Mr. Speaker, today, the United States has the highest incidence of STDs in the industrialized world—anually it is estimated that 15.4 million Americans acquired a new STD. STDs cause serious, costly, even deadly conditions for women and their children, including infertility, pregnancy complications, cervical cancer, increased mortality, and higher risk of contracting HIV.

This legislation has the potential to save billions in health care costs. Direct cost to the U.S. economy of STDs and HIV infection, is approximately $8.4 billion. When the indirect costs are factored in, the total cost is included in that figure rises to an estimated $20 billion.

With sufficient investment, a microbicide could be available around the world within five years.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support to this vital legislation.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN FOLK LIFE FESTIVAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate the opening of the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival. I commend the Smithsonian Institution for its decision to feature New York City and its rich heritage and diversity. I am delighted that Harlem, the legendary Apollo Theatre, will be showcased by hosting its famous "Amateur Night at the Apollo" on the Mall Saturday, July 7. For the very first time Americans outside of New York will be allowed to be a part of Amateur Night at the Apollo. They will be able to experience the excitement of Amateur Night at the Apollo in the same way that past winners, such as, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, James Brown, and Stevie Wonder did many years ago.

When New Yorkers took the A-train uptown, the first stop was the Apollo. When the downtown musicians wanted to learn how to play jazz they went to the Apollo. When the kids from Brooklyn wanted to learn how to bebop and "lindy hop" they went to the Apollo.

The Apollo stage is where the Godfather of Soul—James Brown, got his soul, where Michael Jackson showed off the moonwalk; and today it provides a showcase for leading hip-hop artists.

The Apollo Theatre was built in 1913, however it was not until 1932 when Sydney Cohen purchased it that it became known as a Black Vaudeville house. This change was reflective of the influx of African-Americans into the area between 135th and 145th streets and the changes in Harlem entertainment. Over the next few decades the Apollo became the place to perform if you were a Black musician. You were not accepted as a serious musician in Harlem until you performed and excelled at the Apollo.

For more than eighty years the Apollo Theatre has been the first home of African-American music, the cultural mecca of Harlem, and the monument to the contributions of Black Americans in the entertainment industry. The Theatre achieved the high point of its popularity in the 1950's when the growing number of jazz fans descended on the Apollo to experience the"street jazz" that was played there. These fans included the great jazz figures of the time, including "Satchmo" Louis Armstrong, "Baby" Edmondson, "Mr. Blues" Louis Jordan, "Cannonball" Adderley and "River" John Lee Hooker. Today the Apollo is still the ultimate jazz club in the world. People of all ages travel from all over the world to experience the "magic" that happens on that stage. This year the Apollo is marking its 80th anniversary with a series of events and special performances. The anniversary events will be capped with a 24-hour jazz concert on June 29th.

I want to join my colleagues in congratulating John Kohr on his significant leadership, strong work ethic and decentralized management style that have helped to mold the company and individuals within it into shining examples for others in the industry to look up to as models for growth and development. He has been the driving force in establishing a record of profitability that is unmatched in the industry statewide.

Just as importantly, John worked to create an environment that trained others so that they could move up in the organization. One has to look no farther than his replacement, Burt Keefer, to see how John's style allowed others to succeed. John has a well-deserved reputation as someone who gives unselfishly and extensively to the industry in which he has made a living for his family. In fact, John earlier this year was honored with the Agri-Business Award for Outstanding Member for his many contributions and dedication to the Agri-Business Association. John's drive for excellence has also extended beyond his profession. He has been very active in many community organizations, volunteering his time and talents for the betterment of his fellow citizens.

Behind every successful businessman, there is always the love and warm support of family. John's wife, Dianne, and their four children, Kathy, Carrie, Susan, and John, have shared in his dreams and worked hard to help him achieve them. A devout Christian, John has been a role model for his children and a loving husband to his wife.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John Kohr on his significant and diverse accomplishments and in wishing him a rewarding retirement. His talent, dedication and enthusiasm will be sorely missed by his former coworkers, but I am confident that he will bring these attributes to all the challenges that lie ahead.

MICROBICIDES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA
OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Microbicides Development Act of 2001". I am pleased to be joined by many of my good friends and colleagues who have signed on as original cosponsors to this legislation. My thanks go to them.

Mr. Speaker, this week the United Nations convened a special session of the U.N. General Assembly to address how to combat the spreading HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We have entered a third decade in the battle against HIV/AIDS. June 5, 1981 marked the first reported case of AIDS by the Centers for Disease Control. Since that time, over 400,000 people have died in the United States. Globally 21.8 million people have died of AIDS.

Tragically, women now represent the fastest growing group of new HIV infections in the United States and women of color are disproportionately at risk. In the developing world women now account for more than half of HIV infections and there is growing evidence that the position of women in developing societies will be a critical factor in shaping the course of the AIDS pandemic.

So what can women do? Women need and deserve access to a prevention method that is within their personal control. Women are the only group of people at risk who are expected to protect themselves without any tools to do so. We must strengthen women's immediate ability to protect themselves—including providing new woman-controlled technologies. One such technology does exist called microbicides.

The Microbicides Development Act of 2001 which I am introducing, will encourage federal investment for this critical research, with the establishment of programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Through the work of the NIH, non-profit research institutions, and the private sector, a number of microbicide products are poised for successful development. But this support is no longer enough for actually getting microbicides through the development "pipeline" and into the hands of the millions who could benefit from them. Microbicides can only be brought to market if the federal government helps support critical safety and efficacy testing.

Health advocates around the world are convinced that microbicides could have a significant impact on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Researchers have identified almost 60 microbicides, topical creams and gels that could be used to prevent the spread of HIV and other STDs such as chlamydia and herpes, but interest in the private sector in microbicides research has been lacking.

According to the Alliance for Microbicide Development, 38 biotech companies, 28 not-for-profit groups and seven public agencies are investigating microbicides. Phase III clinical trials have begun on four of the most promising compounds. The studies will evaluate the compounds' efficacy and acceptability and will include consumer education as part of the compounds' development. However, it will be at least two years before any compound trials are completed.

Currently, the bulk of funds for microbicide research comes from NIH—nearly $25 million per year—and the Global Microbicide Project, which was established with a $35 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. However, more money is needed to bring the microbicides to market. Health advocates have asked NIH to increase the current budget for research to $75 million per year.

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This legislation has the potential to save billions in health care costs. Direct cost to the U.S. economy of STDs and HIV infection, is approximately $8.4 billion. When the indirect costs are factored in, the total cost is included in that figure rises to an estimated $20 billion.

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I urge my colleagues to lend their support to this vital legislation.
of popular Black entertainers were still restricted to performing at Black venues. Acts that have graced the stage include: Bessie Smith in 1935, Count Basie and Billie Holiday in 1937, Sammy Davis, Jr., as a dancer in the Will Mastin Trio in 1947, Bill Cosby in 1968, Prince in 1993, and Fred Hampton in 1997.

The Apollo, located on 125th Street, is the centerpiece of Harlem and one of the main attractions for Harlem visitors. It has become the number one tourist attraction in New York. I am proud to announce that a major $6.5 million revitalization and expansion of the Apollo Theatre is being undertaken, which will make a major contribution to the Harlem community through the transformation of this venue into a major performing arts center.

The renowned Apollo Theatre is a national treasure that has made major contributions to the entertainment industry of this nation. The Theatre was designated a New York City landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

Some might say the Apollo is the home of Black music, but I would say the Apollo is the home of America. I invite everyone to join with me in celebrating The Smithsonian 2001 Folk Life Festival, New York City, and the legendary Apollo Theatre.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN SAFETY ACT OF 2001”

HON. ROB SIMMONS
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, since colonial days a home town of Stonington has been tied to fishing. Today it is the home to Connecticut’s only commercial fishing fleet, and I am proud to be its congressional representative.

Commercial fishing continues to rank as one of the most hazardous occupations in America. According to the United States Coast Guard and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual fatality rate for commercial fishermen is about 150 deaths per 100,000 workers.

In order to increase the level of safety in the fishing industry, the U.S. Coast Guard requires all fishing vessels to carry safety equipment. Required equipment can include a life raft that automatically inflates and floats free should the vessel sink; personal flotation devices or immersion suits; Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB); visual distress signals; and fire extinguishers.

When an emergency arises, safety equipment is priceless. At all other times, the cost of purchasing or maintaining life rafts, immersion suits, and EPIRBs must compete with other expenses such as loan payments, fuel, wages, maintenance, and insurance. Meeting all of these obligations is made more difficult by a regulatory framework that uses measures such as trip limits, days at sea, and gear alterations to manage our marine resources.

Commercial fishermen should not have to choose between safety equipment and other expenses. That’s why I am introducing the “Commercial Fishermen Safety Act of 2001,” which would provide for a tax credit equal to 75 percent of the amount paid by fishermen to purchase or maintain required safety equipment. The tax credit is capped at $1,500 and includes expenses paid or incurred for maintenance of safety equipment required by federal regulation. Sens. Susan Collins (R–ME) and John Kerry (D–MA) have introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

The Commercial Fishermen Safety Act of 2001 could improve safety by giving commercial fishermen more of an incentive to purchase and care for safety equipment. I ask my colleagues to join me in helping commercial fishermen protect themselves while doing their jobs.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT VOLUNTEER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNER, FRED HAMPTON, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

HON. HEATHER WILSON
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak today about a distinguished member of my district who is being honored by an organization, which has had an immeasurable impact on America. Fred Hampton, a retired AT&T employee, is Junior Achievement’s National Volunteer Award of Excellence recipient this year. He has been a Junior Achievement volunteer for six years. During these six years, he has taught 60 classes and spent countless hours furthering the efforts of this organization.

Since moving to New Mexico, Fred has been involved in making JA classes in the education of the area’s students. He regularly volunteers in classes of students with special needs and teaches JA classes in remote locations difficult to reach by others. In addition, his service extends beyond the classroom, as he has helped to recruit bilingual volunteers to teach JA classes in Spanish.

The history of Junior Achievement is a true testament to the indelible human spirit and American ingenuity. Junior Achievement was founded in 1919 by Horace Moses, Theodore Vail, and Senator Murray Crane of Massachusetts, as a collection of small, after-school business clubs for students in Springfield, Massachusetts.

As the rural-to-city exodus of the populace accelerated in the early 1900s, so too did the demand for workforce preparation and entrepreneurship. Junior Achievement students were taught how to think and plan for a business, acquire supplies and talent, build their own products, advertise, and sell. With the financial support of companies and individuals, Junior Achievement recruited numerous sponsoring agencies such as the New England Rotarians, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, the YMCA, local churches, playground associations and schools to provide meeting places for its growing ranks of interested students.

In a few short years JA students were competing in regional expositions and trade fairs and rubbing elbows with top business leaders. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge hosted a reception on the White House lawn to kick off a national fundraising drive for Junior Achievement. By the late 1920s, there were nearly 800 JA Clubs with some 9,000 Achievers in 13 cities in Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Today, through the efforts of more than 100,000 volunteers in the classrooms of America, Junior Achievement reaches more than four million students in grades K–12 per year. JA International takes the free enterprise message of hope and opportunity even further to more than 1.5 million students in 111 countries. Junior Achievement has been an influential part of many of today’s successful entrepreneurs and business leaders. Junior Achievement’s success is truly the story of America—the fact that one idea can influence and benefit many lives.

Mr. President, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Fred Hampton of Albuquerque, New Mexico for his outstanding service to Junior Achievement and the students of New Mexico. I am proud to have him as a member of my district and proud of his accomplishment.