

(1) To State and local health and disability agencies for the purpose of—

(A) establishing paralysis registries for the support of relevant population-based research;

(B) developing comprehensive paralysis and other physical disability action plans and activities focused on the items listed in subsection (b)(4);

(C) assisting State-based programs in establishing and implementing partnerships and collaborations that maximize the input and support of people with paralysis and other physical disabilities and their constituent organizations;

(D) coordinating paralysis and physical disability activities with existing State-based disability and health programs;

(E) providing education and training opportunities and programs for health professionals and allied caregivers; and

(F) developing, testing, evaluating, and replicating effective intervention programs to maintain or improve health and quality of life.

(2) To nonprofit private health and disability organizations for the purpose of—

(A) disseminating information to the public;

(B) improving access to services for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities and their caregivers;

(C) testing model intervention programs to improve health and quality of life; and

(D) coordinating existing services with State-based disability and health programs.

(d) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that activities under this section are coordinated as appropriate with other activities of the Public Health Service.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than December 1, 2007, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report describing the results of the study under subsection (a) and, as applicable, the national plan developed under subsection (b)(1).

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated in the aggregate \$25,000,000 for the fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) as science and research have advanced, so too has the need to increase strategic planning across the National Institutes of Health to identify research that is important to the advancement of biomedical science; and

(2) research involving collaboration among the national research institutes and national centers of the National Institutes of Health is crucial for advancing research on paralysis and thereby improving rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities.

Mr. BARTON of Texas (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Texas?

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, reserving an objection at this time, again I was going to ask the chairman, the version I have now is December 8 at 5:25 p.m. Does that include the amendment that the gentleman now proposed? Or is this something new?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Yes.

Mr. PALLONE. So the amendment that you proposed would be the version that I have now for December 8 at 5:25 p.m.?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Yes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1554, the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act, legislation that will enhance paralysis research and improve the lives of people suffering from mobility impairments caused by disease or accident.

I first introduced the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act in 2003 after meeting with the extraordinary man for whom this bill is named. Christopher Reeve told me how dramatically the accident that left him paralyzed changed his life and forced him to completely depend on others for his everyday needs.

What impressed me so much about Christopher was not only his strength and courage in dealing with what only people similarly situated can understand, but his resolve and determination to one day walk again and help others who shared his condition. And though Chris never walked again before his death, he and his wife Dana, who also has since so tragically passed away, pushed to the national forefront the issue of the need for better research into paralysis and greater emphasis on rehabilitation. This bill is part of their legacy.

The substitute amendment offered to the bill this evening represents a significant step forward in our efforts to find a cure for paralysis and mobility impairment. The amendment authorizes grants through the Department of Health and Human Services to expand research on paralysis, better coordinate that research, and intensify efforts to translate clinical research into progress on rehabilitation and improving the quality-of-life of people with paralysis and mobility impairment.

The bill will encourage the development of unique programs through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the quality of life and long-term health status of persons with paralysis and other physical disabilities. CDC grants could be used to help states develop coordinated services to assist people with paralysis or for non-profit organizations to improve access to important services and better integrate people with paralysis into society.

It is my hope that efforts in these areas ultimately will help translate clinical research into evidence-based best practices for treating paralysis and improving quality-of-life for mobility-impaired individuals.

Finally, the amendment renames the bill the Christopher and Dana Reeve Quality of Life for Persons with Paralysis Act, to appropriately recognize the tireless efforts of both Chris and Dana Reeve, both of whom were taken from this Earth much too soon.

There is no question that this bill is desperately needed. Though Christopher Reeve was certainly one of the most vocal and visible advocates for people affected by paralysis, he fought for many more who shared his condition. And while there are tremendous economic costs associated with disability caused by paralysis, we cannot begin to measure the impact that this condition has on those living

with paralysis and on those who love and care for them.

Before I conclude, I want to thank Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman JOE BARTON and Health Subcommittee Chairman NATHAN DEAL, both for their willingness to move forward on this bill and for their leadership on issues important to so many of us. I am proud to have worked with you both for so many years and wish you well as you continue your service in Congress.

I also want to thank full Committee Ranking Member JOHN DINGELL, Subcommittee Ranking Member SHERRON BROWN, and the majority and minority committee staffs for their work on this measure, especially Randy Pate of the majority staff and Cheryl Jaeger of Majority Whip BLUNT's staff. I also would be remiss if I did not thank several former staffers of mine, Steve Tilton, Jeremy Allen, and Jeanne Haggerty, for their previous work on this bill. The work of all of these dedicated people has led us to where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, we clearly need to better focus and enhance our national effort to cure paralysis and improve the lives of people who suffer from mobility impairment. The passage and enactment of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Quality of Life for Persons with Paralysis Act will be another critical step toward helping millions of Americans walk again, and carrying on the fight that Christopher and Dana Reeve fought so valiantly. I urge all of our colleagues to support it.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 6164, H.R. 5280, H.R. 5472, H.R. 1245, S. 3718, S. 1608, S. 3678, S. 707, H.R. 6143, H.R. 1554, S. 3546, S. 2563, S. 4092 and H. Res. 335, and to insert extraneous material on the bills.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE TAX CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6429) to treat payments by charitable organizations with respect to certain firefighters as exempt payments, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 6429

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,