

and correctional health, public aid, and substance abuse treatment providers was also identified as a pressing need.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

The plan calls on federal, state, and local lawmakers to expand government support for AIDS housing services. In particular, the plan calls for increased funding for: State and federal short-term rental assistance programs designed to promote housing stability by assisting individuals to meet a short-term financial crisis, such as unmet healthcare, utility, housing-related costs, or temporary job displacement; Federal transitional housing services for those who have been recently released from correctional institutions, hospitals, and treatment facilities; Long-term subsidized permanent housing with off-site supportive services for those capable of living independently, but on fixed incomes; Local, state, and federal programs designed to stimulate development of affordable housing and auxiliary support services.

HOW TO ACCESS AND USE THE PLAN

AFC and members of its Housing Committee will use the plan to advocate for increased public and private spending on housing services and expanded community involvement in the planning and organization of AIDS housing services. AFC and Housing Committee members will pursue strategies to implement each of the plan's recommendations and will carefully monitor and assess progress meeting these goals.

The plan is a rich resource of information for service providers, policymakers, and service planners about the need for and availability of AIDS housing services. Extensive feedback from HIV-positive people on service needs and preferences provides an especially important perspective for AIDS service providers. The plan is an excellent resource for policymakers and students about the continuum of housing services established to respond to the needs of people with HIV/AIDS.

The plan is available for download at AFC's website: www.aidschicago.org. Sections of the plan are also available separately. To receive a printed version of the plan, contact AFC Housing Manager Norma Samame at 312-922-2322 ext. 504 or at nsamame@aidshicago.org.

ABOUT THE AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

Established in 1985 to provide central leadership in the fight against the epidemic, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago promotes sound HIV/AIDS public policy, funds HIV/AIDS prevention and care projects, and, through its 135-member Service Providers Council, helps to coordinate the delivery of essential HIV/AIDS services.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT MEN AND WOMEN OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HAVE DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB OF DELIVERING THE MAIL DURING THIS TIME OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 257 and to honor the outstanding service provided by the men and women of the United States Postal Service since the terrorist attacks of September 11. I wish to express special appreciation for all

postal workers and their dedication to the mission of the Postal Service during this time of national crisis. Even as our homeland was besieged by terrorist attacks and devastating tragedy the United States mail service continued.

United States Postal Service workers are the unsung heroes of this nation. Come rain, snow, sleet, and now the threat of anthrax exposure our mail continues to be delivered with minimal interruption. Two postal workers have given their lives, four workers have contracted inhalation anthrax, and another three have contracted cutaneous anthrax and still our U.S. mail delivery continues. Who would have ever thought that these conscientious postal workers who were committed to doing their jobs would be front line warriors in this war against terrorism?

It is our duty in the Congress to ensure the safety and well being of these courageous and patriotic postal workers, just as we ensure the safety and well being of other federal employees.

As a nation we must salute the fine work of our postal workers and not take for granted their commitment to the mission of our United States Postal Service.

NORTHERN BORDER SECURITY

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, today I join a number of my colleagues in urging President Bush to address the severe shortage of inspectors along the Northern Border. This shortage is detrimental to individuals and businesses that operate across the border, and leaves our nation vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

The Northern Border is currently not secure. There are too many understaffed and unmanned points of entry to maintain security. While there are 128 points of entry along the Northern Border, only 64 are staffed 24 hours a day. When unmanned, many are "secured" simply by placing cones or signs in the road. That is hardly an adequate deterrent.

Although the Northern Border accounts for a little more than 40 percent of the points of entry into the United States, only 14 percent of Customs agents are currently assigned there. Clearly we need to increase the number of Customs agents and deploy significantly more resources on the U.S./Canadian Border.

While I am very concerned about security, I also know the impact that unmanned border crossings are having on business. Closed crossing points mean that trucks have to travel far out of their way to cross. The reduced numbers of open points of entry means longer lines, inconveniencing those crossing for business or pleasure.

I will be supporting an effort by Representative OBEY to add \$145 million to the Defense Appropriations/Supplemental bill to fulfill the U.S. Customs Service's emergency request for an additional 800 border security guards in the wake of the September 11 tragedy. It is unconscionable that we would not meet this need to ensure security along the Northern Border and provide Americans with the service they need to be able to conduct cross-border business and visits.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2500, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FY 02 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Conference Report. As chairman of the House Science Committee, I have jurisdiction over authorizing many pieces of this bill, including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Technology Administration.

All in all, this is a solid bill and I want to thank Chairman WOLF, Ranking Member SERRANO and their staff for their hard work and willingness to work with me and my staff.

I am particularly pleased with the level of funding provided for environmental conservation and education programs within NOAA. I am also pleased that this bill funds the Advanced Technology Program at NIST. That program is especially important today, in these difficult economic times, when the private sector is less willing to invest in new technology.

I am disappointed, though, that this bill doesn't more closely reflect the funding provided for some programs in the original House mark. For example, there are several programs at NIST that improve computer security and the protection of our nation's critical infrastructure that are especially important today as our nation faces the threat of terrorism. But while those programs were funded in the House bill, they have been cut in this one.

This bill provides \$3.25 billion for NOAA, which is about \$200 million more than last year and about \$200 million above the President's request. A total of nearly \$440 million of that goes for the Ocean, Coastal and Waterway Conservation Programs. These funds are critical because, today, our nation's coasts are more important, and yet they are more threatened than ever before.

One area of major concern for the Science Committee is climate change. I am pleased this bill provides \$150 million for climate change research and activities, including nearly \$8 million for the ARGO project. The ARGO float project is an international effort to provide researchers with critical information and lead to the better understanding of the role of oceans in climate. It also includes \$70 million as NOAA's contribution to the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

The bill provides \$15 million desperately needed for critical computer upgrades at NOAA and new supercomputer capabilities for the National Weather Service and for climate research. The bill also provides full funding for the new polar satellite program (NPOESS). These efforts will give our scientists and weather forecasters the tools to improve predictions and forecasts, which have a tremendous impact on our nation's economy and future.

And finally, I'd like to say a word about improving education, one of my main goals since becoming chairman. I want to thank Mr. WOLF and Mr. SERRANO for fully funding the many important education and outreach programs in