INCREASED FUNDING FOR ALZHEIMER’S, AUTISM, AND LYME DISEASE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I testified before the Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education Appropriations Subcommittee on the importance of setting aside sufficient funding for critical life-saving and life affirming medical research. First Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend President Bush for continuing the commitment to double biomedical research funding in five years by providing a $2.8 billion increase for the National Institute of Health (NIH) in his budget proposal to Congress. The President’s proposal provides the largest annual funding increase in NIH’s history, and it is my hope that Congress follows in the President’s footsteps.

Today I am here to represent the interests of those afflicted with Alzheimer’s disease, autism, and Lyme disease. These devastating diseases have left the elderly helpless, the children voiceless, and people across the nation getting weaker and sicker.

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

As co-founder of the Bipartisan Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease, I am seeking support for increased funding of the National Institute on Aging so that it could accommodate an additional $200 million in Alzheimer’s research. This appropriation will help us reach our goal of funding Alzheimer’s research at $1 billion by fiscal year 2003 and allow us to launch an all-out assault on Alzheimer’s disease.

This year, Mr. Speaker, we hope to increase funding for research to discover ways in which to prevent Alzheimer’s for two critical target populations. The first target is people who will have clinical Alzheimer’s disease 10 to 20 years from now. Researchers must find ways to slow or alter the changes that are already taking place in the brain so that symptoms of Alzheimer’s never develops. The second target population is those persons who are already suffering with the disease. Researchers need more resources to help them find ways to prevent the health crises, the unmanageable behaviors, and the rapid functional decline that leads to hospitalization and nursing home placement. We are aware of the tremendous cost Alzheimer’s already brings to society. Not only is there an economic burden, but Alzheimer’s also destroys the quality of life for the patient and the caregiver alike.

An increased investment from the government will allow for researchers to search for simple, practical, widely available, and affordable ways to detect the earliest changes in the brain.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen that the Alzheimer’s investments Congress has made over the past decade are now paying off in Alzheimer’s. For instance, scientists have developed a third FDA-approved drug designed for the treatment of the disease’s cognitive symptoms. In addition, scientists have completed Phase 1 of a clinical trial involving humans in which they used a vaccine that appears to prevent in the brains of mice the amyloid deposition that forms plaques which characterize Alzheimer’s disease.

The United States enters the 21st Century facing an imminent epidemic. By 2050, 14 million of today’s baby boomers will have Alzheimer’s disease. For most of them, the proc-
that “the Lyme disease is greatly under-re-
ported.” Thus, we must urge CDC to re-exam-
ine its surveillance system to see where im-
provements can be made and accurately en-
hanced. In order to do this, they need ade-
quately funding and oversight.

Lyme disease continues to harm tens of
thousands of Americans who engage in out-
door activities, both from work and from recre-
ation. Symptoms of Lyme disease can include
a reddish skin rash, chills, flu-like symptoms,
headaches, joint pain and fatigue. Without
treatment, Lyme disease can result in acute
headaches, arthritis, and nervous system and
cardiac abnormalities. The CDC notes that
Lyme disease is the leading cause of vector-
borne infectious illness in the U.S. with ap-
proximately 15,000 cases reported annually.
Over 125,000 cases of Lyme disease infection
have been reported since 1982, and some
studies indicate cases of Lyme may be under-
reported because as many as 10 or 12 times.
Furthermore, various estimates of the cost of Lyme
disease on our society at between $500 mil-
lion and $1 billion annually.

Consequently, I believe funding to address
detection and surveillance would greatly assist
Congress in ensuring the constituents in Lyme
disease affected areas. I urge that Lyme disease re-
search is on the right track.

The case is amply made that extra monies
for Alzheimer’s disease, Autism, and Lyme
disease will be very well put to use and rep-
resent a small payment toward preventing fu-
ture health care costs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of Con-
gress to support increased funding for Alz-
heimer’s, autism, and Lyme disease.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY CELEBRATION OF THE
IRON WORKERS LOCAL 17

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, please join me
in saluting the hard working men and women
of Iron Workers Local 17 of Cleveland, Ohio
as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

The brilliant craftsmanship of the thousands
of dedicated men and women who comprise
the Iron Workers Local 17 is evident across
the landscape of Northern Ohio. The bridges
that span Ohio’s beautiful rivers and The Rock
and Roll Hall of Fame are both fine exam-

PUBLICATION OFFICER MEDAL
OF VALOR ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF
HON. JIM LANGEVIN
OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in
strong support of H.R. 802, the Public Safety
Officer Medal of Valor Act, which would create
a national medal for public safety officers who
exhibit extraordinary heroism in the line of
duty.

As someone who once aspired to serve in
law enforcement and a proud member of both
the Congressional Law Enforcement and Fire-
fighters Caucuses, I deeply admire those who
devote their lives to public safety.

We are blessed to have dedicated men and
women public safety officials throughout this
country who consistently perform their lives on a
daily basis to protect our families and commu-
nities. It is absolutely critical that we recognize
these loyal public servants and ensure that the
risks that these brave individuals assume in
the course of their duties are not taken for
granted.

Although many local public safety organiza-
tions honor those who have demonstrated
bravery, the federal government does little to
reward and recognize these individuals. By
passing the Public Safety Officer Medal of
Valor Act, Congress would have the unique
opportunity to express its appreciation for the
unnoticed acts of valor committed by public
safety officers who have gone above and be-
yond the call of duty. Further, this legislation
will help send a positive message across the
country that our public safety officers deserve
our utmost respect for their service and sac-
rifices.

I will continue to applaud the courage and
dedication to duty of all public safety officers
and would strongly urge my colleagues to sup-
port the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act.

INDEPENDENT TELECOMMUNICA-
TIONS CONSUMER ENHANCE-
MENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF
HON. EVA M. CLAYTON
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sup-
port of the Independent Telecommunications
Consumer Enhancement Act of 2001. This bill
would provide regulatory relief to small and
mid-sized telephone companies that generally
serve small town and rural communities. The
current regulatory burdens on these small
companies are the same as those placed on
large companies; but, because of their size,
these regulations are very costly and time-
consuming.

These regulatory burdens tend to discour-
age competition in rural communities by im-
peding the entry of new companies into these
markets. These burdens also pose obstacles
to the development in rural communities of ad-
vanced services such as broadband Internet
access.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 pro-
vided for reduced regulations and greater
competition in our country. This has fostered
many new telecommunications and informa-
tion services including advanced services.
However, the benefits of these technological
advances have been enjoyed by urban and
suburban communities much more than by
people who live in small towns and rural
communities. Large telephone companies and
other entities tend to have the resources re-
quired to develop these advanced services
and find the urban and suburban markets
more attractive. The deployment of advanced
services in urban areas contrasted with the
difficulty of small companies offering these
services in rural areas has exacerbated the
digital divide.

We must find ways to bridge this divide. Re-
lieving certain regulatory burdens may help
achieve this objective. The proponents of this
bill and many small telephone companies
promise that they will use the savings resulting
from the elimination of these regulatory bur-
dens to extend advanced services. Some
question whether the savings resulting from
this measure would simply increase profits of
the small telephone companies with no cor-
responding increase in services. Some note
that this bill does not impose a reciprocal obli-
gation to extend services following the relax-
ation of current regulatory requirements, and
does not include any enforcement mecha-
nisms. We hope that the small telephone com-
panies which benefit from the adoption of this
bill will do the right thing and act in the best

March 27, 2001

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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