

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, on September 25, 2008, I missed rollcall vote 641 while attending a meeting at the White House to discuss the Nation's financial crisis. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 641.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT OF 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1157) to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1157

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. EXPANDING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ON BREAST CANCER AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 1 of part C of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 255 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 417F. INTERAGENCY BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

"(a) INTERAGENCY BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a committee, to be known as the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee (in this section referred to as the 'Committee').

"(2) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

"(A) share and coordinate information on existing research activities, and make recommendations to the National Institutes of Health and other Federal agencies regarding how to improve existing research programs, that are related to breast cancer research;

"(B) develop a comprehensive strategy and advise the National Institutes of Health and other Federal agencies in the solicitation of proposals for collaborative, multidisciplinary research, including proposals to evaluate environmental and genomic factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer that would—

"(i) result in innovative approaches to study emerging scientific opportunities or eliminate

knowledge gaps in research to improve the research portfolio;

"(ii) outline key research questions, methodologies, and knowledge gaps;

"(iii) expand the number of research proposals that involve collaboration between 2 or more national research institutes or national centers, including proposals for Common Fund research described in section 402(b)(7) to improve the research portfolio; and

"(iv) expand the number of collaborative, multidisciplinary, and multi-institutional research grants;

"(C) develop a summary of advances in breast cancer research supported or conducted by Federal agencies relevant to the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer and other diseases and disorders; and

"(D) not later than 2 years after the date of the establishment of the Committee, make recommendations to the Secretary—

"(i) regarding any appropriate changes to research activities, including recommendations to improve the research portfolio of the National Institutes of Health to ensure that scientifically-based strategic planning is implemented in support of research priorities that impact breast cancer research activities;

"(ii) to ensure that the activities of the National Institutes of Health and other Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, are free of unnecessary duplication of effort;

"(iii) regarding public participation in decisions relating to breast cancer research to increase the involvement of patient advocacy and community organizations representing a broad geographical area;

"(iv) on how best to disseminate information on breast cancer research progress; and

"(v) on how to expand partnerships between public entities, including Federal agencies, and private entities to expand collaborative, cross-cutting research.

"(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For the purposes of the Committee, when focusing on research to evaluate environmental and genomic factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer, nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the Secretary from including other forms of cancer, as appropriate, when doing so may advance research in breast cancer or advance research in other forms of cancer.

"(4) MEMBERSHIP.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of the following voting members:

"(i) Not more than 7 voting Federal representatives as follows:

"(I) The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"(II) The Director of the National Institutes of Health and the directors of such national research institutes and national centers (which may include the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences) as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(III) One representative from the National Cancer Institute Board of Scientific Advisors, appointed by the Director of the National Cancer Institute.

"(IV) The heads of such other agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(V) Representatives of other Federal agencies that conduct or support cancer research, including the Department of Defense.

"(ii) 12 additional voting members appointed under subparagraph (B).

"(B) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Committee shall include additional voting members appointed by the Secretary as follows:

"(i) 6 members shall be appointed from among scientists, physicians, and other health professionals, who—

"(I) are not officers or employees of the United States;

"(II) represent multiple disciplines, including clinical, basic, and public health sciences;

"(III) represent different geographical regions of the United States;

"(IV) are from practice settings, academia, or other research settings; and

"(V) are experienced in scientific peer review process.

"(ii) 6 members shall be appointed from members of the general public, who represent individuals with breast cancer.

"(C) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Committee shall include such nonvoting members as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(5) CHAIRPERSON.—The voting members of the Committee shall select a chairperson from among such members. The selection of a chairperson shall be subject to the approval of the Director of NIH.

"(6) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson of the Committee or upon the request of the Director of NIH, but in no case less often than once each year.

"(b) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall review the necessity of the Committee in calendar year 2011 and, thereafter, at least once every 2 years."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out research activities under title IV of the Public Health Service Act, including section 417F of such Act as added by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012. Amounts authorized to be appropriated under the preceding sentence shall be in addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such purpose under section 424A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, legislation introduced by Representatives NITA LOWEY and SUE MYRICK.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC, breast cancer is the second most common form of cancer in women. Each year in America, approximately 182,000 women are diagnosed of breast cancer, of which nearly 41,000 lose their lives.

While improved access to screening and treatment services have helped reduced breast cancer death rates over the past couple of decades, significant challenges still remain. For example, we are still unsure about what causes breast cancer or how to prevent it. While there have been a number of

studies that have looked at various risk factors, we have not been able to draw any solid conclusions about what specifically causes breast cancer or what are the linkages between breast cancer and environmental factors.

This legislation would help address, help facilitate and help coordinate research efforts on the links between breast cancer and environmental factors in the hopes that one day we might find a cure.

Let me acknowledge the work of my colleagues, Mrs. LOWEY and Mrs. MYRICK, who have been tireless advocates on behalf of this legislation. They have been working nonstop over the past several months to develop the compromise legislation before us today.

I would also like to commend the chairman of our committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. DINGELL, as well as his staff, for their hard work on this legislation. In particular I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Jessica McNiece, a member of the professional staff on the Energy and Commerce Committee, for her efforts to move this bill forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I too rise in support of this legislation and would like to yield such time as she may consume to one of the original sponsors of this legislation, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK).

Mrs. MYRICK. Thank you, Mr. DEAL, for yielding.

I am very pleased to speak on behalf of this bill and excited that it has come this far, because it is going to further progress breast cancer research as it relates to the environmental factors.

NITA LOWEY has worked on this for I think 10 years. I have been at it for at least 7 years. I don't know how long it has been, NITA, but it has been a long, long time. We are both happy to be at this point, because I think it will breathe new life into the effort of what we are doing at the NIH for the potential triggers of breast cancer.

Lots of thought has gone into this, a tremendous amount of work on both sides of the aisle. I want to commend Mrs. LOWEY for all of her work, Chairman DINGELL and Chairman BARTON, and all the staff members who made this compromise possible, because this has been a long time coming. We are just grateful we are at this point today.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the sponsor of the bill, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), who, as everyone has said, has worked so hard and tirelessly on behalf of this legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. The bill is the product of bipartisan, bicameral negotiations, and in my judg-

ment truly represents a fair compromise that will lead to meaningful changes in how breast cancer research is conducted throughout the Federal Government.

The bill passed by voice vote in the Energy and Commerce Committee. It will improve the caliber of breast cancer research, improve transparency for breast cancer research dollars and vastly increase the role of advocates in determining research priorities.

I would like to thank a few key individuals who have been an integral part of advancing this legislation. First of all, my partner on this bill, Congresswoman SUE MYRICK. She has done a yeoman job, and we have worked together for a very, very long time. Congratulations. Of course, her staff, Sarah Hale; the Senate sponsor of this bill, Majority Leader HARRY REID and his staff, Carolyn Gluck; Ranking Member BARTON and his staff, Ryan Long; Minority Whip ROY BLUNT and his staff, Cheryl Jaeger; Health Subcommittee Chairman, my good friend Congressman PALLONE, we came to the Congress together, and his staff, Bobby Clark; and, of course, Chairman DINGELL and his staff, in particular Jessica McNiece and Greg Rothschild, who have spent countless hours on this bill. Without their commitment to advancing a bipartisan product, frankly, we wouldn't be here today.

The bill is a really good one, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I think one of the better things that is contained in this legislation is that it does create an interagency coordinating committee to coordinate the activities on breast cancer research that are being conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Defense Department and other agencies that are actively engaged in cancer research. By removing the barriers which restrict cross-institutional information sharing, we will be able to bring America's best scientists together to collaborate and work together in pursuit of a cure.

The bill also increases the overall authorization of the NIH by \$40 million to further aid their mission in this research.

I think it is a good step in the right direction, and I am glad to see the House taking the legislation up today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I would ask that we all support this very important legislation. I know that it constantly comes up in my State about possible links between breast cancer and various cancers and environmental risk, so I know how important this is. I ask that everyone support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1157, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST LIEUTENANT NOAH HARRIS ELLIJAY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 6847.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6847.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES ORGAN TRANSPLANT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 6469, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6469, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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METH FREE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 6901.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6901.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.