HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the “WISEWOMAN (Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation) Expansion Act of 2000” with my colleague, Congressman James LEACH, the Co-Chair of the Congressional Prevention Coalition.

This legislation would allow the highly successful WISEWOMAN demonstration project, currently operating in four states, to expand to other states that qualify. The “WISEWOMAN Expansion Act” would authorize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to make competitive grants to states to carry out further preventive health services, in addition to the breast and cervical cancer screenings that the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection Programs (NBCCEDP) currently provide. Examples of these additional vital services include screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, and osteoporosis; health education and counseling; lifestyle interventions to change behavioral risk factors such as smoking, lack of exercise, poor nutrition, and sedentary lifestyle; and appropriate referrals for medical treatment and follow-up services.

The need for this program is clear. Each year, nearly half a million women lose their lives as a result of heart disease and stroke. Many of us associate cardiovascular disease with men, but the American Heart Association estimates that nearly one in two women will die of heart disease or stroke. In fact, cardiovascular diseases kill nearly 50,000 more women each year than men. Sadly, many of these deaths could have been prevented. Had these women known they were at risk for cardiovascular disease, they could have taken preventive measures to lower their risk factors and perhaps prevent heart disease and stroke.

Osteoporosis, affecting half of all women over the age of 50, is also a preventable disease. Fortunately, some of the preventive measures women can take to reduce their risk for cardiovascular diseases, such as eating more nutritious foods and exercising, can also reduce their risk for osteoporosis.

The bill would also add flexibility to the program language that would allow screenings and other preventive measures for diseases in addition to cardiovascular diseases, such as osteoporosis, as more preventive technology becomes available. It would allow flexibility for the WISEWOMAN program to grow and adapt with the needs of individual states and would ensure full collaboration of the WISEWOMAN program with the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP).

States would be eligible for this program only if they already participate in the NBCCEDP and agree to operate their WISEWOMAN program in strong collaboration with the NBCCEDP. The bill would authorize funding to carry out this program at a level of $20 million for fiscal year 2001, $25 million for fiscal year 2002, for $30 million for fiscal year 2003, and “such sums” as necessary for each subsequent year.

Early prevention of cardiovascular disease stroke and osteoporosis would result in a substantial cost-savings for our health care system, but more importantly, it would improve the quality of life for our mothers, our sisters, our daughters and our friends. If we can reach women who are at high risk early in their lives, assist them in altering their behavior to live healthier lifestyles, we could prevent countless diseases and injuries and ultimately, we would save lives. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mrs. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I have named South Side High School in Rockville Centre as the Fourth Congressional District School of the Month for June 2000. Mr. Robin Calitri is the Principal, with Mrs. Carol Burris to assume that post on July 1. Dr. William H. Johnson is the Rockville Centre School District Superintendent of Schools.

South Side High School students have it all—a well-rounded education, an ability to excel in academics and in sports, and what they give of themselves to the school and the community.

High academic standards and results, coupled with winning extra-curricular activities lead to an award-winning high school. A description of the school reads, “The staff at South Side understands that excellence must be inclusive; thus the pursuit of equity is a priority among its educational goals.”

One of the top-performing schools in the country—with awards too numerous to mention—South Side was named a Blue Ribbon School in May 1998. South Side is an All Regents High School, and students excel academically, as seen in the fact 19 percent of the school’s graduates earned Regents diplomas with honors. Furthermore, South Side offers its honors students the opportunity of International Baccalaureates, allowing college credit as well as admission to overseas and national universities. South Side is one of four schools in New York state to offer the program.

South Side’s students are incredibly energized. They participate in the Congressional Arts Competition year after year, and have an active Model Congress and Student Government Association.

One of South Side’s numerous clubs is the Inter-generational Committee. Students spend time with Long Island seniors, volunteer at senior centers and help them with grocery shopping and other errands in an effort to promote and foster understanding between seniors and high school students.

I am proud to name South Side High School in Rockville Centre School of the Month for June in the Fourth Congressional District of New York.