratulate him