

We must work together within our own communities, our churches, our synagogues and mosques, our schools, and our workplaces to reverse these trends. Today the question for every American is not only what can you do for your nation but what can you do for your school, your neighborhood, and your community.

Character Counts week celebrates the work of those Americans who are answering this call. The Character Counts Coalition is answering this call. We salute the message and encourage all Americans to heed the pillars of character.

SUPPORT FOR THE ANIMAL DRUG AVAILABILITY ACT

HON. WAYNE ALLARD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as a veterinarian, I am well aware of the importance of animal health products for maintaining the health and well-being of companion animals and food-producing animals. Unfortunately, during the past two decades, the drug-approval process at the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine has become increasingly prolonged and complicated. In fact, the FDA has approved only eight new drugs for food producing animals over the past 5 years.

The drug approval process needs to be streamlined so that useful health products are made readily available on the market while essential safety standards are preserved. Animal drug regulations exist to ensure that our family pets are safe and the integrity of our food supply is maintained. Any part of the regulatory process which does not promote these ends, but merely serves as a needless hurdle that delays the approval of beneficial drugs should be reformed. That is exactly what we aim to do with the Allard-Klug-Stenholm-Ganske Animal Drug Availability Act of 1995. This measure would maintain what is right about the current system while it would modify those portions that serve to lengthen the approval process while providing negligible offsetting benefits for safety.

The Animal Drug Availability Act would expedite the animal drug approval process by expanding the list of studies that FDA can use to prove a new drug's effectiveness and by allowing FDA more flexibility in determining whether a field investigation is necessary to prove drug's efficacy. In addition, the act would provide flexible effectiveness requirements for previously approved animal drugs for use in minor species and for minor uses. In order to ensure more predictability in the approval process for drug applicants, FDA officials would be required to convene a pre-submission conference with an applicant for the purpose of outlining what types of studies will be necessary in order to achieve final approval. This agreement would be binding upon both parties unless a subsequent scientific development conclusively demonstrates that an additional study is essential to proving the safety and effectiveness of the drug.

I am pleased that this bill is a bipartisan approach which enjoys the support of over seventy other members of the House. In addition,

it has the broad support of producer groups and feed groups and is endorsed by the Animal Health Institute and the American Veterinary Medical Association. I urge my colleagues to join us in improving the health of family pets and food-producing animals by supporting this commonsense reform to the animal drug approval process.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL DENTAL HYGIENE MONTH

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues in the House of Representatives the importance of recognizing October as National Dental Hygiene Month.

The Dental Hygienists Association of the State of New York will celebrate its 75th anniversary October 20–22. With the advent of this anniversary, we should take note of this outstanding association.

The Dental Hygienists Association was developed to improve the oral health of the public; advance of the art and science of dental hygiene; maintain the highest standards of dental hygiene education and practice; represent and protect the interests of the dental hygiene profession; improve the professional competence of the dental hygienist; to foster research in oral health and finally, to provide professional communications.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in saluting the members of the Dental Hygienists Association of the State of New York for their dedication to their profession and to the oral hygiene of the people of this United States of America.

OCTOBER 19 IS PART-TIME PROFESSIONAL DAY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, the Association of Part-Time Professionals [APTP] has designated October 19, 1995 as the first annual Part-Time Professional Day. In honor of this special day, the APTP is hosting an open house at the association's headquarters in Falls Church, VA.

More than 4.5 million professionals work part time. These professionals prefer part-time work to accommodate changing priorities and lifestyles. Many of these individuals are parents seeking a better balance between work and family needs. Many are retirees who are interested in continuing their active participation in the work force.

Many companies, on their own, are moving toward family-flexible policies such as part-time employment because they recognize that companies that help employees balance work and family needs have reduced turnover and absenteeism and increased productivity. Over the past 5 years, the number of part-time employees in the workplace has increased dramatically, and it is estimated that the part-time

work force will continue to grow during the next 5 years.

The APTP was founded in 1978 as a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting part-time employment on the professional level. APTP holds workshops, seminars and conference, and provides updated information on employment trends and practices. The association publishes a monthly newsletter of interest to part-time professionals and their employers.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Association of Part-Time Professionals for calling attention to the important role part-time professionals play in the workplace and establishing October 19, 1995 as the first annual Part-Time Professional Day. On this important day, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to the millions of men and women who strive to achieve a healthy balance between career and personal goals through flexible work policies.

HONORING AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. GERRY E. STUDDS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Tom Stoddard, one of our Nation's most eloquent and respected advocates for the civil rights of lesbians and gay men. On Friday, October 27, Mr. Stoddard will be honored by the New York University School of Law, which has established the Tom Stoddard Fellowship under the aegis of the law school's prestigious Arthur Garfield Hays civil liberties program.

Each year, one second-year law student will be selected to spend a year as the Stoddard Fellow, working with leading public interest organizations on gay and lesbian rights cases and other civil liberties matters.

I am told that this is the first fellowship at any law school in the world to be dedicated to securing and advancing the cause of lesbian and gay rights. It is hard to imagine a more fitting tribute to one who has done so much to reshape the law in this area from a sword of persecution into a shield of justice.

Tom served as counsel and, later, as legislative director, of the New York Civil Liberties Union, where he came into contact with most of the major civil rights causes of our time. He left the ACLU to devote his full attention to the rights of lesbians and gay men and the rights of people with HIV as head of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Under his stewardship, the organization grew from a staff of 6 and an annual budget of \$300,000 to a staff of 22 and a budget of \$2.2 million. Although he retired from that position in 1991, he was lured back into public service 2 years later, when he spent 6 months commuting to Washington as director of the Campaign for Military Service.

Since 1980, Tom has served on the adjunct faculty of NYU, where he has been a mentor to a generation of law students searching for a way to use their skills in the service of humanity. He is a vice president of the American Civil Liberties Union and vice chairman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Tom has also shown immense courage in his personal struggle with AIDS. He expresses gratitude—not for the disease, but for the way in which it has deepened his sense of connectedness to those he has represented so