in the defense bill. The Appropriations Committee reported out $252.2 million in H.R. 4576, including: $6 million for laser vision correction research, $3.7 million for nutrition research, $10 million for ovarian cancer research, $15 million for HIV research, $3 million for chronic fatigue research, and $7 million for alcoholism and drug abuse.

Now, some of these programs may be valid, but they are non-defense items. We have a Labor/Health and Human Services Appropriations bill that is more suitable for these programs. Hiding these items within H.R. 4576 is unfair to our taxpayers.

In addition, H.R. 4576 skirted two important issues with profound budget and readiness implications:

1. Base Realignment and Closure Committee (H.R. 4576) does not include funding for two new BRAC rounds, despite the fact that the Pentagon has estimated it has an excess base capacity of 23%. CBO estimates that two new BRAC rounds would save the Defense Department $4.7 billion by 2010, and that after completion in 2012, DOD could realize recurring savings of $4 billion per year. Congress should act to get funds for these BRAC rounds to save our taxpayers billions of dollars.

2. Cold Weather Equipment (Congress requested no funds for the Wolverine) is second to none. H.R. 4576 included $15 million for the Wolverine, as opposed to the $82 million the Army requested. The $82 million would enable the Army to purchase enough soldiers just to fill out the gear it has. But it also has difficulty getting enough soldiers just to fill out the gear it already has. Congress should fund the military that is second to none. And H.R. 4576 does include several important items I support, like funding for domestic terrorism response, more decent enlisted pay, and missile defense. But it is also weighed down with too many items that are unnecessary, and in fact, counterproductive to, our national defense.

I agree that the Congress should fund a military that is second to none. And H.R. 4576 does include several important items I support, like funding for domestic terrorism response, more decent enlisted pay, and missile defense. But it is also weighed down with too many items that are unnecessary, and in fact, counterproductive to, our national defense. Therefore, I reluctantly oppose the bill.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to honor Angelica Milton of Folkston, GA. Angelica was named a National Award Winner for honor roll. This prestigious award is offered to fewer than 10% of American high school students. Angelica was selected by her teachers and school staff for her excellent academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, and dependability.

Angelica is an exceptional young lady, who exemplifies the qualities of a true leader, and I am proud to recognize her as an outstanding citizen of my district.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, defective products can have devastating effects on American lives. One of the strongest safeguards we have in protecting the safety and health of our citizens is the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The CPSC is working with manufacturers and retailers to keep harmful or dangerous products off of store shelves and away from Americans.

The U.S. Postal Service has made an innovative attempt at remedying this problem by giving defective products more exposure in its offices. Over 33,000 post offices nationwide are displaying posters containing color pictures of products recalled by the CPSC. Since almost 7 million people visit those post offices everyday to mail letters and ship packages, this should be highly effective in disseminating to consumers the names of those products that have been recalled by the CPSC.

I would like to share with my colleagues an editorial that recently appeared in the Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel regarding this issue. I applaud the CPSC and the Postal Service for their initiative in protecting the public.

The U.S. Postal Service, which for years has been helping to get defective people off of store shelves and away from Americans.

HONORING STEPHEN CHEN OF THE TAIWAN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE [TECRO]

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I express our deepest appreciation to Representative Stephen Chen of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Representative Office [TECRO] for his service as this country’s senior diplomat here in Washington since 1997. Stephen has served the people of Taiwan with distinction for over 47 years as a member of Taiwan’s diplomatic corps. He has served abroad in the Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia and as Vice Foreign Minister and Deputy Secretary General to President Lee in Taiwan. Stephen has been a staunch supporter of bilateral relations between the United States and Taiwan and has earned the respect and friendship of many Members of Congress. I invite my colleagues to join in wishing Stephen and his family best wishes on the occasion of his return to Taiwan and his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION AND POSTAL SERVICE EFFORTS IN PROMOTING CONSUMER AWARENESS OF UNSAFE PRODUCTS

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, defec- tive products can have devastating effects on American lives. One of the strongest safe- guards we have in protecting the safety and health of our citizens is the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The CPSC is working with manufacturers and retailers to keep harm- ful or dangerous products off of store shelves and away from Americans.