

well being of our country, and it is imperative to me as a public servant, and it is imperative to anybody who has seen the devastating effects of HIV and AIDS. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4807 so that we can continue to provide these important programs to those living with this disease.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4807, the Ryan White CARE Act Amendments of 2000. The Health and Environment Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill earlier this month. On July 13th, the full Commerce Committee approved the bill by voice vote, after adopting several bipartisan amendments to further refine and strengthen this important legislation.

The swift movement of this measure is a testament to its bipartisan nature, and I want to commend Congressmen TOM COBURN and HENRY WAXMAN for their hard work. I was pleased to join many of my Committee colleagues as an original cosponsor of the bill.

The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency or "CARE" Act was enacted in 1990, and Congress approved bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the law in 1996. The Ryan White CARE Act provides critical funding for health and social services to the estimated one million Americans living with HIV and AIDS. The bill before us, H.R. 4807, will ensure that these patients continue to receive the care and medications they need to enhance and prolong their lives.

H.R. 4807 makes an important change by relying on the number of HIV-infected individuals—as opposed to only the number of persons living with AIDS—as the basis for allocating funding under Titles I and II of the Ryan White CARE Act. By targeting resources to the "front line" of the epidemic, we will be able to reduce transmission rates and ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to provide care to HIV-positive individuals as soon as possible. This change will allow the federal government to be pro-active, instead of reactive, in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

It should be noted, however that this shift will only occur when reliable data on HIV prevalence is available. The bill also includes a "hold harmless" provision to ensure that no metropolitan area will suffer a drastic reduction in CARE Act funds.

H.R. 4807 also increases the focus on prevention. States with effective partner notification and HIV surveillance programs will be eligible for additional federal funds. Several witnesses at our Subcommittee hearing emphasized the importance of partner notification programs as an effective way to identify individuals from traditionally under-served communities and help them obtain care. This emphasis on prevention services is part of a comprehensive effort under the bill to eliminate barriers to access to care.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to again recognize the hard work of all the Members who worked together on a bipartisan basis to advance this reauthorization bill. H.R. 4807 is a critical piece of legislation that can literally save lives, and I urge all Members to join me today in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) that the House

suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4807, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3250

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name from H.R. 3250.

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

There was no objection.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4920) to improve service systems for individuals with developmental disabilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4920

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Subtitle A—General Provisions

Sec. 101. Findings, purposes, and policy.

Sec. 102. Definitions.

Sec. 103. Records and audits.

Sec. 104. Responsibilities of the Secretary.

Sec. 105. Reports of the Secretary.

Sec. 106. State control of operations.

Sec. 107. Employment of individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 108. Construction.

Sec. 109. Rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Subtitle B—Federal Assistance to State Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Sec. 121. Purpose.

Sec. 122. State allotments.

Sec. 123. Payments to the States for planning, administration, and services.

Sec. 124. State plan.

Sec. 125. State Councils on Developmental Disabilities and designated State agencies.

Sec. 126. Federal and non-Federal share.

Sec. 127. Withholding of payments for planning, administration, and services.

Sec. 128. Appeals by States.

Sec. 129. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle C—Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights

Sec. 141. Purpose.

Sec. 142. Allotments and payments.

Sec. 143. System required.

Sec. 144. Administration.

Sec. 145. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle D—National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service

Sec. 151. Grant authority.

Sec. 152. Grant awards.

Sec. 153. Purpose and scope of activities.

Sec. 154. Applications.

Sec. 155. Definition.

Sec. 156. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle E—Projects of National Significance

Sec. 161. Purpose.

Sec. 162. Grant authority.

Sec. 163. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—PROGRAM FOR DIRECT SUPPORT WORKERS WHO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sec. 201. Findings.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Sec. 203. Reaching up scholarship program.

Sec. 204. Staff development curriculum authorization.

Sec. 205. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—REPEAL

Sec. 301. Repeal.

TITLE I—PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Subtitle A—General Provisions

SEC. 101. FINDINGS, PURPOSES, AND POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities through full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of United States society;

(2) in 1999, there were between 3,200,000 and 4,500,000 individuals with developmental disabilities in the United States, and recent studies indicate that individuals with developmental disabilities comprise between 1.2 and 1.65 percent of the United States population;

(3) individuals whose disabilities occur during their developmental period frequently have severe disabilities that are likely to continue indefinitely;

(4) individuals with developmental disabilities often encounter discrimination in the provision of critical services, such as services in the areas of emphasis (as defined in section 102);

(5) individuals with developmental disabilities are at greater risk than the general population of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and the violation of their legal and human rights;

(6) a substantial portion of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families do not have access to appropriate support and services, including access to assistive technology, from generic and specialized service systems, and remain unserved or underserved;

(7) individuals with developmental disabilities often require lifelong community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance, that are most effective when provided in a coordinated manner;

(8) there is a need to ensure that services, supports, and other assistance are provided in a culturally competent manner, that ensures that individuals from racial and ethnic