

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:15 p.m. today.

NATIONAL DONOR DAY

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 247) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation and supporting National Donor Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 247

Whereas more than 70,000 individuals await organ transplants at any given moment;

Whereas another man, woman, or child is added to the national organ transplant waiting list every 16 minutes;

Whereas, despite the progress in the last 15 years, more than 10 people per day die because of a shortage of donor organs;

Whereas almost everyone is a potential organ, tissue, and blood donor;

Whereas transplantation has become an element of mainstream medicine that prolongs and enhances life;

Whereas, for the third consecutive year, a coalition of health organizations is joining forces for National Donor Day;

Whereas the first two National Donor Days raised a total of nearly 17,000 units of blood, added over 2,400 potential donors to the National Marrow Donor Program Registry, and distributed tens of thousands of organ and tissue pledge cards;

Whereas National Donor Day is America's largest one-day organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation event; and

Whereas a number of businesses, foundations, health organizations, and the Department of Health and Human Services have designated February 12, 2000, as National Donor Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideas of National Donor Day;

(2) encourages all Americans to learn about the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation and to discuss such donation with their families and friends; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 247.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 247, a resolution supporting National Donor Day and recognizing the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation.

Americans who donate their organs, tissue, bone marrow, or blood to save another's life are indeed heroes; and I am delighted that the House today has taken time to recognize them as such. But despite the generosity of the American people and improvements in medical treatments for transplant patients, the supply of organs continues to be tragically short of the need for transplantation among patients with end-stage organ disease and organ failure. Every year the number of patients who die while waiting for a transplant increases, and so does the national waiting list, which now exceeds 65,000 patients waiting for kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas and intestine transplants. We must do more.

Our Nation may also be facing an increasingly severe shortage of blood. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I have held a series of hearings over the last couple of months on this issue and the alternatives for addressing it. We have learned that virtually every 3 seconds someone in our country needs blood. Supplies need to be replenished daily to meet the demand. An estimated 32,000 units of blood are used in the country every day. As many as 95 percent of Americans are going to need a blood transfusion some time in their life, but yet only 5 percent of Americans donate blood.

We are quickly heading to a point where blood demand is going to exceed our supply. Several weeks ago Washington was down to less than a 1-day supply, and a critical need for blood remains evident throughout the country even this week.

As many may know, our committee, the Committee on Commerce, has spent a great deal of time and effort this last year working to develop good solutions to the difficult problem of increasing the supply of donated organs while safeguarding the system from unintended bureaucratic interference that would dramatically harm efforts to increase donations.

Many of those ideas are embodied in H.R. 2418, The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Amendments

of 1999, which was reported out of the committee at the end of last session. H.R. 2418 ensures that decision-making with regard to organ transplantation remains in the transplant community, and not in the hands of the Federal Government.

This bill includes a provision to provide living and travel expenses for individuals who travel across State lines in order to donate an organ to a person requiring such. After many hearings on this important issue, our committee found there are willing donors who would like to save the life of another American but also find themselves in financial circumstances that would make donation of a life-saving organ even more of a hardship. H.R. 2418 would ease that burden, and I would urge this body to take up that bill and pass legislation that would make organ donation easier for every American.

I am also proud to say that due to the Committee on Commerce's efforts, H.R. 3075, the Medicare, Medicaid and S-CHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 added \$200 million to pay for additional immunosuppressive drug therapy. Medicare presently only covers these drugs for 36 months. This bill takes a first step at addressing that issue and allows us to provide more coverage for needy organ transplant patients. Access to these life-saving drugs prevents the organ rejection that places so much strain on the organ supply network. We should all be grateful to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) and those who cosponsored the legislation for bringing this issue to the attention of the committee.

While we in Congress continue to safeguard the organ allocation system from harmful bureaucratic interference and work to address financial problems living donors face, as well as those recipients who need affordable immunosuppressive drug therapy, let us take the time this afternoon to applaud the ordinary American, every American, who has given the gift of life to their neighbors and families by donating organs, tissue, bone marrow, or blood. That is what this resolution calls for. We salute you for your sacrifice and your charity.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. THURMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would just like to say that the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) also is one of the cosponsors of this legislation, so we are pleased to have her in the Chair for this great day.

I would say to my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), I appreciate the statistics that he gave us and the other issues that are involved in organ donation, and particularly the issue of the immunosuppressive drugs, which we find as one

of the most compelling reasons why this Congress needs to go further in making sure that we provide this drug coverage to people with organ donations or organ transplants. So I appreciate the gentleman's comments, and I look forward to working with him on that and the allocation issue as well. In saying that, I just would like to say it is a real pleasure for me to be celebrating this Valentine's Day with the news that this Congress recognizes the importance of organ, bone marrow, and tissue donation.

Today, in recognition of National Donor Day, this House will pass H. Con. Resolution 247, which recognizes the importance of organ tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation and supports National Donor Day.

National Donor Day is America's largest 1-day donation event, organized by Saturn and the United Auto Workers in coordination with several organ and tissue organizations and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The past two National Donor Days raised a total of 17,000 units of blood and added over 2,400 potential donors to the National Marrow Donor Registry and distributed tens of thousands of organ and tissue pledge cards. Putting that into context with the numbers presented by the gentleman from Michigan's (Mr. UPTON) numbers as far as how low our supply of blood was in this last year, that is one of the reasons why this is so important.

I think we can safely say that these past two donation days were a success; and, although we do not have any official numbers, I understand that this year was also successful.

Thanks to National Donor Day, many more people will be lucky enough to receive the gift of life, a new organ. Every year, thousands of our friends, family members, and neighbors go on the waiting list for an organ. The tragic truth is, despite continuing advances in medicine and technology, the demand for organs drastically outstrips the amount of organ donors.

The numbers tell the story. In 1990, there were a little more than 20,000 people on the waiting list. Today, there are more than 65,000 people waiting an organ transplant. In Florida alone last year, between January and March, there were more than 1,200 people on the waiting list for a kidney. The good news is that 121 cadaveric kidney transplants were performed during these 3 months. But, sadly, during that same time frame 18 people died while waiting for a kidney.

The bad news is that a new name is added to the list every 16 minutes. The good news is that we are passing this resolution to raise the awareness about the tragic lack of organs and we will begin to make a difference. Every time we talk to our family and friends, we begin to make a difference.

Passing this resolution will allow this Congress to make a difference by

letting the American people know that we care about this issue and that we are committed to beginning the dialogue on the importance of organ, blood, tissue, and bone marrow donation. Please remember, these are people out there, maybe your neighbor, your teacher, your doctor, your friend, a loved one, a coworker. In this House we have experienced this matter as well with some very good friends of ours, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), and I myself with my husband. But all of these people could potentially need an organ or bone marrow or blood.

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Please remember those are the people on the waiting list; people whose lives may lay in our hands. I cannot stress how important it is to talk to one's family and friends about being an organ donor, a tissue donor, a bone marrow donor, and a blood donor. Remember, you too can give the gift of life.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize a constituent of mine at an upcoming event, Mr. Perry McGriff, a man who, in fact, is being honored today by receiving an award for his work on donation issues. Each year, Perry goes on the Five Points of Life Bike Ride. This year, this bike ride will take him from Maine to Florida. The Five Points of Life trek across the United States is to bring awareness of the need for five donations, including blood, tissue, bone marrow, and organs.

This year, the program kicks off on August 26 atop Cadillac Mountain in Maine. Over more than 6 weeks, Perry and others will ride through Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia; and they will end up in Key West. It is people like Perry that I hope all of us can remember when we think that we just do not have enough time to discuss the issue with our family.

Remember Perry when you think you do not have enough time to look into being an organ, tissue, bone marrow, or blood donor. If he can spend 6 weeks riding across the country to raise awareness about this issue, I hope you can spend a few minutes thinking about this issue and talking to your family and friends.

In most States, one can sign up to be an organ donor when one renews their license at the DMV. However, what most people do not know is that this does not ensure that one's organs will be donated. One's family has the final say in this matter, which is why it is so important that one talks to one's immediate family about one's decision to be an organ or tissue donor. Then, if something tragic should happen or occur, one's wishes will be honored.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to thank the gentleman

from Florida (Mr. CANADY); the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SNYDER); and the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) for their help and support on introducing and passing this important resolution. I would also like to recognize the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the National Kidney Foundation for bringing this important day to our attention and for all of their support and information on this issue. Finally, I would like to thank the more than 50 Members who have signed on as co-sponsors to this important resolution. I hope people really do understand that this is a gift of life.

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

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her important remarks during this debate. We had some terrific hearings in the Subcommittee on Oversight this last fall, a whole series of hearings, talking about the need for blood and how, in fact, it looks very much that the whole country could face some real shortages this year, particularly in certain regions of the country.

At that point, we decided, as we saw back in Michigan, my home State, a number of efforts were taken up by service clubs and universities challenging each other, particularly at Western Michigan University challenging Central Michigan University, and I thought we would have that same type of challenge here on Capitol Hill.

So about 2 weeks ago was the date that Republicans and Democrats, staff and Members, House and Senate, challenged each other; I wish we had the trophy over here. The Republicans did win, but we all won. We helped certainly the shortage where it exists.

Madam Speaker, we have a real need for donors to give blood. Because even though the number of donors in fact is increasing each and every year, the need for blood is increasing at an even greater pace, and because of that, I think all of us, particularly in positions as Members often are, where we can use ourselves to help generate other donors to contribute blood across the country.

I want to also spend a little bit of time talking about our good friend, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG). A couple of years ago, probably 6 or 7, maybe even more than that, his daughter was in desperate straits needing a bone marrow transplant. He single-handedly, I think, signed up a good number of us on the House Floor, Republicans and Democrats, the gentlewoman's home State, and I was one of those that was tested. My donation was made, I guess it is in a bank. I pray for the day that someone is going to call me and say Fred, we want you to come down and donate

bone marrow to save the life of someone in this country or elsewhere around the world. In fact, one of our colleagues, because of the actions that he took, actually it was a Member no longer a Member from Florida, in fact, did donate bone marrow tissue and in fact did save the life of someone because of the work of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

All of us, particularly those that are able to donate to this bank so that we may be called on to save someone at some point down the road I think is very necessary, and this bill recognizes those people that can do that.

I would also like to praise our States. I know in my State of Michigan it is now a normal thing, and I think maybe it is for most States. I know Virginia, talking to my staff over here, I know has that, and I know Florida has that same thing, but of course on the back of our driver's license in Michigan, there is a provision I would like to make a gift effective on my death, all organs specific, et cetera, all tissues.

Mrs. THURMAN. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UPTON. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mrs. THURMAN. Madam Speaker, there are also some other things that are going on. Of course, the Gift of Life pin with the green ribbon symbolizes Organ Donation Days, which is something that we can all participate in. Another is the organ donation stamp, nationally recognized around the country, it kicked off a couple of years ago. There are so many things that we can do both as Members of Congress for people who have been the recipients, or those waiting.

The gentleman mentioned the issue on the bone marrow. I think the Today Show has been doing some programming on this particular issue, and they had a little boy who would have potentially died had it not been for somebody that had registered for the bone marrow transplant. It was one of our young service members in this country that in fact donated his bone marrow. They got to meet for the first time Friday—he met the boy who he gave his gift of life to. As the gentleman well knows, we all have attempted over the last several years to raise this issue; it is amazing to me the wonderful stories that are out there, but still there are tragic stories of those that do not receive an organ in time.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, reclaiming my time, the gentlewoman raised the point about the stamp. I was there when the stamp was unveiled over in the Senate a couple of years ago. I only wish they had enough foresight to have made it 33 cents. Of course it is 32 cents, so they are not as handy as they once were. We had a gentleman in my home county in Michigan, a guy by the name of Mr. Hein and he went out for every parade for years.

He was out there with his little petition drive, signing people up; I was one of his early people. Sadly, he has now passed away, in need, I think, of an organ transplant. That certainly gave him a number of years that he did not have, and his family's work and really all folks across the country that helped bring that beautiful stamp into play was pretty marvelous.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. VITTER. Madam Speaker, I want to stand today in strong support of this important concurrent resolution to increase awareness of a very serious health problem, the growing gap between organ supply and demand. Last year, of the 60,000 people on organ transplant waiting lists, only 20,000 received needed transplants. As the number of patients waiting for organ transplants expands each year, clearly we must redouble our efforts to increase organ donations.

In my State of Louisiana, organ and tissue donations are increasing, in large part thanks to a new and innovative computerized database that shares information on donated organs with members of the medical community and their patients. For instance, in 1999, 900 organs were donated in Louisiana, coming close to matching the nearly 1,200 Louisianans awaiting transplants. I think this represents real progress, and I am proud that my State is leading the way.

However, I do remain very concerned that this administration's answer to the growing shortage across the country of organs is to attempt to federalize the organ allocation system and allow HHS bureaucrats to override medical decisions by local organ transplant groups. I believe it would be terrible to undercut the successful efforts of local organ procurement groups. Instead of dictating organ allocation policies, we should lend our voice to increasing organ donations nationwide and support this type of resolution, as we are on the floor today.

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, today I join my colleague and good friend, Representative KAREN THURMAN, to support House Concurrent Resolution 247, in honor of National Donor Day and recognition of the importance organ, tissue, bone marrow and blood donation.

With approximately 70,000 Americans currently awaiting organs and more than ten people dying every day, it is clear that our nation is facing a real crisis. This resolution will help both raise awareness and increase donations nationwide—it is a meaningful step toward bringing an end to our nation's current predicament.

A Health and Human Services (HHS) September 1999 Report to Congress noted a growing gap between the supply and demand for organs nationwide. HHS reports that medical technology improvements and a modest increase in donors have not kept pace with the demand for more organs. Demand for

organ transplants has increased due to the success of immunosuppression therapies in preventing organ rejection and improving graft and patient survival. The lack of organs available for transplant illustrates the crucial need to focus public attention on increasing organ donation.

A number of businesses, foundations, health organizations, and the Department of Health and Human Services have previously designated February 12th as National Donor Day. The first two National Donor days succeeded in raising a total of almost 17,000 units of blood, adding over 2,400 potential donors to the National Marrow Donor Program Registry, and included mass distribution of organ and tissue pledge cards. This concurrent resolution supports National Donor Day, encourages Americans to learn about and openly discuss donation, and calls on the President to issue a proclamation to demonstrate support for organ, tissue, blood and bone marrow donation.

Research points to a clear need for public education and incentive programs to increase organ donation. This Congress, I also introduced legislation, H.R. 941, the "Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 1999," to provide a commemorative Congressional medal to organ donors and their families to honor their efforts. This Act is intended to draw attention to this lifesaving issue and to send a clear message that donating one's organs is a selfless act worth the profound respect of our Nation. I hope Members would also consider this effort to increase donations.

The problem is clear—there are not enough organs to meet the needs of patients. Let's support initiatives such as H.R. 941, to create an organ donor medal, and H. Con. Res. 247, to honor National Donor Day and to recognize the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow & blood donation. Initiatives such as these will help raise awareness, increase donations nationwide, and both are meaningful steps toward bringing an end to growing gap between the supply and demand for organs.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I wish to commend the gentlelady from Florida, Representative KAREN THURMAN, for introducing this resolution. It addresses an issue that is of great importance to me.

Last year, I introduced the "Organ Donor Leave Act," which President Clinton signed into law on September 24, 1999. That Act (Public Law 106-56) extends the amount of paid leave a federal employee can use to donate an organ from seven to 30 days. Experience has shown that an organ transplant operation and post-operative recovery of a living donor may require six to eight weeks. Prior to the enactment of this legislation, a lack of leave had served as a significant impediment and disincentive for individuals considering sharing the gift-of-life.

As a proponent of organ donations, I sought to encourage not only the federal government, but other public and private employers to support employees who volunteer to undertake the life saving process of donating an organ. Congresswoman THURMAN's resolution essentially seeks to do the same. Her resolution expresses the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation, and supporting National Donor Day.

Her resolution calls to our attention the fact that a man, woman and child is added to the national organ transplant waiting list every 16 minutes. In fact, 70,000 individuals await organ transplants at any given moment. The resolution also informs us that despite the progress in the last 15 years, more than 10 people per day die because of a shortage of donor organs.

A few months ago I learned about Daleen Hardy a Postal Service employee who was scheduled to donate a kidney to her husband. She was concerned that her employer might not allow her adequate time off to recover. I wrote to the Post Master General urging him to consider allowing her the same 30 days leave granted federal employees by the "Organ Donor Leave Act."

In my home state of Maryland, we have two world-class transplant centers that draw patients from across the country, Johns Hopkins University and the University Medical System. Those facilities receive referrals from Maryland's Transplant Resource Center which has more than 1,600 people on the kidney waiting list. With more people like Daleen Hardy this number could be reduced.

In an effort to help encourage organ donations, last year, Vice President AL GORE unveiled a series of new Federal and public-private initiatives to increase the rate of organ donations nationwide. He announced a \$13 million grant program to improve local donation efforts. The grants would fund new public service announcements to educate families about organ donation. The funds would also be used to conduct a series of regional conferences between health care providers and transplant professionals about organ donation.

The "Organ Donor Leave Act" and the initiatives taken by Vice President AL GORE represent affirmative acts to help save lives. The resolution authored by Congresswoman THURMAN is one and the same.

I urge every Member of Congress to give it their support, and by doing so, join in the commemoration of National Donor Day.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I want to add my strong support for H. Con. Res. 247, the Support National Organ Donor Day Resolution.

Every family hopes that if one of its members becomes seriously ill, medical science will be able to provide a miracle and restore their loved one to a healthy and rewarding life. Medical science has been able to do exactly that over the past decade for hundreds of thousands of families with loved ones suffering from diseases and injuries that affect the heart, kidney, pancreas, lungs, liver or tissue.

Transplantation of organs and tissues has become one of the most remarkable success stories in medicine, now giving tens of thousands of desperately ill Americans each year a new chance at life. But sadly, this medical miracle is not yet available to all in need. Waiting lists are growing more rapidly than the number of organs and tissues being donated.

There are more than 70,000 individuals awaiting organ transplants at any given moment, and despite the fact that almost everyone is a potential donor, more than 10 people each day die because of a shortage of donor organs.

Last year over 1,500 men, women and children from Maryland were on waiting lists hop-

ing for an organ to become available—an increase of 108 over the previous year. Many of these Maryland residents have been waiting for years. And the wait is growing longer.

Every two hours, one of the more than 60,000 Americans now on waiting lists dies for lack of an available organ.

Even when individuals have indicated a desire to be a donor, statistics show that those wishes go unfulfilled more than half of the time.

Two important points must be made: The final decision on whether or not to donate organs and tissue is always made by surviving family members.

Checking the organ donation box on a driver's license does not guarantee organ and tissue donation. Individuals should discuss the importance of donation with their families now—in a non crisis atmosphere—so if the question ever arises, all members of the family will remember having made the decision to give the gift of life.

Madam Speaker, this resolution encourages all Americans to learn about the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation and to discuss such donation with their families and friends.

I urge strong support for this resolution.

Mr. BLILEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 247, a resolution recognizing the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation and calling on people to observe National Donor Day on Wednesday, February 16th.

One of the kindest acts of charity anyone can do is donate blood, bone marrow, tissue, or even solid organs to someone they will probably never meet. Organ and tissue donation is so important to so many families, we need to set aside time with one another to discuss it among our families, friends, and colleagues. I am pleased that Congressman Bilbray brought this resolution to my attention, and that I was able to assist in bringing this resolution to the floor for timely consideration.

Organ and tissue supplies are in such short supply that any single contribution will be greatly appreciated by the recipient's family. I am told that the Washington, DC area is now down to a three-day supply of blood; that there are more people needing bone marrow transplants than matches can be found among people who have registered with the National Bone Marrow Donor Program; that more people enrolled in the Medicare End-Stage Renal Disease program will die from kidney failure because there are too few kidneys to transplant; and still, people die every day from liver failure despite an innovative surgery pioneered at the Richmond-based Virginia Commonwealth University, which allows living donors to have part of their liver transplanted into a recipient with recovery for the donor complete in about three weeks.

There is a palpable fear among those in the transplant community that the Clinton Administration's controversial organ allocation regulations will eliminate the incentives for local transplant centers to increase local supplies of organs. Why? Because the new HHS regulations stand the system on its head and give transplant centers greater incentives to increase their waiting lists so that these centers will increase the probability that they will be

first in line to get an organ from some other region. That, my colleagues, is exactly the wrong policy to pursue if we want to be increasing organ supplies.

As many of you know, the Committee on Commerce has labored long and hard to find common-sense solutions to the organ shortages facing American families in every community without compounding the problem with unnecessary meddling by the Federal bureaucracy. These solutions are ready to become law through the Bilirakis-Green-Pallone "Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Amendments of 1999," which was ordered reported out of the Committee on October 13 by voice vote.

H.R. 2418 authorizes \$5 million in grants annually to pay for living and travel expenses for individuals who donate an organ to a recipient living in another State. H.R. 2418 would help many willing donors who just don't have the financial means to travel or take time off from work to donate an organ. But, these grants will not be available unless we work together to enact H.R. 2418.

Lastly, let me say that I am very proud of Commerce Committee efforts to add \$200 million to pay for additional immunosuppressive drug therapy under the "Medicare, Medicaid and S-CHIP Balance Budget Refinement Act of 1999." Thanks to Congressman CANADY's leadership on this issue, life-saving drugs that prevent organ rejection are now available through Medicare for a longer period of time.

I want to thank Congresswoman THURMAN and Congressman BILBRAY for their leadership in calling our attention to National Donor Day, and ask that the House pass this resolution.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 247, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage today.

This resolution encourages all Americans to learn about the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow and blood donation and to discuss these issues with their families and friends. It also urges the President to promote activities to demonstrate public support for organ, tissue, bone marrow and blood donation.

As Chairman of the Health and Environment Subcommittee, I have worked to identify ways to increase the supply of organs available for transplantation. Last year, I introduced H.R. 2418, legislation to reauthorize the National Organ Transplant Act, which includes provisions to promote organ donation.

My Subcommittee's review of these issues has highlighted statistics that are deeply disturbing. This year, approximately 20,000 people will receive organ transplants—but 40,000 will not. In the last decade alone, the waiting list for transplants grew by over 300 percent. Much of this increase is due to improvements in medical treatments for transplant patients. However, the gap between organ supply and demand remains enormous.

Two years ago, my Subcommittee held a joint hearing with the Senate Labor Committee to review our nation's system for organ allocation, and more specifically, the changes proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services. Despite strong differences of opinion, all of the witnesses recognized the severe shortage of organs for transplantation.

At a hearing in April 1999, my Subcommittee focused on ways to increase the

supply of organs for transplantation, including what the federal government can do to improve this situation. Witnesses emphasized that many successful programs to encourage organ donation have been developed at the state level, and we should support—not undermine—these ongoing initiatives.

This is literally a matter of life and death for tens of thousands of Americans each year. Given the enormity of these issues, we have an obligation to work together to address these concerns on a bipartisan basis. I was pleased to join my Florida colleague, Mrs. THURMAN, as a cosponsor of this resolution, and I applaud her commitment to this cause.

Clearly, the solution to this complicated problem is not entirely legislative. By working to increase public awareness about the need for organ donations, we can all save lives. The resolution before us represents an important step toward achieving that goal, and I wholeheartedly support its passage.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I see no other Member asking for time. I just would like again to encourage all of my colleagues to vote for and support this bill. It does save lives. We all know so many different personal tales. I urge that we adopt it quickly.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 247.

The question was taken.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SOCIAL PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Mr. SALMON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 76) recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of it.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 76

Whereas more than 3,000,000 American children are reported as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect annually;

Whereas more than 500,000 American children are unable to live safely with their families and are placed in foster homes and institutions;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 1,000 children, 78 percent under the age of 5 and 38 percent under the age of 1, lose their lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect every year in America;

Whereas this tragic social problem results in human and economic costs due to its rela-

tionship to crime and delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and welfare dependency; and

Whereas Childhelp USA has initiated a "Day of Hope" to be observed on the first Wednesday in April, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, to focus public awareness on this social ill: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of the Congress that—

(A) all Americans should keep these victimized children in their thoughts and prayers;

(B) all Americans should seek to break this cycle of abuse and neglect, and give our children hope for the future; and

(C) the faith community, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers across America should recommit themselves and mobilize their resources to assist these children; and

(2) the Congress—

(A) supports the goals and ideas of the "Day of Hope"; and

(B) commends Childhelp USA for its efforts on behalf of abused and neglected children everywhere.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON).

Mr. SALMON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 76, a Sense of Congress recognizing the problem of child abuse and neglect.

Specifically, my resolution expresses the sense of Congress that, number one, all Americans should keep abused and victimized children in their thoughts and prayers. Number two, all Americans should seek to break the cycle of abuse and neglect. And number three, that the faith community, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers across America should recommit themselves and mobilize their resources to assist abused and neglected children.

In addition, the resolution states that Congress supports the goals and ideas with a Day of Hope to be observed on the first Wednesday in April and commence Child Help, USA, for its efforts on behalf of abused and neglected children everywhere.

The need for this resolution is clear. It is estimated that more than 3 million American children are reported as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect annually. More than 500,000 children, American children, are unable to live safely within their families and are placed in foster care or other institutions. Furthermore, it is estimated that more than 1,000 children, 78 percent under the age of 5 and 38 percent under the age of 1, die as a direct result of abuse and neglect every year in America.

At times, the statistics can be overwhelming, even desensitizing. But all one has to do is look into the eyes of a victim of child abuse to see the misery

that they have endured. Their suffering is a painful reminder of our failure as a society to provide them with the loving care that they need and deserve. It also reminds us of the heavy price that we pay for abuse and neglected children that occurs in our midst every day. Countless studies have documented the strong correlation that exists between child abuse and crime, delinquency, domestic violence, substance abuse, and welfare dependency.

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Of course, we can never put a price on the countless dreams and aspirations of the innocent youth that are extinguished every year at the hands of a child abuser. Since 1959, Childhelp USA has led the charge against child abuse and neglect. Started in Scotsdale, Arizona, Childhelp USA provides critical social, medical, and educational services to abused and neglected children. Over the years, they have helped literally thousands of abused and neglected children escape abusive situations.

Childhelp USA's commitment to children does not end there. When I introduced legislation to keep murderers, rapists, and child molesters locked up in prison, also known as Aimee's Law, I turned to Childhelp USA for support and help. I have to tell the Members that their hard work and dedication were vital to the successful effort to pass Aimee's Law, both in the House and Senate.

Although Aimee's Law has been held up as part of the juvenile justice bill, I am confident that I can rely on Childhelp USA's support as I join with other advocates of victims' rights to enact this legislation.

Aimee's Law will finally put a stop to the parade of murderers and sex offenders that march out of our prisons every year, only to brutalize innocent people one more time. By doing so, it will protect literally thousands of people every year, many of them children, from being victimized by a repeat offender.

Therefore, as we approach the month of April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month, it is only fitting that we recognize Childhelp USA for their caring efforts to end child abuse. Hopefully, their shining example will inspire more Americans to fight to end this terrible scourge.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of this resolution and commend my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona, for bringing the resolution to the floor today.

I also commend the group Childhelp USA for initiating a "Day of Hope" to be observed on the first Wednesday of April during Child Abuse Prevention