

focus on the rights and welfare of workers and their families. His ascension through the union ranks is reflected by the numerous successes for members, including the protection and promotion of workers' safety, compensation, benefits and pensions.

Mr. Chilia created strong bonds of trust and respect throughout the union community and was elected to the office of Business Manager of the Cleveland Electrical JATC. His expertise and commitment has been sought out nationally as well. In 2001, Mr. Chilia was elected as a member of the 36th Annual IBEW International Convention's executive council, representing members in the areas of construction, manufacturing, broadcasting, utilities, maintenance and railroad workers. Beyond his service to workers, Mr. Chilia has a deep and abiding dedication to his family and community. Mr. Chilia and his wife, Arlene, maintain an unbreakable focus on their children and grandchildren. His love for children extends outward into the community, where he is actively involved in children's charities, including the Children's Museum of Cleveland and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Golf Tournament.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Salvatore J. Chilia, upon this worthy tribute by the State of Israel Bonds, for his outstanding service on behalf of the workers of our Cleveland community and beyond. His work continues to serve as a shield of strength, protecting the heart of our nation—the American worker.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1817) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment introduced by my distinguished colleague from the great State of New Jersey, the Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ. This amendment will help keep Congress informed of the Department of Homeland Security's strategies to protect the people of New Jersey, our nation's most densely populated state—in particular, those who live and work in the high-risk, terrorist target-rich neighborhoods that lie between Port Elizabeth and Newark International Airport.

This is a matter of vital importance both for the people of New Jersey and for all Americans. The threat of terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure in the United States has hardly subsided since September 11th, 2001. Northern New Jersey is an integral part of the largest metropolitan region in the nation, home to major rail networks; oil refineries, pipelines and fuel storage facilities; major airports; communication hubs; and a highway system that includes I-95, the most heavily traveled traffic corridor on the East Coast. Indeed, this metropolitan region has already been the subject of the deadliest terrorist attack in American history, and the more than 12 million individuals who reside or work inside the 14-mile radius of this nerve center deserve assurances that their government is taking all appropriate measures to protect them from future terrorist incidents.

I support the amendment introduced by Mr. MENENDEZ not out of parochial if entirely justifiable concern for the residents and workers of this sensitive area of northern New Jersey; I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment because it truly addresses vital issues of national security. The Port of New York and New Jersey is the largest on the East Coast of the United States, with products and goods being funneled through its chokepoint to destinations all over the United States.

As my colleague Mr. MENENDEZ has noted, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has dubbed the area between Port Newark and Newark International Airport the "most dangerous two miles in the United States when it comes to terrorism." I rise in support of the amendment offered by Mr. MENENDEZ and I urge all of my distinguished colleagues to support it.

SUPPORTING THE FIRST ANNUAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the First Annual Asian Pacific American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. As Chair of the Health Task Force for the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and as the Delegate from Guam, which ranks fourth in the Pacific Region in the number of HIV/AIDS cases, I am deeply concerned about the impact of HIV/AIDS in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

While Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders together with Native Americans reportedly

account for approximately 1 percent of new AIDS cases, the true impact of HIV/AIDS on the AAPI community is not fully understood because of the lack of data and information as well as a common misperception among the health professions that AAPIs are a healthier population than other minority groups.

Many view the Asian American and Pacific Islander population as the "model minority," a stereotype that feeds the mistaken belief that AAPIs are less at-risk for HIV/AIDS as other ethnic minorities. The reality is that AAPIs are as much at-risk as other ethnic groups and in fact, have higher rates of many preventable diseases that are co-factors to HIV infection such as tuberculosis and Hepatitis B. In addition, the reported number of HIV/AIDS cases among AAPIs is misleading due to a lack of detailed HIV surveillance, underreporting and misclassification of cases. Yet, the little data that does exist, points to increasing HIV rates within the AAPI population.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate a 25 percent increase in the number of AAPI AIDS cases from 1999 through 2002. As one of the fastest growing ethnic groups, made up of over 49 ethnicities and 100 languages and with annual growth rates among Asian ethnicities as high as 115 percent, effective HIV prevention and education programs which utilize culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies are urgently needed. These programs must also be supported at the federal level through changes in funding guidelines and requirements that take these factors into account.

Pacific Island jurisdictions such as my district of Guam face additional challenges due to their remote location. These communities lack the infrastructure, capacity, equipment and training to deliver HIV/AIDS services. In addition, these jurisdictions lack community-based services and support found on the mainland. Prevention, testing, treatment and care depends on the local public health departments, many of which do not have the staff or funding resources to provide more than basic services. As a result, a diagnosis of AIDS usually means the patient will need to leave the island in order to receive proper care. Yet some choose to remain because of cultural and familial ties, sacrificing proper health care. No one should have to make such a choice.

Today, as we observe Asian Pacific American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, we must take this opportunity to educate and motivate our communities to advocate for resources to support initiatives that address these issues. I look forward to working with the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in support of these efforts.