

My question is, is NIH ever planning on doing a study using the only proper control group, that is, never vaccinated children?

Dr. FOOTE. I am not aware of—but note carefully what I said, that I am not aware of—proposed study to use a suitably constructed group of never vaccinated children. Now CDC would be more likely perhaps to be aware of such an opportunity.

Dr. BOYLE. The study that I mentioned earlier that we are doing in collaboration with Denmark compares children who received the MMR vaccine versus children who did not receive MMR.

Ms. MINTZ. But I am saying never vaccinated with any vaccine. That assumes that vaccines don't cause autism, which is what needs to be studied, not assumed.

Mr. SHAYS. Let me just say that if you would turn off your mic, I am happy to have you do the followup, if you would respond to it.

Ms. MINTZ. I'm sorry.

Mr. SHAYS. No, you don't need to apologize. And we will go to the next. Do you have any other comment based on that? The point that is being made, any vaccination. Could we just suggest that you take this under advisement?

Ms. WHARTON. The difficulty with doing such a study in the United States, of course, is that a very small portion of children have never received any vaccines, and these children probably differ in other ways from vaccinated children. So performing such a study would, in fact, be quite difficult.

The Denmark study was a study that, in fact, could not have been done in the United States, although, of course, these children did potentially receive some other vaccines, but simply hadn't received MMR.

Mr. SHAYS. I will invite anyone who is here to speak to staff or me afterwards if they want to augment a comment.

HONORING DAWN SHANNON

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dawn Shannon, who has been selected by FOR Special Friends, Inc. as the recipient of the 13th Annual Sheriff's Community Service Award.

From 1972 to 2002, Mrs. Shannon was a vital part of the Shrewsbury Parks and Recreation Department in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. During her 30-year career, she helped to make the Department one of the best in the State, providing recreational activities for students, adults, and those with special needs.

Through her dedication, and the devotion of the late Paula Rourke, many residents with special needs joined basketball teams, learned to throw a softball, and were able to learn the joy of being a member of a team—many for the first time. She organized Christmas parties, dances, sleepovers, and Valentine socials. Busloads would leave the Shrewsbury Town Hall for Boston's duck tours in the summer and skiing at Ward Hill in the winter.

The program also supported Special Olympics and helped provide uniforms and celebration banquets. An advocate for "Stepping Stones Community Theatre" and a member of the Board of FOR Special Friends, Inc., Dawn's energy never seems to fade when working for the special needs community.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in

congratulating Dawn Shannon for her stellar work for the residents of the Town of Shrewsbury and wishes her the best of luck and happiness in all her future endeavors.

WORLD HUNGER

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is World Food Day. As Americans, we all enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world, and we derive much of our strength as a Nation based upon this fact. Yet in many areas of the world, poverty, and the resultant hunger, remains a serious problem that deserves our attention.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "the Progress in reducing world hunger has virtually come to a halt . . . and unless trends are sharply reversed, the world will be very far from reaching the World Food Summit 1996 goal, to reduce the number of hungry by half by 2015."

It is imperative that we act to counter this trend. It is wrong for a child anywhere in the world to suffer the crippling effects of, or, as happens to close to 6 million children each year, who die from hunger. It is appalling that close to 800 million people are malnourished, and indeed many are on the verge of starvation. It is wrong for us to sit idly by and accept this as fact.

We must also recognize that it is in our self interest to fight hunger. The plague of AIDS and other threats to health is not confined to international borders; it would be foolish and naive of us to think that we are immune to the effects of hunger. Furthermore, much of the political instability is rooted in poverty and hunger is rarely confined to any single nation.

Every year national, regional and international World Food Day events are organized around the world. These activities, including those of the World Hunger Year, brings long overdue attention to the problems surrounding the international fight against hunger, and the practical solutions available to our winning the fight against hunger. This is a fight that can be won if we all work together.

MEDICARE COVERAGE OF DIABETES SCREENING

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a serious, debilitating, chronic illness that afflicts more than 17 million Americans, including seven million Medicare beneficiaries. This sometimes silent disease causes many serious complications, including heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney failure and lower limb amputation. Unfortunately, more than one-third of people with diabetes won't realize they have it until they develop one of these deadly complications.

Diabetes imposes an enormous financial burden on our health care system. More than 25 percent of the Medicare budget is currently

devoted to providing medical care to seniors living with diabetes. Congress recognized the need to address this problem when it required Medicare coverage of blood-glucose monitors and diabetes education services in the Balanced Budget Act. While this was a positive development in our fight against diabetes, it has done little to help us diagnose and treat the 2.3 million seniors who do not know they have the disease.

While diabetes is sometimes a silent disease, the risk factors are often obvious. Diabetes is prevalent among individuals who are overweight, aging, and lead a sedentary lifestyle. Other health conditions, such as gestational diabetes, high cholesterol, and hypertension often lead to diabetes. It is also more common in certain racial and ethnic groups, including Hispanics, African Americans, and certain Native Americans. Additionally, 20 percent of Medicare beneficiaries have pre-diabetes, which if left untreated, will develop into diabetes.

Currently, Medicare does not cover diabetes screening, even if a patient has some of these risk factors. We must amend the Medicare program to ensure that individuals get treatment before it's too late. By testing high-risk individuals, we will be able to diagnose and treat individuals earlier on, and subsequently prevent many complications. Studies have shown that people with pre-diabetes can prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes by up to 58% through lifestyle interventions, including modest weight loss and increased physical activity.

That is why I am introducing this legislation, which would require Medicare to cover diabetes screening under Part B. Diagnosing diabetes and pre-diabetes through testing, would improve the lives of our nation's seniors and prevent an increase over the already huge amount of the Medicare budget devoted to seniors with diabetes. In addition to improving the health and quality of life for millions of Americans, extending coverage to cover simple testing would save Medicare money in the long run by lowering the incidence of complications.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

HONORING THE HEROISM OF MIKE McGEHEE OF RED BUD, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroism of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Freshman Mike McGehee of Red Bud, Illinois for saving the lives of his fellow students during a tragic fire in their Cougar Village apartment on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Early Saturday morning, October 12, 2002, Campus police received a call that a fire was underway at the Cougar Village Student apartment complex. The fire started at about 4:40 a.m. in the kitchen of Apartment 1B on the lower floor in the complex. Mike McGehee and his roommates were upstairs in Apartment 2C. Mike, normally a sound sleeper according to his parents Len and Ruth McGehee, woke up