June 14, 2000

A RESOLUTION HONORING CHRISTOPHER AEMISEGGER, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH
OP MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Christopher Aemisegger, winner of the 2000 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Christopher is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan. Christopher is an exceptional student at Hillsdale High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Christopher has received numerous awards for his excellence in academics as well as his participation in school sports. Outside of school, he is an active member of his church community.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Christopher Aemisegger for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his endeavors.

HONORING CLAUDIA SCHROTH

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM
OP CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM of California. Mr. Speaker, over the past 20 years Congress has devoted a great deal of time and money toward addressing the important issues facing women's health. We created an Office of Women's Health at the NIH and we have taken great strides to increase the number of women included in health studies. We have undoubtedly saved hundreds of thousands of women's lives, improved the quality of many millions more, and we have every reason to be proud.

However, we must now begin to focus on the crisis in men's health too. The simple fact is that every year hundreds of men suffer and die needlessly—and entirely preventable—deaths.

In 1994, Congress established National Men's Health Week, the week leading up to and including Father's Day. Unfortunately, men's health is not getting any better.

I believe it is time for us to establish an Office of Men's Health. For that reason, I am introducing legislation today that will establish an Office of Men's Health at the Department of Health and Human Services to monitor, coordinate and improve men's health in America.

America needs a concerted effort to combat the problems facing men's health. This year, almost 200,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and almost 32,000 of these men will die. Of course, we cannot save all these men. Nevertheless, we could save a lot of them. While mammograms and Pap smears have dramatically reduced the death rate from breast and cervical cancers, the death rate from prostate cancer could be reduced by widespread use of a simple test called the PSA, which most of us have never heard of.

I am one of the thousands of men who have been saved by a simple PSA test. Just a little over a year ago, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. During my surgery, my doctor noticed a slight elevation in the readings of a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test. However, it was only after a prostate biopsy that it was determined that I had cancer. Following the diagnosis, with my family, we decided that I should go ahead and have surgery. I am fortunate that my cancer was detected early, that I had a doctor who was familiar with PSA test results, and that I had healthcare coverage for my treatments. In my case, and in the cases of thousands of men, early detection and treatment have meant the difference between life and death.

However, prostate cancer is only a small component of the men's health crisis: men have a higher death rate than women do for every single one of the ten leading causes of death in this country. We're twice as likely to die of heart disease—the number one killer—40% more likely to die of cancer, and 20% more likely to die of a stroke. At the turn of the last century, men and women had equal life expectancies. At the turn of this one, women outlive men by 7 years.

Admittedly, the largest part of the problem is that men do not take particularly good care of themselves. Only about half as many men as women have a regular physician, for example, and overall, men make about a 30% fewer doctor visits every year than women—and that's even factoring out women's prenatal visits.

So if we got men to start going to the doctor will men start living longer? Well, it could not hurt. However, in a study published earlier this year by the Commonwealth Fund, nearly 70% of men over 50 who visited the doctor were not even asked whether they had a family history of prostate cancer. Men making less than $50,000 a year were even less likely to be asked. And 40% of men over 50—who should be getting a prostate exam every single year—were not even screened by their doctors. And going to the doctor won't do anything about the fact that four times as many men commit suicide as women, that the victims of violent crime are 75% male, that 98% of the people who work in the most dangerous job in this country are 50% of the people who die in the workplace are men.

What can we do about this? First, we can make men's health a public priority. Just as we support public service announcements...