

time and money discovering and eliminating the environmental causes of breast cancer. Her conviction to educate the public on the environmental links to breast cancer inspired the CDC bio-monitoring legislation that I sponsored.

Andrea “climbed against the odds,” literally and figuratively. Leading other survivors in the extraordinary mountain-climbing expeditions of Mt. Aconcagua in the Andes, Alaska’s Mt. McKinley, and Japan’s Mt. Fuji, she helped increase public awareness and raised over a million dollars for breast cancer research. She taught us that “working together with daring, dedication and determination, we can not only climb mountains one step at a time, but we can move them.”

Andrea helped change how we talk and think about breast cancer—from a private challenge to a public health crisis that must be surmounted. She fought her battles like a fierce warrior, but lived her life with serenity and grace.

To Andrea’s husband, Richard Gelernter, her daughter, Mather, her father and step-mother, Irwin and Becky Ravinett, and to all her family and friends, thank you so much for sharing Andrea with us, and with the countless breast cancer survivors who relied on her indomitable spirit. As Andrea’s friend and colleague, Wanna Wright, so movingly wrote, “her vision, like light, illuminated our lives.”

THE CHILD CARE LENDING PILOT
ACT OF 2003

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an important issue for many working families in this country—access to affordable childcare.

As all parents know, quality childcare is very hard to find, and it is also very expensive. It is especially expensive for families with low and moderate incomes. According to the Children’s Defense Fund, childcare for a four-year-old child averages between \$4,000 and \$6,000 per year in cities and states around the nation.

With so many families comprised of two parents who are working, the need for childcare has increased dramatically over the last few years, and we as a nation need to ensure that the children of these hardworking Americans have a safe, reliable, and moderately priced place to learn and grow.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons that I am pleased to introduce today, with over

twenty-five of my colleagues, the “Child Care Lending Pilot Act of 2003.” This legislation will create a three-year pilot program that allows small, non-profit childcare businesses to access financing through the Small Business Administration’s Certified Development Company (CDC)/504 loan program.

As a Ranking Member of the House Committee on Small Business, I believe the SBA’s 504 loan program is the perfect vehicle to expand the availability of affordable, quality childcare in this country.

Currently, only for-profit childcare businesses are eligible for 504 loans, yet in many states, the majority of childcare is delivered through nonprofit providers. In addition, nonprofits are often the only daycare providers in low-income communities.

Mr. Speaker, The Child Care Lending Pilot Act will provide licensed nonprofit childcare providers access to desperately needed funding to start new centers with loan dollars that may not ordinarily be available without the incentive of a guarantee from the SBA.

The 504 program is an appropriate vehicle for this initiative because it was created to spur economic development and rebuild communities.

Financing through the 504 program will encourage the establishment and viability of childcare businesses because the program requires the borrower to only put down between 10–20 percent of the loan, with fixed interest rates for up to 20 years.

Furthermore, the borrowers and lenders who participate in the 504 program cover the costs through program fees, which means there is no appropriation required to cover these loans.

Mr. Speaker, our children, all of our, children, deserve the same quality of care no matter where they live, and I know that this legislation is a strong step in leveling the playing field for parents in low-income communities who simply wish the best for their children.

I hope that my colleagues would support this effort, and ensure that affordable childcare is available to all families.

TRIBUTE TO THE NASHUA LIONS
CLUB

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Nashua Lions Club in recognition of their 80th anniversary on September 22 of this year.

Eighty-six years ago, insurance executive Melvin Jones and his fellow business associates gathered and formed Lions International. Originally, the Lions International was formed to perform humanitarian service. In 1925, Helen Keller spoke at one of their conventions where she challenged Lions International to become her “Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness.” From this time, Lions clubs have been actively involved in service to the blind and visually impaired.

In the fall of 1923, a similar group of Nashua business leaders gathered at the old YMCA and were chartered as the Nashua Lions Club. The men and women of the Nashua Lions have since heeded the call of Helen Keller and have lived by the Lions motto “We Serve.”

This year marks an important milestone for the Nashua Lions Club. For the past 80 years, the Nashua Lions has served the greater Nashua community by raising over \$1 million that has gone to purchase eye examinations, eye glasses, eye surgery, and hearing aids for needy children and adults.

But the true measure of their impact on Nashua is not in the dollars they have raised, but in the many lives they have touched.

During the last year and with the help of the New KidSight camera, the Nashua Lions have tested more children between the ages of 3 months and 4 years than any club in the entire state.

In the early 1950s, the Nashua Lions led by former Mayor Mario Vagge built the Friendship Club—a place for handicapped Nashua residents to go and socialize. The club is still in use today and has been a home away from home for many, including the famous author Richard Chaput of Nashua.

Whether working with school nurses, local hospitals, Lions Camp Pride, Camp Carefree, or the Lions Haunted House, the Nashua Lions have responded to Helen Keller’s call to service.

In addition to their numerous community and charity efforts, the Nashua Lions have also provided leadership to the entire Lions International Organization. During their 80 year history, Nashua has had three district Governors: Clifford Sloan, Joseph Bielawski, and most recently Edward Lecius.

Mr. Speaker, the Nashua Lions are a true example of America’s volunteer spirit. Their leadership, compassion, and hard work have helped make the Gate City a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. It is with great pleasure that I rise to express my thanks and congratulations for their 80 years of devoted services to their community and state.