take to reduce the likelihood of getting cervical cancer, how it can be detected early, and what all of their treatment options are when facing this disease.

While it is encouraging that women seem to know of the Pap smear test, many women do not understand just how life-saving this annual screening can be. That is why I sponsored this resolution, Mr. Speaker, with the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

Our resolution is part of a national campaign to raise awareness and increase annual screenings among women. I want to end the confusion, discomfort, and misunderstanding that form an unnecessary barrier to too many women, and particularly low-income and minority women. One out of every three Hispanic women reported in an HHS study that they failed to get a Pap smear test in the preceding 3 years, compared with about one-quarter of all American women. In addition, another survey by HHS found that 87 percent of employed women had a recent Pap test within the past three years, while 73 percent of women who were not in the labor force had done so.

More disturbing than the gap in lack of screening is that more women of color are dying from this disease. The rate of mortality for African American women is nearly twice that of Caucasian women, according to HHS. Equally disturbing is the high rate of STD transmission within this community. The World Health Organization and the National Institutes of Health report that the principal cause of cervical cancer is HPV infection, which is also the most common STD.

In my own district of South-Central Los Angeles, including Watts, the County Health Department reports that the rates of STD among African Americans are up to 20 percent higher than among Caucasians. The main reason is lack of information on how to prevent this transmission, which undetected years later, can lead to cervical cancer.

Although the risk factors for cervical cancer can vary, the cultural, financial and even geographical areas that complicate the fluid delivery of quality health care linger as a dangerous indication of the need for more dialogue on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) first for his leadership in joining me on this resolution and all of the national effort in raising the awareness of this deadly disease. I applaud the thousands of persons who are out there helping to make this awareness possible.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to read some literature from experts at the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society, their published statements, and I will include them for the record. This is a quote from the National Cancer Institute:

''Condoms are ineffective against human papilloma virus because the virus is present not only in the mucosal tissue, but also on dry skin of the surrounding abdomen and groin, and it can migrate from those areas into other areas into the vagina and the cervix. Additional research efforts by NCI on the effectiveness of virus transmission are not warranted.''

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The American Cancer Society recent research shows that condoms cannot protect against infection with HPV. The absence of visible signs of this disease cannot be used to decide whether caution is warranted since this disease can be passed on to another person when there are no visible signs of the disease externally. That is the American Cancer Society and the National Institutes of Health.

National Institutes of Health, April 3, 1996, the data on the use of barrier methods of contraception condoms to prevent the spread of human papilloma virus is controversial but does not support it as an effective method of prevention.

I include for the RECORD the following information:

DO CONDOMS PROTECT AGAINST HPV INFECTION?—ACCORDING TO THE SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS, THE ANSWER IS A RESOUNDING AND CONCLUSIVE ''NO''.

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

''Condoms are ineffective against HPV because the virus is prevalent not only in mucosal tissue (genitalia) but also on dry skin of the surrounding abdomen and groin, and it can migrate from those areas into the vagina and the cervix. Additional research efforts by NCI on the effectiveness of condoms in preventing HPV transmission are not warranted.''—Excerpt from a February 19, 1999 letter to House Commerce Committee Chairman Tom Bliley from Dr. Richard D. Klausner, Director of the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

''Recent research shows that condoms (''rubbers'') cannot protect against infection with HPV. This is because HPV can be passed from person to person with any skin-to-skin contact with any HPV-infected area of the body, such as skin of the genital or anal area not covered by the condom. The absence of visible warts cannot be used to decide whether caution is warranted, since HPV can be passed on to another person even when there are no visible warts or other symptoms. HPV can be present for years with no symptoms.''—Excerpt from the American Cancer Society website (www.cancer.org).

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

''The data on the use of barrier methods of contraception to prevent the spread of HPV is controversial but does not support this as an effective method of prevention. . . . Reducing the rate of HPV infection by encouraging changes in the sexual behavior of young people and/or through developing an effective HPV vaccine would reduce the incidence of this disease.''—National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference Statement on Cervical Cancer, April 1–3, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, the reason that is important is we have a breast and cervical cancer treatment bill by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) that is being held up at this time on the basis of the Senate conferees not wanting to agree to the language in that in regards to HPV and cervical cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the body that they would put pressure on their fellow Senators that they might accede to this. The fact is, the reason we have this awareness up is we want women to get treated. This is a disease that is absolutely curable. It is not like breast cancer; we cannot always cure breast cancer.

This disease, if diagnosed properly and treated, is 100 percent curable. Knowledge and the fact that we are allowing a safe sex message of condoms preventing this disease to continue will do nothing but harm women. It will not undermine anybody's position on sexuality or abortion or any other issue. The fact is, it is harmful to women to let that lie continue.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that as we support this, that we remember what we are really talking about is our sisters, our nieces and our daughters in the future that they would be given the knowledge with which to make great decisions, and the knowledge is that a condom does not prevent transmission of this disease. And until young women know that and know that certainly so that they can make a different choice, at least allow the young women in this country the ability to make an informed choice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of this resolution, and I also ask that Congress move on the conference committee on the breast and cervical cancer bill. Public health officials want us to move on the Senate version of the bill. We should not bog this legislation down in this argument that we heard today. We should move forward, pass this legislation, and also move forward and pass the Millender-McDonald resolution

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 64.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 64.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER ON CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4578, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 603 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 603

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 603 is a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 4578, the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2001, and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

The Interior conference report appropriates $18.8 billion in new fiscal year 2001 budget authority, which is $3.9 billion more than the House passed and $2.5 billion above the President's request. Approximately half of this funding, $8.4 billion finances Interior Department programs to manage and study the Nation's animal, plant and mineral resources and to support Indian programs.

Among the Interior agencies receiving increases in this conference report are the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Minerals Management Service and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The balance of the measure's funds support other non-Interior agencies that carry out related functions. These include the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, conservation and fossil programs run by the Department of Energy as well as the Smithsonian Institution and similar cultural organizations.

Notably, the bill includes increased funding $300 million above the President's request, for wildfire readiness, wildfire suppression and the rehabilitation of areas damaged by wildfires this summer.

Finally, I am particularly pleased that the bill appropriates $5 million to be used solely for the reduction of the national debt. Mr. Speaker, although many Members, myself included, have concerns about certain sections of the bill, overall this is a responsible and balanced conference agreement. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the Interior conference report itself.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such as time as I may consume and I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report has come after extensive negotiations to produce a bill that the President can sign. The underlying bill will provide $18.8 billion for fiscal year 2001, $3.9 billion more than the current fiscal year.

The measure will establish a new land legacy trust program which will provide $12 billion over 6 years for land conservation, preservation and maintenance and provides $1.8 billion for efforts to fight forest fires. Moreover, $8 million is slated for the Northeast for the heating oil reserve, a program of critical importance to the Northeast.

I am especially pleased that the conferees provided $105 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, a $7 million increase over fiscal year 2000 and the first increase since fiscal year 1992. We still lack the funding levels that truly reflect the importance of arts to the American people. My colleagues may recall, Mr. Speaker, our earlier efforts to secure the funding increase. I was proud to lead the fight on the House floor and hope that this modest increase sparks a trend for increased funding in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the arts enhance so many facets of our lives from the educational development of our children to the economic growth of our towns and cities. We learn more every day about the ways in which the arts contribute to our children's learning. One recent study showed that children with 4 years of instruction in the arts scored 59 points higher on the verbal portion and 44 points higher on the math portion of the SATs than did students with no art classes.

New research in the area of human brain development shows a strong link between the arts and early childhood development. Obviously, arts education pays great dividends in a wide range of fields, and no other Federal program yields such great rewards on such a small investment.

The investment that we make contributes to a return of $3.4 billion to the Federal Treasury. The arts support 1.3 million jobs all over the country and has revitalized small cities such as Providence, Rhode Island; Rock Hill, South Carolina; and Peekskill, New York.

The conference report also funds the new Women's Progress Commemoration Commission, the provision that I strongly endorse. I sponsored the legislation, established a commission, and was recently elected commission chair. The funding will allow us to fulfill our mandate to identify national sites significant to women's history that we may be in danger of losing due to lack of privatization or other factors.

We will make recommendations to the Secretary of Interior for action to preserve endangered sites. The long-term goal is to further educate the public regarding significant contributions of women in America.

Mr. Speaker, there are still other things that are important in this bill, but I was disappointed to see that the conference report contains language that will undermine the passage of the CARA act, a measure I long supported. The CARA would provide more than $3 billion each year for important conservation and recommend recreation projects. But the conference report contemplates less than half of the funding and at levels similar to recent years. Moreover, CARA would dedicate funds for specific programs each year while the conference report provides no such guarantees.

For more than 30 years, the Committee on Appropriations has failed to provide funds and live up to the promise of existing conservation and recreation programs. Unfortunately, this report provides more of the same.

With those reservations, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on the conference committee for their hard work, particularly for their efforts in regards to the NEA.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), distinguished chairman of the Committee on Resources.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, of course, I rise to oppose the rule, not because the rule is structured incorrectly, because it did not include CARA, as the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) mentioned. Most of my colleagues are aware that this House passed my Conservation Reinvestment Act 315 to 100 some odd votes. That is what the public wants, 5,285 organizations support that legislation.

Unfortunately, the Committee on Interior tried to have ''CARA-lite'' passed, but I again stressed the point that for those that are listening to this program and those on the floor understand this is not CARA. It is, in fact, a