

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, while the Speaker's announced goal of a drug-free America by 2002 is a laudable one, it is also completely unrealistic without a meaningful treatment strategy. We will never even come close to a drug-free America until we knock down the barriers to chemical dependency treatment for 26 million Americans who are currently suffering the ravages of drug and alcohol addiction.

Since 1956, the American Medical Association has recognized that alcoholism and drug addiction are a disease. Yet only 2 percent of alcoholics and addicts covered by health insurance plans are receiving treatment, notwithstanding the purported coverage of chemical dependency treatment by these plans. That is because of discriminatory caps, artificially high deductibles and co-payments as well as other restrictions on chemical dependency treatment such as limited treatment stays that are different from other diseases.

To reduce illegal drug use in America, we must address the disease of addiction by putting chemical dependency treatment on par with treatment for other diseases.

Providing equal access to chemical dependency treatment with treatment for other diseases covered by health plans is not only the smart medical approach, it is also cost effective. It is not only the right thing to do, it is also the cost effective thing to do.

We have all the empirical data in the world, including the actuarial studies, to prove that parity for chemical dependency treatment will not raise premiums, will not raise health insurance premiums by more than one-half of 1 percent in the worst case scenario.

So for the price of a cup of coffee per month increasing the premiums, we can treat millions and millions of Americans who are suffering from addiction. This does not include the billions of dollars of cost savings that were a result from the treatment parity. It is well documented that, for every dollar we spend in treatment, we save \$7 in the cost of prison construction, social welfare costs, health care costs, cost of lost productivity through job absenteeism, injuries, sub-par work performance and so forth.

Other studies have shown health care costs alone are 100 percent higher for untreated alcoholics and addicts compared to those who receive treatment. Health care costs are 100 percent higher for those who go untreated. Last year alone, Mr. Speaker, the cost of addiction in the United States totaled \$140 billion.

The recent Bill Moyers television documentation pointed out, and medical experts and treatment professionals agree, that providing access to treatment is the only way to combat addiction in America. We can build all the fences on our borders, surround our country with fences, hire thousands more border guards, but simply dealing with the supply side is not going to make a dent in the drug problem. It is

not going to solve the drug problem. We have got to emphasize the treatment component and include it in our strategy.

Believe me, as a recovering alcoholic myself, I know firsthand the value of treatment. As someone who stays close to other recovering people and to other alcoholics and addicts, I am absolutely alarmed by the dwindling access to treatment for people who need it.

That is why H.R. 2409 the Substance Abuse Treatment Parity Act, which I have authored with 92 cosponsors from all political persuasions, on both sides of the aisle from the far right to the far left, 92 cosponsors, must be included in the drug-free America legislative package for that package to have any credibility in the real world.

This legislation would provide access to treatment by prohibiting discrimination against alcoholics and addicts. If we agree that addiction is a disease, then we should treat it like every other disease and not let insurance companies discriminate against treatment.

This is not a mandate. I have heard that argument by some of the opponents of this legislation. This is not a mandate. All we are saying is that, if you and your plan are covered for chemical dependency treatment, you should not be limited to 2 to 7 days, which most companies are doing. Because every chemical dependency program in the world knows you cannot get effective treatment in 2 to 7 days. So this is not another mandate.

In addition, the legislation that I have sponsored waives the parity requirement if premiums increase by more than 1 percent. It is off. Also, small businesses with fewer than 50 employees would be exempt in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, if we fail to address the underlying addiction problem in America, the violent crime problem is going to continue to worsen, and this drug-free America goal will continue to be illusory and unattainable.

It might make good politics to some to talk about building more prevention and more border patrol, but it is not working. It is not working. We have got to deal with the fact that there are 26 million addicts in this country who are going untreated, and we have got to address treatment. That component must be in a meaningful and realistic package.

As cochair of the House Law Enforcement Caucus, Mr. Speaker, I know, as any cop in America knows, that 85 percent of all crimes are tied directly or indirectly to drug or alcohol addiction. A recent Columbia University study shows that 80 percent of the 1.4 million prisoners in jails and prisons are there because of drug and alcohol addiction. So not to deal with underlying problem means we are never going to deal effectively with the crime problem.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully urge the Committee on Rules to include the Substance Abuse Treatment Parity Act in the antidrug legis-

lative package. This, Mr. Speaker, is a life or death issue for 26 million Americans.

HONORING JOAN ALBI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BOB SCHAFFER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the distributions and dedicated service of Joan M. Albi, Secretary of the Senate, the Colorado State Senate. After serving 32 years in State government, Joan has done it all. She worked in the State House of Representatives and the State Senate, the lieutenant governor's office, and the governor's office.

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Joan worked for the State Senate in several capacities for 23 years, serving as the Secretary of the Senate for 10 of those years before retiring in the spring of 1998.

A Colorado native and a lifelong resident, she was born in Denver. Joan attended Cathedral High School in Denver before continuing her education at Loretto Heights College in Denver. Her father, Jim Bastien, worked as a purchasing agent for a local paint company. Her mother, Winnifred, still lives in Denver. She has one sister, Carol Dinapoli, also of Denver. She has three children: Kathy Albi-Ferguson of Aurora, Joe Albi, Jr., of Highlands Ranch, and James "J.T." Albi of Bakersfield, California. She is also the proud grandmother of two.

Mr. Speaker, without question, Joan is devoted to home and family. She actively participated in the Women's Auxiliary Circolo Italiano. Her main hobby is politics. The campaigns she worked on over the years were countless. Colorado's Republican Party truly benefited from her tireless efforts and will be forever indebted to her. Joan's loyalty and contributions to the party are evident.

She worked in the Colorado House of Representatives steno pool from 1966 to 1970 as an assignable stenographer, before taking a position in 1971 with the lieutenant governor's office. In those days, the lieutenant governor was also the President of the Colorado State Senate and Joan was secretary of the senate president from 1971 to 1974. In her capacity as secretary, she was also a receptionist, payroll clerk, and she did the bookkeeping.

When Colorado Governor John Love resigned to become the first "energy czar" in Washington, D.C., Joan became the administrative secretary for the new governor, John Vanderhoof. She remained in that position until he finished what was left of Love's term. Joan then worked as assistant secretary of the Senate from 1974 to 1987, before becoming Secretary of the Senate in 1988.

The contributions Joan made to the Senate during her tenure are remarkable. Joan serves on the Capitol Advisory Committee which meets regularly to address the preservation of the Colorado State Capitol building, one of the most remarkable buildings of its kind in the Nation. She was also active in the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, a group sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

In addition, she helped pave the way to bring the Colorado State legislature into the age of technology. Joan took part in the earliest meetings that began the computerization of the legislative process in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, Joan earned the respect of both legislative staffers and legislators. In fact, Patricia Dicks, Colorado's current Assistant Secretary of the Senate, said, "Joanie and I worked together, and have been friends for 20 years. Joanie was a very good teacher who was very kind and patient, but always made sure that staff was updated and knowledgeable. When Joanie was injured during the session, the transition was seamless to the point that we never missed a beat. This is a tribute to her as a person and as a leader."

Legislators who served with her while she was Secretary hold her in the highest regard. Senate President Tom Norton of Greeley, Colorado, remarked, "During the 6 years I served as Senate President, Joanie did an outstanding job of maintaining the efficiency and decorum of senate operations."

State Senator Ray Powers of Colorado Springs added, "Joan always welcomes us in the morning with a friendly smile and good conversation. Her pleasant demeanor and strong work ethic were two of her strongest assets, and my colleagues and I always appreciated her."

Joan's daughter, Kathy, said it best, "Mom loves to help people. She has a big, kind heart and generous personality."

The Colorado State Legislature expressed its sincerest appreciation to Joan Albi's dedication and dedicated service by passing a tribute in her honor in the 1998 legislative session. A retirement party will be held in her honor at the governor's mansion in Denver on September 15, 1998, which is tomorrow.

I first became acquainted with Joan in 1986 when I was working as a Senate majority administrative assistant in Denver. Then when I became a Colorado State Senator from 1987 to 1996, I had the privilege of continuing my working relationship with Joan. Working with her for over 10 years, I can attest to her generous and pleasant demeanor and administrative abilities as Secretary of the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, Joan's presence at the State House of Colorado will be clearly missed by all. The friends she made over the years in State government wish her well and the best in her retirement. We all say, "Thank you Joan."

CAMPAIGN FINANCE INVESTIGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, let me first say at the beginning of my remarks tonight that one of the questions that I received all weekend, and that many others are, is do you guys do anything out there other than talk about certain pending matters that have been widely discussed this past weekend? And the answer is of course we do.

We have not had the first hearing on the specifics of what everybody in this country seems to be talking about. At the same time, I agree with what the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) said earlier that it is important that we focus on numerous issues. Earlier today, I was down here discussing the Head Start debate and the Community Services block grant debate, and quite frankly, I got no media inquiries about revising the entire Head Start system in the United States. I got no media inquiries about revising the Community Services block grant and what innovative programs we are doing, since we do not believe the solution is always the Federal Government, what innovative solutions we are trying at the community level to develop. Quite frankly, I got no questions about it back home in Indiana this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, it is not that Congress is not doing other things here. It is that few people are asking us about anything but this subject. When I tried to go to pick up a newspaper at the airport when I was flying back last night, every newspaper in Pittsburgh was cleaned out. Every newspaper in Washington was cleaned out. And they probably were not hunting for the latest stock market reports.

But it is important that while we focus on the many matters, and we daily have multiple committee hearings, multiple meetings with people from our districts and many things, that we also look when we feel there have been problems in the oversight of this country, that it is important that this Congress look at it.

One of the things that I wanted to take some time to discuss tonight is that it is a lot more at stake here than just what everybody has been talking about this past weekend. Tonight I am going to go through some of this.

I sit on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, chaired by the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON), and I have listened to much of what has gone on. I want to make a couple of critical points tonight. And I want to illustrate right off the bat that there is a huge number of people that have made this investigation in campaign finance, in many of the other things that we have looked at in our committee, difficult to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, 116 people have refused to cooperate with our committee at this point; 79 witnesses have taken the Fifth Amendment; 18 have fled the country; and, 19 have refused to be interviewed by investigators.

I am going to go through some of these charts in a minute, but I want to illustrate a point. We can see on this chart that there are what, about 10 names per chart roughly. In trying to keep with the rules of the decorum of the House, it was deemed, and I believe correctly deemed, that it would not be appropriate for me to show the massive scale of the extent of the lack of cooperation we are getting by extending these across the front of this. But I am going to take a second here and show, if I was able to put these charts up simultaneously to give an idea of the scale how far these charts would have gone.

In other words if we had put every name up, they would have covered the entire front of this Congress. They would have covered up this entire front. If I stacked them on top of each other, the numbers of people that have refused to cooperate with this investigation would go to the top of the ceiling.

It is not one person, five people, 10 people, 20 people, 30 people. A few weeks ago I was in a parade in the town of Saint Jo in my district for the pickle festival. The pickle company that is based there has an annual pickle festival. The number of people in this cover-up are approximately the number of people in the town of Saint Jo.

I graduated in a high school class of 68. The class before me had a little bit smaller size than that. In other words, the number of people refusing to cooperate are about the size of my high school class and the class behind it. If one was trying to find out something that we had done and everybody in the class and the class behind would not cooperate, how would they find out what is going on?

Or to take another example, years ago there was a "Twilight Zone" episode in 1961 where adults lived in total fear of the immaturity of a normal little boy. Just by using his mind, this boy was able to take away the automobiles, the electricity, the machines because they displeased him and he moved an entire community back in the Dark Ages just by using his mind. And we note that the people in Peaksville, Ohio, have to smile, they have to think happy thoughts and say happy things, because once displeased, the monster can wish them into a corn field or change them into a grotesque walking horror. This particular monster can read minds, he knows every thought and feels every emotion. He is 6 years old with a cute, little-boy face and blue guileless eyes. But when those eyes look at someone, they must start thinking happy thoughts because the mind behind them is absolutely in charge. This is the "Twilight Zone."