

the responsibility for the health of their populations. I am pleased that this bill invests more in health infrastructure and the training of healthcare professionals. In addition, I am pleased that the bill recognizes the important role played by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in empowering countries to address their own health problems.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has ravaged the world, especially the African continent, and shows no signs of slowing down. While U.S.-funded HIV/AIDS prevention programs reached 57 million people last year alone, new infections are on the rise. It is essential that we renew our focus on prevention efforts, including key work on preventing mother-to-child transmission. Additionally, we must provide the flexibility to respond to the needs of the communities served including through the removal of the abstinence earmark in this bill, which I applaud.

While I believe this bill represents the strong bipartisan commitment of Congress to combating these epidemics, I am disappointed that the bill took a step backwards in the struggle for poor women to receive access to critical family planning services. A provision in the bill could be interpreted to limit, for the first time and contrary to current practice, the types of family planning programs that would be eligible for PEPFAR funding. I understand this was not the intent of the Committee and hope that this issue can be addressed during conference.

I commend Congressman BERMAN and Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for crafting a bipartisan bill that will save millions of lives. It truly honors the legacy of our great colleagues, Congressman LANTOS and Congressman HYDE.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, in December 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring April 2 as the annual World Autism Awareness Day (WARD). Autism is only the third disorder to be recognized in this manner by the UN, showing the pervasive nature of autism and its ever-increasing effect on millions of people worldwide. As the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Health Care Caucus, I recognize the destructive force that is autism and I am proud to recognize Worldwide Autism Awareness Day in order to raise awareness of this life-altering and little known disorder.

Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that autism now afflicts one in every 150 American children and nearly one in 94 boys. These numbers are extremely disconcerting, especially when coupled with the fact that we know little about the root causes of autism.

By raising public awareness of autism, hopefully more money will be allocated to research and develop cures and treatments. I am leading an effort to increase the funding

for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Increasing NIH funding offers the best hope we have to finding cures and treatments for diseases and disorders like autism. Collectively, we must commit every available resource to all research in order to enhance the quality of life for many, and it is my hope that raising awareness of this disorder will lead to new resources to combat it.

More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with diabetes, cancer, and AIDS combined and autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the world. While currently there is no medical detection or cure for autism, early diagnosis and intervention shows much promise. With increased support for autism awareness, together we will offer hope in an area that desperately needs it. And finally Madam Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues to join us in this fight, to fund NIH medical research and bring hope to children and their families.

CONGRATULATING ENVIRONMENTALIST ROSA "CISSIE" DURANDO FOR BEING NAMED A STATE OF FLORIDA POINT OF LIGHT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa "Cissie" Durando, a legendary environmentalist in Palm Beach County, Florida.

I have known "Cissie" Durando since coming to Congress in 1993. As an officer in the Audubon Society and on her own, Rosa has been actively dedicated to the preservation of our environment for nearly 50 years. Her knowledge of all things ecological, her honesty, diligence and determination combine to make her an invaluable resource to everyone concerned about protecting our water, air and land and the flora and fauna with which we cohabit our planet.

Over the course of her life, Rosa has accrued awards too numerous to mention. Now, her work has been recognized again by Florida Governor Charlie Crist, who has named her a "Point of Light" during Environmental Awareness Month.

I am pleased to join Governor Crist, Rosa's family, friends and huge numbers of admirers in celebrating her much deserved award, and I look forward to her continued contributions to the education of our citizens and the health of our planet.

RECOGNIZING THE EFRAIN ANTHONY MARRERO FOUNDATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the efforts of the Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation.

Over the last three years, the House Oversight Committee has held numerous hearings into the impact of steroid abuse. We've

learned of widespread abuse, not just by professional athletes, but by millions of teenage boys and girls, and we've learned of the terrible health impacts of this abuse.

We've heard from many experts who are doing the hard work necessary to reduce this epidemic of steroid abuse. And we've heard the tragic personal stories of families that have been affected by this problem.

Frank and Brenda Marrero are the parents of Efrain Marrero. Almost four years ago, their son Efrain, a promising high school athlete, committed suicide following steroid abuse.

The Marreros grieved. And they also acted, starting the Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation to tell their story and to educate teenagers about the dangers of steroid abuse.

Representing their foundation, and keeping alive the memory of their son, the Marreros have traveled the country, speaking to parents, teachers, coaches, and teenagers at hundreds of workshops. Their simple message—and the power of their tragic personal story and their ability to persevere—have educated thousands of parents and children about the health impacts of steroid abuse.

I want to thank the Marreros for their efforts. The foundation's motto—FAST—Fighting Against Steroids Together—is a reminder of the need for constant vigilance by coaches, teachers, parents, and public officials to solve this public health problem.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the ongoing work of Frank and Brenda Marrero, and the Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation, to reduce steroid abuse.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 3773, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which was approved by the House of Representatives on March 14, 2008. I believe that this bill was a good compromise between the RESTORE Act approved by the House on November 15, 2007 and the version of the legislation approved by the Senate on February 12, 2008. However, I opposed the version of H.R. 3773 considered in March, because it failed to include immunity for the telecommunications companies that cooperated with the administration's request to assist in intelligence collection.

I disagree with the President's decision to bypass congressional authority in authorizing such surveillance. However, I believe that the telecommunications companies were put in a difficult position and acted in a good-faith interest of national security when they cooperated with the administration's request. If Congress fails to grant them immunity, the consequences would be far-reaching.

Without immunity, the pending lawsuits against the telecom companies will carry on for years and saddle the telecoms with millions of dollars in legal fees—fees that will, in turn, be passed onto consumers.

There will be scenarios in the future when cooperation between the private sector and the Federal Government will be necessary. These situations will likely be met with distrust