works tirelessly to raise awareness of the need for increased organ and tissue donations, especially among minority populations. Her programs work to educate minority families about the risks factors and lifestyle choices that can lead to the need for a transplant. She also works to encourage residents in the community to consider organ donation as a contribution they can make to save the lives of others.

Ms. Hamlett comes to her work from a very unique perspective. After battling heart disease for a number of years, she was forced to undergo numerous surgeries. After her successful procedure, she agreed to be featured in the organ bank's advertising campaign on posters and public service announcements. In 1995 she joined the organ bank's staff full-time, putting her former experience as a community relations specialist and teacher to work.

Ms. Hamlett currently conducts much of her outreach in Boston-area schools, using poetry and workbooks that she has developed herself to teach young people about organ donation and end-of-life issues. She also offers programs in community health centers and area churches. She often fields calls in the middle of the night from area hospitals to counsel families about donating organs and loved ones.

As a further recognition of her tremendous work, she was also recently elected president of the American Society of Minority Health Transplant Professionals, whose mission is to promote organ and tissue donation among minorities.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly my honor today to congratulate Brenda Butler Hamlett for this well deserved award. As extraordinary people do, Ms. Hamlett was able to transform an undoubtedly traumatic experience in her life into a tremendous dedication to improve the lives of those around her.

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 8, 2000
Mr. MOAKLEY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Brenda Butler Hamlett, who was recently selected as a 2000 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. Ms. Hamlett is one of only ten individuals from around the country to be recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for community health leadership.

As a community development coordinator for the New England Organ Bank, Ms. Hamlett works tirelessly to raise awareness of the need for increased organ and tissue donations, especially among minority populations. Her programs work to educate minority families about the risks factors and lifestyle choices that can lead to the need for a transplant. She also works to encourage residents in the community to consider organ donation as a contribution they can make to save the lives of others.

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