

citrus fruit alone to \$27 billion in trade losses for FMD.

An array of pathogens could be introduced easily and effectively with assurance of widespread health, economic and political impacts. For livestock, the prime candidates are FMD and African swine fever (ASF). FMD is particularly attractive from a terrorist standpoint because it is a highly contagious viral infection with a morbidity rate of 100% in cattle. ASF is equally effective.

Next on the list are the zoonotic diseases, which offer a different strategy: using animals to infect humans. Brucellosis, though not fatal, results in chronic disease; some paramyxoviruses can be passed through direct contact with animals and feature a mortality rate in humans of 36%; certain arboviruses, such as Japanese encephalitis virus, which is spread by insect vectors, and cutaneous forms of anthrax could be readily introduced in the United States. Animal hides, an import item to the US, are a common carrier of anthrax spores that can be readily inhaled and prove fatal for humans.

When it comes to crop pathogens, the list is equally long and ominous: stem rust for cereals and wheat, southern corn leaf blight, rice blast, potato blight, citrus canker and several nonspecific plant pathogens. Although not transmittable to humans, these pathogens would cut a wide and devastating swath in crop production.

It takes relatively few dollars and little imagination to introduce these deadly pathogens. Just like a crop duster or even hand spray pumps, aerosol would be an effective means to introduce the crop pathogen of choice on plants. A terrorist could also rely on cross border winds or water systems to carry a harmful pathogen from another country into the United States. For animals, the options could be somewhat more imaginative, such as dusting a turkey's feathers with a pathogen agent and then filling small bomblets with the feathers to explode over a targeted area, mushrooming contamination as the feathers drift with the wind to such likely targets as a high density avian population.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPACT

Any agro-terrorist attack on the food chain would create marked economic instability and losses due to dislocational, trade and health effects. Every bushel of wheat, corn or soybeans (all staple food and feed items) in addition to beef carcasses and pork bellies, has a futures contract written in Chicago and on other exchanges in Europe, Asia and Latin America. These contracts are all written on margin positions, meaning that the financial losses on unfulfilled contracts would be a multiple of the contract itself. Apart from stocks, losses could be incurred as a result of the following: loss of business for freight-forwarding companies, cancellations of ocean freight, rail and truck hauls; insurance claims on cargoes; and abrogation of contracts up and down the food chain.

With only a partial and untested 'Bio-shield' system in place, one likely scenario is that US politicians would adopt a unilateral response to what is an international problem in the face of a bioterrorist attack. Whether it's cross-border winds or the globalization of our food chain, the fact remains that much of our own vulnerability rests with imported pathogens. The US cannot seal off its territory from these pathogens. By attempting to do so, the government would make matters worse in the absence of uniform international security and surveillance systems.

The appropriate counter-terrorist response requires a global security system for sharing

research, findings and coordinating strategies with trading partners where the United States sources and sells much of its food. Present policies risk the kind of economic repercussions experienced with Japan in the aftermath of the three-day soybean embargo imposed by the United States in 1973, which became a major shoku in Japan's economic history. Concern over food security, rooted in the soybean embargo, inspired the first and ultimate line of defense in Japan's resistance to liberalizing international trade rules for the agricultural sector.

COUNTERATTACKS

The first priority to combat these threats is to invest in the creation of pathogen-resistant crops through genetic engineering. The National Plant Genome Initiative (Washington, DC, USA) is an international collaboration between academia and the private sector to build a plant genome research infrastructure targeted at sequencing model plant species and therefore identifying genes associated with disease resistance. Together with information concerning large-animal genomes—the cattle genome is anticipated soon—genomic information can be applied to develop new strains of plants and livestock resistant to animal and plant pathogens likely to be used by terrorists. The US Department of Agriculture's (Washington, DC, USA) newly sponsored research centers and other joint government and private sector initiatives inside and outside the United States could also contribute to the search for resistant strains of livestock. In addition, short-term virus testing and monitoring measures can be adopted to address the problem of increased susceptibility of livestock to disease due to changes in cattle feeding and meatpacking. The discovery earlier in 2004 of a BSE-infected Holstein cow in the United States demonstrated that the monitoring and surveillance system in place is insufficient for rapid detection purposes.

There is also an immediate need for a stronger set of regulations that feature comprehensive coordination of research, detection and surveillance on both national and international fronts. Private industry partners in this undertaking must be treated equitably and fairly with a greater effort to broaden industry representation. The easiest step that can be taken to strengthen US defenses is to initiate and fund an intensive personnel training program to meet CBPA (Customs and Border Protection Agency) and FDA's ambitious program benchmarks for field operations, including port inspections, staffing and personal training, and industry registrations. We still lack uniform and consistent enforcement standards for industry and government agencies. Although that is the 15-year goal of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) run by the US Customs, nothing in place can accommodate different information and reporting systems in both the government and the private sector.

Longer term measures should include accelerated research programs and an integration and internationalization of policy planning and enforcement. Although the target is to create a practical system of defense for the US food chain, new endeavors to foil terrorists also can result in a broader international system of preparedness. Lifting the siege is the first step.

INTRODUCING BILL TO BRING UNIVERSAL FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN TO D.C. AND NATIONWIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today on Read Across America Day the Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2005 (Universal Pre-K) to begin the process of providing universal, public school pre-kindergarten education for every child, regardless of income. The bill is meant to fill the gaping hole in the President's No Child Left Behind law, which requires elementary and secondary school children to meet more rigorous standards while ignoring the preschool years which can best prepare them to do so. My bill would provide a breakthrough in elementary school education by taking a step at the federal level to provide initial funding and, using such funding, to encourage school districts themselves to add a grade to elementary schooling at age four as an option for every child.

I often read to kids on Read Across America Day. However, symbolic actions won't do as we blithely let the most fertile years for reading go by while we wonder why we can't teach Johnny to read. As the President presses No Child Left Behind into high schools, my bill asks him to begin at the beginning of a child's education.

The Universal Pre-K Act responds both to the huge and growing needs of parents for educational childcare and to the new science showing that a child's brain development, which sets the stage for lifelong learning, begins much earlier than previously believed. However, parents who need childcare for their pre-K age children are rarely able to afford the stimulating educational environment necessary to ensure optimal brain development. Universal Pre-K would be a part of school systems, adding a new grade for 4-year-olds similar to 5-year-old kindergarten programs now routinely available in the United States. Norton said that the bill would eliminate some of the major shortcomings of the uneven commercial day care now available and would assure qualified teachers and safe facilities.

Because of decades of refusal by Congress to approve the large sums necessary for universal health coverage, the Universal Pre-K Act encourages school districts across the United States to apply to the Department of Education for grants to establish 4-year-old kindergartens. Grants funded under Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) would be available to school systems which agree in turn to use the experience acquired with the federal funding provided by my bill to then move forward, where possible, to phase in 4-year old kindergartens for all children in the school district in regular classrooms with teachers equivalent to those in other grades as part of their annual school district budgets.

The success of high quality Head Start and other pre-kindergarten programs combined with new scientific evidence concerning the

importance of brain development in the early years virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all of our children. Traditionally, early learning programs have been available only to the affluent and to lower income families in programs such as Head Start. My bill provides a practiced way to gradually move to universal pre-school education. The goal of the Universal Pre-K Act is to bring the benefits of educational pre-K within reach of the great majority of American working poor, lower middle class, and middle class families, most of whom have been left out.

In a letter to Congress last term opposing private school vouchers, City Council Member Kathy Patterson suggested that instead of vouchers, Congress should fund a number of unfunded D.C. public school priorities, including pre-K education for all 4-year old children. She said that although universal 4-year old pre-K was a top D.C. priority, the city has been able to provide this schooling to only half of its children from local tax revenue.

Compare the cost of day care, most of it offered today with an inadequate educational emphasis, at an average cost of \$6,171 per year to the cost of in-state tuition at the University of Virginia, which costs \$6,785 per year. Yet, more than 60% of mothers with children under age six work. That proportion is rapidly increasing as more mothers enter the labor force, including mothers leaving welfare, who also have no long term access to child care.

Considering the staggering cost of daycare, the inaccessibility of early education, and the opportunity earlier education offers to improve a child's chances in life, four-year-old kindergarten is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

RECOGNIZING LOIS GREENE FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LAS VEGAS COMMUNITY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Ms. Lois Greene for the contributions she has made to the people and communities of the Las Vegas Valley.

Ms. Greene's career of 25 years in banking and finance has enabled her to be an impassioned and pure advocate for small and minority owned businesses. Her commitment to God and her faith has been the key factor in her successful advocacy for non-profit organizations and the faith-based community. Out of her devotion to her ideals, she has helped transform the Las Vegas Valley and has brought hope to the residents that live there.

Without question, her professional leadership in community development has helped Bank West of Nevada achieve and maintain an outstanding compliance rating under the Community Reinvestment Act for the past 10 years. But also as remarkable, has been her work as the "Economic Evangelist," helping lead countless men and women out of finan-

cial bondage and toward financial freedom and economic growth through her efforts to wage war on debt. As a result of her leadership, she has been recognized as a "Woman of Distinction," "The Most Influential Woman in Southern Nevada Business" and the "Minority Business Advocate of the Year."

I applaud her for her commitment to improving the lives of southern Nevadans of every age group, but more importantly of our youth. Her life story of humble and impoverished beginnings is one that transcends the color line. It serves as a remarkable example that hard work, determination, compassion and faith in God can overcome the stumbling blocks that were historically designed to oppress American minority groups. Therefore, her accomplishments are a triumph and her story is an example of success with which countless numbers of young people have found inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of her accomplishments, I honor her today and during Women's History Month, so that our Nation will be aware of her service and commitment to helping others become self-sufficient and realize their American dream. I am proud to represent her in Nevada's Third District.

HONORING JUDY GUERRA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, across America you can find people who make a difference in their community. Usually in quiet unassuming ways every day they help change the lives of people with whom they work and the neighborhoods they call home. Tonight, I rise to pay tribute to one such person, an outstanding and unforgettable woman from Indianapolis, Judy Guerra. Living by the very simple credo, "you get what you give" Judy has made such a tremendous difference in her community.

A mother of two, grandmother to seven, and a successful businesswoman, Judy truly embodies the spirit of community service and friendship that we strive to live by. Whether its sponsoring a local girls little league team, or opening her restaurants for fundraisers for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis, Butler University's Armed Forces Scholarship fund or just the local Christmas food drive, if there is a need, Judy unselfishly and tirelessly gives of herself to meet the challenge headon.

Judy Guerra does not belong to St. Joan of Arc or Christ the King Church but they are the lucky beneficiaries of her generous donations. Why? Because these churches are located in her neighborhood and giving back to all sectors of the community resonates deep within this Hoosier. When senior citizens on fixed incomes visit Judy's "Just Judy's" restaurant it's not unusual for them to receive a larger than normal serving of soup or extra sandwich to accompany the friendly service with a smile. If a local family finds themselves fallen upon hard times they know their troubles can be left at the door as Judy and her daughters will

welcome them with open arms and perhaps a sampling of the day's "new recipes." And what makes every small act of concern and each gesture of kindness so remarkable is that they are simply second nature to Judy, as unconscious as breathing. As her friend Maureen Cox said to me in an e-mail, "If there is a national award for generosity, Judy Guerra is our person," and I heartily agree.

Mr. Speaker, Judy Guerra is an amazing woman, an ordinary person who reaches beyond herself in every way to bring hope, and opportunity, friendship and caring to everyone around her. I am proud to call her a fellow Hoosier and privileged to honor her here today.

THE SILVERY MINNOW AGREEMENT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, water is a precious natural resource that we must manage as efficiently as possible. Benjamin Franklin wrote in Poor Richard's Almanac in 1746, "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." In parts of the West, the well is quickly running dry.

Drought conditions have affected nearly everyone in arid Western States in one way or another. Farmers are being forced to sell livestock, many cities are in various stages of water conservation, and many acres of land have been charred by fire. I believe we must use every tool available to confront these water problems, and doing so remains one of my top priorities.

We need to come at this from many different angles since water shortages present a multitude of complications. That is why I have crafted several pieces of legislation that focus on rural communities, water technology and augmentation, and insidious plant eradication.

I believe the combined effect of those bills plus continued efforts in desalination and formation of a national water council will greatly improve the situation of dry States like New Mexico.

Last week, a historic and long overdue agreement was announced in New Mexico regarding the silvery minnow. After five and a half years of court proceedings, not to mention millions of dollars in legal costs, the City of Albuquerque and an alliance of six environmental groups announced an agreement that will help ensure the endurance of the Rio Grande. The accord signals that water conservation and ecological goals on the Rio Grande are vital.

As part of the agreement, litigants in Silvery Minnow v. Keys agreed to drop any claim on the San Juan-Chama water for minnow purposes, as well as end their protest to Albuquerque's drinking water project and diversion of San Juan-Chama water from the Rio Grande. At the same, the City of Albuquerque has agreed to significant conservation measures that acknowledge the need for water to sustain the river itself as an ecosystem.

The project has been in legal jeopardy because the Endangered Species Act and the