

year in America, approximately 182,000 women are diagnosed of breast cancer, of which nearly 41,000 lose their lives.

While improved access to screening and treatment services have helped reduced breast cancer death rates over the past couple of decades, significant challenges still remain. For example, we are still unsure about what causes breast cancer or how to prevent it. While there have been a number of studies that have looked at various risk factors, we have not been able to draw any solid conclusions about what specifically causes breast cancer or what are the linkages between breast cancer and environmental factors.

This legislation would help address, help facilitate and help coordinate research efforts on the links between breast cancer and environmental factors in the hopes that one day we might find a cure.

Let me acknowledge the work of my colleagues, Mrs. LOWEY and Mrs. MYRICK, who have been tireless advocates on behalf of this legislation. They have been working nonstop over the past several months to develop the compromise legislation before us today.

I would also like to commend the chairman of our committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. DINGELL, as well as his staff, for their hard work on this legislation. In particular I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Jessica McNiece, a member of the professional staff on the Energy and Commerce Committee, for her efforts to move this bill forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I too rise in support of this legislation and would like to yield such time as she may consume to one of the original sponsors of this legislation, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK).

Mrs. MYRICK. Thank you, Mr. DEAL, for yielding.

I am very pleased to speak on behalf of this bill and excited that it has come this far, because it is going to further progress breast cancer research as it relates to the environmental factors.

NITA LOWEY has worked on this for I think 10 years. I have been at it for at least 7 years. I don't know how long it has been, NITA, but it has been a long, long time. We are both happy to be at this point, because I think it will breathe the new life into the effort of what we are doing at the NIH for the potential triggers of breast cancer.

Lots of thought has gone into this, a tremendous amount of work on both sides of the aisle. I want to commend Mrs. LOWEY for all of her work, Chairman DINGELL and Chairman BARTON, and all the staff members who made this compromise possible, because this has been a long time coming. We are just grateful we are at this point today.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the sponsor of the bill, the gentlewoman from New York

(Mrs. LOWEY), who, as everyone has said, has worked so hard and tirelessly on behalf of this legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. The bill is the product of bipartisan, bicameral negotiations, and in my judgment truly represents a fair compromise that will lead to meaningful changes in how breast cancer research is conducted throughout the Federal Government.

The bill passed by voice vote in the Energy and Commerce Committee. It will improve the caliber of breast cancer research, improve transparency for breast cancer research dollars and vastly increase the role of advocates in determining research priorities.

I would like to thank a few key individuals who have been an integral part of advancing this legislation. First of all, my partner on this bill, Congresswoman SUE MYRICK. She has done a yeoman job, and we have worked together for a very, very long time. Congratulations. Of course, her staff, Sarah Hale; the Senate sponsor of this bill, Majority Leader HARRY REID and his staff, Carolyn Gluck; Ranking Member BARTON and his staff, Ryan Long; Minority Whip ROY BLUNT and his staff, Cheryl Jaeger; Health Subcommittee Chairman, my good friend Congressman PALLONE, we came to the Congress together, and his staff, Bobby Clark; and, of course, Chairman DINGELL and his staff, in particular Jessica McNiece and Greg Rothschild, who have spent countless hours on this bill. Without their commitment to advancing a bipartisan product, frankly, we wouldn't be here today.

The bill is a really good one, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I think one of the better things that is contained in this legislation is that it does create an interagency coordinating committee to coordinate the activities on breast cancer research that are being conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Defense Department and other agencies that are actively engaged in cancer research. By removing the barriers which restrict cross-institutional information sharing, we will be able to bring America's best scientists together to collaborate and work together in pursuit of a cure.

The bill also increases the overall authorization of the NIH by \$40 million to further aid their mission in this research.

I think it is a good step in the right direction, and I am glad to see the House taking the legislation up today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I would ask that we all support this very important legislation. I know that it constantly comes up in my State about possible links between breast cancer and various cancers and environmental

risk, so I know how important this is. I ask that everyone support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1157, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST LIEUTENANT NOAH HARRIS ELLIJAY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 6847.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6847.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES ORGAN TRANSPLANT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 6469, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6469, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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METH FREE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 6901.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6901.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.