

of all is energy conservation and energy efficiency. That can be implemented quickly. It can be used to solve the crisis, it can be used to reduce demand and drive the prices down in California, and certainly put the State on a better keel. I hope that California pursues it, and I hope that our Federal government helps them pursue that alternative.

Now, there is so much more I could say about this, and I plan to do a 1 hour speech on this later on. But I wanted to give this introductory speech at this point, outlining some of the characteristics of energy, how important it is to our Nation and our economy, and how totally dependent we are on it.

It is an issue that we must deal with. We must deal with it intelligently, using every possible means; not just energy conservation and energy efficiency, although I think they are extremely important, but also looking at alternative sources of energy and more wisely using the resources we have now.

The answer is not simply drilling holes in the ground, the answer is not simply insulating houses, but looking at every aspect of our use of energy and saying how can we use it better, how can we use it more efficiently, how can we really accomplish something worthwhile in our energy use, without depleting our natural resources.

One last comment about energy. There are two very important aspects you must remember about energy. First, energy is our most basic natural resource, because without energy, we cannot use any of our other basic resources. We cannot use iron, steel, copper and so forth, without digging it out of the ground and forming it and fabricating it. All of this requires energy.

The second important point about energy is that it is the only non-renewable resource. Once you use it, it is gone. We can renew all our other resources; that one we cannot. So let us be certain to use energy right and not waste it.

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#### THE CONTINUING CRISIS OF HIV/AIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this moment because of the fact that the AIDS/HIV epidemic continues to plague America and, in actuality, continues to plague much of the world. I take this opportunity to commend the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Pacific American Caucus for holding a joint hearing regarding this very important issue on June 12,

that is, the issue of the HIV/AIDS epidemic that continues to threaten communities not only in our country, but throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago the term HIV/AIDS was unknown. Since that time, over 19 million people worldwide have died of HIV/AIDS, and approximately 34 million people continue to live with the disease. The Surgeon General, David Satcher, stated in a recent report that HIV/AIDS could be the worst epidemic ever recorded in history.

Many people believe that this is an issue that does not really affect our country. It is true that the poorest regions in the world have been hit the hardest; yet the United States of America, the most technologically proficient Nation on the face of the Earth, has not been able to escape the devastation of this deadly disease. In this country alone, over 400,000 people have died, while 900,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS. The Centers for Disease Control recently released a report stating that each year there are 40,000 new cases of HIV/AIDS.

What concerns me the most about this issue is the growing impact that the disease is having on minority communities in our country. The 2000 Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS Report to the President stated that "in the United States, disproportionate numbers of new infections are found in poor communities, communities of color, among young gay men, among drug users, and among African American and Latino women populations who have rarely been embraced by this Nation as a whole."

In 1999, the AIDS incident-rate per 100,000 people among Hispanics was 25.6. The rate for African Americans was 66. The rate for whites was 7.6. These statistics clearly demonstrate the large racial gaps that exist among AIDS cases. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has reached my own district in Chicago, Illinois. The city has seen an overwhelming increase in the number of minorities infected with the disease. This past February, researchers in Chicago reported that fully 30 percent of young gay African American men are infected with HIV/AIDS. The infection rate for gay blacks is twice that of any other ethnic group. Nationwide, 14.7 percent of gay black men are infected with the disease.

In addition to the African American community, the Hispanic population has also seen an increase in the number of HIV/AIDS cases. In 1999, Hispanics made up 13 percent of the entire United States population. At the same time, however, Hispanics also made up 19 percent of the total number of new United States AIDS cases reported that year.

Research has shown that these trends are continuing to worsen. The HIV/AIDS epidemic has continued to spread

throughout minority communities. We can no longer sit and simply wait for a cure to be found. We must increase our work to educate the public on AIDS prevention, while continuing to study new ways to combat the disease.

Again, I want to commend my colleagues in the CBC and the CHC and the CPA for their vigilance on this issue. This hearing is an excellent way to keep the spotlight on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and an excellent way for us to come up with effective ways to solve this very important and growing problem.

#### TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF DISCOVERY OF HIV/AIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my colleague, in observing the 20-year anniversary of the discovery of the HIV virus. This was a terrible time. In our community in San Francisco, at the University of California San Francisco, we were hearing rumors 20 years ago about illnesses that had not been seen since the Middle Ages, or read about or heard about; that immune systems were so devastated that people were susceptible to afflictions that were grotesque. It was frightening. We knew we had to do something about it. It never dawned on us then that 20 years later, projecting into the future 20 years, that we would be here still talking about funding for research, prevention, and care.

A lot has been accomplished in the past 20 years, but a lot needs to be done. I want to associate myself with the comments that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) made about work of the caucuses in the Congress, in the House, the Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus and the work that they have done to recognize the changing face of AIDS.

In the beginning, it started as a gay men's disease; now we know it permeates our society, and it is taking a very big bite out of the minority community. Just last week we were all saddened by the news that new HIV infections among young gay men, particularly among young, gay African American gay men, had risen dramatically. Many young people have come of age in a world where protease inhibitors are extending life. They do not remember the terror that we went through 20 years ago and since; and these treatments that we have now, while important, are not a cure. Until we have a true cure, an effective vaccine prevention is our best weapon. We must intensify our prevention efforts, including targeted education about behavioral risk and research for a vaccine.