

September will be International Gaucher Awareness Month, and because it is important that people know more about this disease and how to combat it, I take the occasion to insert here an article from the publication *Spotlight On Health* that provides important information about this disease.

Gaucher Disease predominately affects Jewish people of Eastern European descent—Ashkenazim—and the foundation notes that a large majority of those most susceptible to the disease remain unaware of it. This makes their work particularly important as part of our overall effort to give people the tools with which they can protect their health, and I ask that the article from *Spotlight On Health* about Gaucher Disease be printed here, in time for International Gaucher Disease Awareness Month.

GAUCHER DISEASE: LEARNING THE TRUTH

(NAPS)—A simple test could help diagnose and treat a genetic disease that can cause severe debilitation. Yet nine out of 10 people most at risk for the condition do not even know it exists.

The condition, called Gaucher disease, can affect all people, but is primarily seen in Jewish populations of Eastern European descent. The carrier rate for these people may be as high as one in 15 and the rate of the disease in the general population is believed to be about one in 100 to 200 people. If both parents carry the disease, the odds of a child being born with it are one in four.

Gaucher disease is passed down from parent to child and can occur at any age. Signs and symptoms can include:

- Fatigue
- Unusual bruising
- Bleeding episodes
- An enlarged abdomen
- Bone pain.

Although the disease can be devastating, it can often be managed. However, people must first be aware of the condition, which many are not. "A survey showed that 90 percent of the Jewish population is unaware of Gaucher disease. That means many people may be symptomatic and have no idea that they even have the disease," says Rhonda Buyers, National Gaucher Foundation Executive Director. "The good news is that, unlike other genetic conditions, Gaucher disease is treatable and can be diagnosed with the use of a simple blood test."

Buyers says that lack of awareness about Gaucher disease extends to physicians as well. In fact, a survey found that four of five blood specialists suspected leukemia or lymphoma when presented with the signs and symptoms of Gaucher disease.

Her group is working to change that. Not only does The National Gaucher Foundation fund research intended to cure Gaucher disease, it also works to promote physician and community awareness about the condition (September is Gaucher Awareness Month). At the same time, the foundation helps meet the needs of patients and families affected by Gaucher.

People interested in information on Gaucher disease testing or who want to learn more about the disease's symptoms can visit the group's Web site, www.gaucher-disease.org.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased that the report accompanying H.R. 5672, the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of FY 2007, has directed funding under the COPS Methamphetamine Enforcement and Clean-up account for the Tennessee Meth Educational Program.

Tennessee Tech University will use this funding to design and implement the meth educational program in keeping with President Bush's National Drug Control Strategy, which aims to reduce all drugs in the United States by 25 percent within 5 years.

Some schools in Tennessee have begun implementing educational programs in public schools designed to stop meth abuse. However, in many cases, there have not been effective follow-up programs for classroom teachers, school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, and administrators. And, school counselors report that methamphetamine abuse is an inhibiting factor in the personal and educational development of their students—whether or not their school has had a methamphetamine program. To address these issues, Tennessee Tech University will develop an in-service program for public middle and high school personnel in 15 counties (17 school districts) to: review the symptoms and identification of meth use; explain the hazards of meth abuse for children; and examine how to utilize reporting procedures (such as those involving the school field officers) and legal consultation.

Since 1999, the number of meth labs in Tennessee has increased by more than 500 percent. Last year, Tennessee accounted for 75 percent of all meth lab seizures in the Southeast. Only three states nationwide had more meth lab seizures in 2005. Many of the worst effects of meth are felt by the children involved. Children taken from active meth labs are separated from adult family members and sometimes from siblings, and cannot even keep their toys or clothing for comfort. In addition, children often must be taken to the hospital to test for exposure to a variety of toxic substances. In 2004, Tennessee was forced to place more than 700 children of meth users in state custody.

I am pleased that Tennessee Tech University will be collaborating with schools in Tennessee to address this critical problem, and I am very grateful to the Appropriations Committee for directing this important funding to Tennessee Tech University.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 10, 2006, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 358 and 359. The votes I missed included motions to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2463 and H.R. 5061 respectively. The former authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, while the latter is the Paint Bank and Wytheville National Fish Hatcheries Conveyance Act.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 358 and 359.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2006, I missed the following rollcall votes due to an emergency landing in Denver, CO, en route to Washington DC:

(1) Rollcall vote No. 358, H.R. 2563: To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and for other purposes.

(2) Rollcall vote No. 359, H.R. 5061: Paint Bank and Wytheville National Fish Hatcheries Conveyance Act (15 minutes).

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" to rollcall vote No. 358, and "yes" to rollcall vote No. 359.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COMMANDER WILLIAM MILNE OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander William J. Milne for his service to the United States House of Representatives and his continued service to our country in the United States Coast Guard.

Commander Milne was assigned as the Coast Guard liaison officer to the United States House of Representatives in July 2003, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with him. In my leadership roles on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and in numerous other venues, my staff and I have often relied on Commander Milne's knowledge and understanding of the operational missions, the current day-to-day challenges, and the roles and responsibilities of the United States Coast Guard.

While Commander Milne began his House career 3 years ago as the chief of the Coast