

that their classes are all pass-fail. And I have—just personally, I have mixed emotions about that, because I just don't know—I won't get into that. But their classes are all pass-fail. They get a normal high school diploma. They are not always there for just four years. It varies. They can be there for five years, they can be there through the Stars program and the alternative program. There are three main teachers in the program. And what they were telling us was, and what you could see, is that it was designed as kind of a family-type of thing, where the teachers knew a lot about the personal lives of the students, and the students really liked that. If they didn't want them to know about their personal lives, they would usually leave. And one of the problems—because we also wanted to know what was wrong with the high school, what the students in the program didn't like about the high school. And a lot of what they said was how big it is. And, as you saw with the group that went before us, we do have a very big school, so you can get lost, in that you can slip through the cracks. If you need help and you don't go for it, it is not always given to you. And these people, they do come—the majority of them come from broken homes or dysfunctional families or things where they have a lot of problems, and are not getting the help that they need. And their teachers in the high school, they were saying, weren't always aware of that, and weren't really interested in that. So in the program, they work through things. The teachers are not only educators, but they are also kind of counselors and moms, and they give hugs and everything. We thought it was the coolest thing when we went over there. We didn't know what to expect, and we came back, and we were like: Oh, my God! We just couldn't believe it. But it does seem like a very close-knit thing. And the classes are constructed—they're offered as needed. Like if 15 of the students really need a Western Civ class that semester, that is what the teachers will do. Another problem that might be with the alternative program is, we found out that one of the teachers is only certified to teach—was it elementary English and social studies? And we didn't really know how that worked in. And I kind of had a problem with that; I don't know if Carlin and Katie did. But it seemed to work for them.

Congressman Sanders. Okay.

Bethany Wallace. That's basically the gist on the alternative programs. And we found that, especially with it coming from the students, it was really helpful, and they did a lot to keep the kids in school.

Congressman Sanders. Bethany, thank you. Katie or Carlin, are you going to go next?

Carlin Hebert. I focused more or less on extracurricular activities and how they affected dropout rate. And like the other group said, the extracurricular activities really are focused on a lot in our school. Many, many people play sports. Almost everyone participates in some way—drama, band, something. And we walked around and survived a lot of students, and a lot of them said they would be coming to school as often—you know, they just wouldn't enjoy it—if they couldn't then participate in something after school. It drew a lot of students towards the school, because they said, if it simply was. You come in, you sit down, you take the class, and then you leave and go home, there would be nothing in it for them. They just wouldn't enjoy it. And so we said it was maybe 55 percent, probably, said they never even would

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

consider dropping out. But there was a large percentage that did say that they just—without sports of some come short or activities, that they just—there would be nothing there for them to do. They don't enjoy classes, and basically that.

Katie Kevorkian. I focused on the pregnancy factor. And I'm going to start out with a little story that was told to me by the teachers in the Stars program, one of the teachers in the middle school program. She had a girl a few years ago who, at 13, became pregnant. And once that happened, she couldn't attend school anymore, she couldn't attend the Stars program, because, once you have a baby, you can't really do that. And she couldn't find childcare. She actually had twins at age 13, and the woman there was her teacher, who was trying to get her an education. She sent her to tutorial centers, she helped her set up childcare, but the girl apparently was very disagreeable with her childcare, and ended up taking her kids out of that. She is now 15, and she has missed so many credits that she cannot graduate high school at age 18, and, at 15, she was working on her GED. I interviewed people from two places, two area places, where pregnant teenagers often go. One was the Tristate Pregnancy Center, and they basically give out—they try to educate teenagers when they are pregnant, and show them their options. And then they work through another place I interviewed, Sunrise Family Resource Center, to help them get their GED and finish their education. Sunrise also does that. They try to provide childcare. They have programs such as Reach Up, which helps with—they try to get them some benefits. And the other one is—Can you let me see that? Vermont Homeroom. They try to get childcare and educate them. And pregnancy is a problem. It has gone down in the last ten years, but, in our community, it is still a huge problem. The rate is higher there than in any other place in Vermont. No, the rate is higher there than the rate in Vermont. Excuse me.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will help alleviate a problem that has plagued the senior weather forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

One of the most important missions NOAA undertakes is the accurate forecasting of weather phenomenon. Every highly specialized weather forecaster is responsible for everything from making landfall predictions of hurricanes along the Eastern Seaboard, to gauging wind conditions above fires and ensuring the safety of those trying to put them out. These forecasters, all of whom as GS-14 (or lower), nonmanagerial employees, often work weekends and late into the evening trying to give the most accurate information possible.

Unfortunately, many of the senior forecasters are under paid for the overtime they routinely put in. This bill seeks to alleviate that problem by standardizing the overtime pay system and giving the Secretary of Commerce

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the flexibility to pay those forecasters who's duties, "are critical to the immediate daily operation of the forecast and warning responsibilities of the National Weather Service and directly affect public and aviation safety."

It is time that we started recognizing the important role that these forecasters play in terms of public safety and the health of our economy. By working weekends and nights, a forecaster may successfully predict the path of a storm and provide critical time needed to evacuate people and protect local businesses. I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation and to contact my office if they should have any additional questions.

APPROVING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCTS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

SPEECH OF

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to this resolution. While I have always been a strong supporter of free trade, I can not support expanding trade with Vietnam until the administration addresses a serious conflict between Vietnam and the United States catfish industry. Frozen fish fillets of an entirely different family of fish are imported and unlawfully passed off to customers as "catfish" in such large and increasing volumes that it threatens the future success of the American catfish industry.

American consumers are being defrauded into believing that they are receiving farm raised U.S. catfish instead of another species of fish raised along the Mekong River in Vietnam. Most of the Vietnamese fish are raised in floating cages and ponds along the Mekong River Delta, feeding on whatever floats down the river. Yet they are fraudulently marketing them as farm-raised grain-fed catfish. Since the Vietnamese do not place a high value on cultivating the fish in a controlled environment, their cost of production is much lower.

Importing interests of the Vietnam fish, searching for new markets, were allowed by the FDA to use the term "catfish" in combination with previously approved names. This has resulted in imports entering the U.S. in skyrocketing quantities and being fraudulently passed off to American consumers as "catfish."

It is unlawful to pass a cheaper fish species off as another species. There is evidence of widespread illegal packaging and labeling of the Vietnamese fish which violates numerous existing laws, including the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, the Trade-Mark Act of 1946, the Customs origin marking requirements, and the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act.

I understand that the bilateral agreement includes some trademark protection, but until importers are required to comply with current law, I do not think we can expect these protections to be enforced.

Since 1997, the total import volume of Vietnamese catfish has risen from less than 500

thousand pounds to over 7 million pounds in 2000. According to this year's recorded import numbers, imports are reaching levels of 2 million pounds per month and on target to reach over 20 million pounds in this year alone. As of May this year, Vietnamese imports of frozen fish fillets were equivalent to 20 percent of the sales of the United States farm-raised frozen fillets.

There are over 189,000 acres of land in catfish production, of which 110,000 are in my home state of Mississippi. U.S. catfish farmers produce 600 million pounds of farm-raised catfish annually and require 1.8 billion pounds of feed. This supports over 90,000 acres of corn, 500,000 acres of soybeans, and cotton seed from over 230,000 acres of cotton.

This very young industry has created a catfish market where none had previously existed. They have done this by investing substantial capital to producing a quality product which the consumer considers to be reliable, safe, and healthy. We can not allow unfair competition to destroy the livelihood of farmers, processors, employees, and communities which depend on the American catfish industry.

Before we expand trade relations with Vietnam, our two governments must resolve this issue in a way that ensures the quality and safety of Vietnamese imported fish products. The Administration must also enforce current law so that our American catfish producers are not unfairly put out of business. I am hopeful this issue can be resolved so that all Americans can enjoy the benefits of free and fair trade with Vietnam.

PROGRESS ON CURING
PARKINSON'S DISEASE

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to come to the floor this evening to mark the fourth anniversary of the passage of the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research Act, an anniversary that occurred this week.

In 1999, along with my friends and colleagues, FRED UPTON, LANE EVANS, JOE SKEEN, MARK UDALL, TOM UDALL, and HENRY WAXMAN, I formed the Congressional Working Group on Parkinson's Disease. The Working Group strives to ensure that the nation's decision makers remain ever aware of the needs of the more than one million Americans struggling with the devastating disease of Parkinson's.

Four years ago this past Monday, Senator WELLSTONE was successful in adding the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research Act as an amendment to the Senate FY98 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill. Not surprisingly, the amendment was approved by a vote of 95-3.

Named for Arizona Representative Mo Udall to honor his legacy, the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research Act was originally introduced on April 9, 1997 in the House of Representatives. Mr. UPTON and Mr. WAXMAN were the bill's lead sponsors in the House,

with Senators McCAIN and WELLSTONE sponsoring it in the Senate. In the 105th Congress, this bill, H.R. 1260, had 255 cosponsors in the House; I was a proud original cosponsor, too.

The Udall Act expanded basic and clinical research in Parkinson's Disease. It established Udall Centers of Excellence around the country and set up the Morris K. Udall Awards in Parkinson's Research to provide grants to scientists who are working to cure Parkinson's.

One of the eleven Udall Centers is located in the great city of New York. The Morris Udall Center for Parkinson Disease Research at Columbia University is doing innovative research, including identifying new genes that, when either expressed or suppressed, contribute to the degeneration of key nerve cells. The New York group is also investigating gender and ethnic differences in people with Parkinson's Disease. Notably, too, Columbia University's Dean of Medicine is the former Director of NIH's National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Dr. Gerald Fischbach. The work at this Udall Center, as well as Centers across the country, is leading to a better understanding of the brain and how this disease affects it. The groundbreaking research at the Udall Centers, as well as our nation's public and private sector research effort, will lead to better treatment and a cure for Parkinson's.

In this Congress, I will proudly join Congressman MARK and TOM UDALL and members of the Congressional Working Group to introduce a reauthorization of the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research Act. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in reauthorizing this important legislation.

In the spirit of Mo Udall's tenacity and strength of purpose, we cannot stop now. We must wholeheartedly support Parkinson's research until we find a cure!

As the President has said, we must continue on path to doubling the NIH budget by 2003.

In last year's appropriations, \$71.4 million of the NIH budget was designated for Parkinson's Disease research. But this is only year-one funding of the NIH's Five Year Plan for Parkinson's Disease Research. We have to remain vigilant and keep the pressure on.

Leading scientists describe Parkinson's as the most curable neurological disorder! That is why I urge my colleagues to support the second-year funding of the Five Year NIH Plan. Recent advances in Parkinson's Disease research have given us great hope that a cure is imminent. The science regarding Parkinson's has advanced to a stage where greater management and coordination of the federally-funded research effort will accelerate the pace of scientific progress dramatically. I ask all my colleagues to support NIH's research agenda by fully funding the \$143.5 million increase for FY02 in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Secondly, we must continue to fund the U.S. Army's Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Research Program. The research not only strives to improve the treatment of neurological diseases, but also aims to identify the causes of disease and prevent them.

I am heartened by the scientific progress being made. We are so close to a cure of this disease.

As you may know, this is a personal issue for many of us. Some of our colleagues are

struggling with Parkinson's or have family members who are living with this illness. My own father has been afflicted by Parkinson's. I have seen the impact of this disease first hand and have spoken to the experts. Professionals at NIH have said that this disease is curable within as little as 5 years. My government should be a part of that research.

Better treatment and a cure for Parkinson's Disease also depends on stem cell research. With further research into embryonic stem cells, scientists should be able to reprogram the stem cells into the dopamine-producing cells which are currently lost in Parkinson's Disease. President Bush's August decision to fund limited types of stem cell research is a small step forward for this life saving medical research, though a limited one indeed. The President's decision to permit research on existing cell lines, without allowing for the derivation of new cell lines, falls short in the eyes of many top medical researchers. Experts tell us that different cell lines hold disparate research and therapeutic potential, and elimination of federal funding for certain lines will hold major consequences. I am quite troubled by what Secretary Tommy Thompson said yesterday. He noted that less than one-third of the embryonic stem cells lines that President Bush and said were available for federally-funded research are fully developed and currently adequate for research. This is unacceptable. We must not tie the hands of the scientists.

So again, I urge my colleagues to support the scientists and the researchers who are battling this disease by providing the funding levels needed to cure Parkinson's. In addition, we must keep the pressure on the NIH to stay true to their Five Year Plan for Parkinson's Disease Research. Let this be the Congress that history points to that fulfilled the promise of the Udall Act and provided the unwavering support that led to an end to Parkinson's Disease.

HONORING IDA WELLS ON THE
OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues in paying tribute to an outstanding member of the New Haven, CT, community—Ida Wells. Ida is a tremendous individual who has shown an unparalleled dedication and commitment to our community and it is my privilege to honor her today as she celebrates her retirement from the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the city of New Haven.

Originally from Newark, NJ, Ida first came to New Haven from New York City only 16 years ago. In that time, she has developed a reputation as one of the leading advocates for public housing residents. Ida, a public housing resident herself, became active in her building as a way to fill her time. Prior to her appointment to the Housing Board of Commissioners, Ida served as Crawford Manor's tenant council president for 8 years. Even then, Ida was one