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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes. But in no event shall the debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

SUPPORT CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVAL ACT

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I am here to talk about the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act, which I will be introducing today. If this bill becomes law, it has the potential of saving thousands of lives each year.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to work with the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross on this very important measure.

Passage of this Act would go a long way towards making the goal of saving the lives of people who suffer sudden cardiac arrests possible. It would ensure that what the American Heart Association refers to as the "cardiac chain of survival" could go into effect.

That first chain of survival is early access, call 911, early CPR, early defibrillation, which I will go into in a moment, and early access to advanced care.

While defibrillation is the most effective mechanism to revive a heart that has stopped, it is also the least accessed tool we have available to treat victims suffering from heart attack.

Perhaps it would be helpful for those of my colleagues listening who are not

well versed in the subject if I just take a moment and walk them through what we mean when we use that term "defibrillation."

A large number of sudden cardiac arrests are due to an electrical malfunction of the heart called ventricular fibrillation, VF. So when VF occurs, the heart's electrical signals, which normally induce a coordinated heartbeat, suddenly become chaotic, and the heart's function as a pump abruptly stops. Unless this state is reversed, then death will occur within a few minutes. The only effective treatment for this condition is defibrillation, the electrical shock to the heart.

My colleagues might be interested to know that more than 1,000 Americans each and every day suffer from cardiac arrest. Of those, more than 95 percent die. That is unacceptable in this country because we have the means, the very means at our disposal to change those statistics. That is why I have been committed to this cause.

Studies show that 250 lives can be saved each and every day from cardiac arrests by using the automatic external defibrillation, which we will call AED. Those are the kinds of statistics that nobody can argue with.

Let me show my colleagues on the next chart, did my colleagues know that for each minute of delay in returning the heart to its normal patterns of beating, it decreases the chance that that person will survive by 10 percent?

No one knows when sudden cardiac arrest might occur. According to a recent study, the top five sites where cardiac arrest occurs are at airports, county jails, shopping malls, sports stadiums, and golf courses. I believe we would all take great comfort in knowing that those who rush to our side to resuscitate us have the most up-to-date equipment available and are trained to use it.

The AEDs which are being produced today are easier to use and require minimal training to operate. They also

are easier to maintain and cost less. This affords a wider range of emergency personnel to be trained and equipped.

Some of my colleagues might ask, if a majority of the States have laws authorizing nonemergency medical technician first responders to use AEDs, why do we need to pass this legislation? Good question.

This year's bill differs from previous versions I have offered, which primarily sought to encourage State action to promote public access to defibrillation. The States responded to this call, and many have passed regulation to promote training and access to AEDs.

However, this bill, Mr. Speaker, directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop recommendations to public access of defibrillation programs in Federal buildings in order to improve survival rates of people who suffer cardiac arrest in Federal facilities. Federal buildings throughout America will be encouraged to serve as examples of rapid response to cardiac arrest emergencies through the implementation of public access to defibrillation programs.

The programs will include training security personnel and other expected users in the use of AEDs, notifying local emergency medical services of the placement of AEDs, and ensuring proper medical oversight and proper maintenance of the device.

In addition, this year's bill seeks to fill in the gaps with respect to States that have not acted on AED legislation by extending good samaritan liability protection to people involved in the use of the AED.

So, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the support of my colleagues. I hope that they will cosponsor this bill. It has been endorsed by the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross. I hope all of my colleagues

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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will join me by cosponsoring the bill whose stated goal is to prevent thousands and thousands of people suffering from cardiac arrest from dying by making equipment and trained personnel available at the scene of the emergency.

TOBACCO SMUGGLING ERADICATION ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the World Bank recently issued a report entitled, "Curbing the Epidemic: Governments and the Economics of Tobacco Control," which finds disturbing trends in tobacco use around the globe. This report concludes that, in another 2 decades, tobacco will become the single biggest cause of premature death worldwide, accounting for 10 million deaths each year. That is 10 million unique human beings choking to death with emphysema, withering away with lung cancer, or perhaps feeling the sharp pain of a heart attack as a result of nicotine addiction. Half of these deaths will occur to individuals in middle age, who will each lose 20 to 25 years of their life.

Effective and aggressive action against tobacco smuggling represents one key strategy necessary in what should be a comprehensive global effort to address this pandemic, according to both the World Bank and the World Health Organization. To assure that our country is participating in such action, I am today introducing the Tobacco Smuggling Eradication Act. This measure is important in both fighting organized crime and in promoting public health.

In a statement endorsing this bill yesterday, ENACT, a coalition of 55 major national medical and public health organizations, including the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, and the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, had this to say of my bill:

"Your bill would strengthen domestic antismuggling efforts and address the shameful fact that lax oversight of U.S. cigarette exports is fueling an international black market in U.S. cigarette brands. Researchers estimated that about one-third of all cigarette exports disappear into the black market. U.S. brands such as Marlboro, Camel, Winston, and Kent are the most commonly smuggled. Tobacco smuggling seriously undermines public health laws in other countries and is an embarrassment to our nation."

Just how big an embarrassment is reflected in this national news story from the Washington Post last December, entitled, "Tobacco affiliate pleads guilty to role in smuggling scheme." An affiliate of the RJ Reynolds Company, one of the tobacco giants, was

caught up in illegality in participating in a scheme to avoid \$2.5 million in U.S. excise taxes.

Nor is RJR the only tobacco giant caught up in such criminality. Last year, a senior judge in Hong Kong concluded that British-American Tobacco and Brown and Williamson were helping international organized crime by selling duty-free cigarettes "worth billions and billions of dollars with the knowledge that those cigarettes would be smuggled into China and other parts of the world."

While most of the attention with our relations with the country of Colombia focuses on the illegal drugs from there to here, a study last year found that more than four-fifths of the 5.5 billion Marlboro cigarettes that are produced here by Philip Morris and sold there in Colombia are illegal smuggled goods.

Far from hurting business, tobacco companies have found that they can move their lethal products around the world by assisting smugglers. Big tobacco profits from selling cigarettes to smugglers who reduce the price for the black market and increase consumption and sales, helping them build a global market.

My bill requires that packages for export be clearly labeled for export to prevent illegal reentry into the United States. That is the scheme that the RJR affiliate used, claiming that cigarettes were reentering our country for export to Russia and Estonia when, in fact, they were going on the black market smuggled from New York into Canada.

Our bill also requires that packages of tobacco products manufactured here or imported here also be uniquely marked. Law enforcement agents have said will give the opportunity to trace the products, verify the source, and have the labeling requirements that they need for effective law enforcement.

Under this bill, retailers and wholesalers will be required to keep documents on tobacco shipments which will greatly assist law enforcement. As our Treasury Secretary Larry Summers said last year during congressional testimony, "The Treasury Department believes that the creation of a sound regulatory system, one that will close the distribution chain for tobacco products, will ensure that the diversion and smuggling of tobacco can be effectively controlled."

With the help of the Treasury Department, that is exactly what this bill will do. It will also assist the States in enforcing and collecting their excise taxes on all tobacco products. Recent studies have indicated that the States of Washington, Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, and California each lose \$30-100 million per year in excise taxes on tobacco products because of smuggling. Last year, big tobacco spent millions to promote false claims that our Federal legislative proposals to reduce youth smoking would cause smuggling. Now is the time for big to-

bacco to get behind this effective law enforcement legislation or once again to reveal its hypocrisy,

Mr. Speaker, with the introduction of this bill, we hope to stop the smuggling and stop the mugging of the world's children through nicotine addiction.

FRESHMEN REPUBLICANS INITIATE BEYOND THE BELTWAY PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, 19 Republican freshmen stood shoulder to shoulder on the front lawn outside this very building. We did so to launch our class-wide project that we are calling Beyond the Beltway.

The Republican freshmen are a diverse group coming from diverse backgrounds and representing equally diverse parts of America. But despite that diversity, we are all excited by some of the innovative reforms that we are seeing take place in State capitals throughout the land.

Governors and legislative leaders, Republicans and Democrats from States from California to New York, are meeting their policy challenges in exciting, innovative ways. With our Beyond the Beltway project, we are hoping as freshmen to open new doors for these leaders.

We know that, for far too long, Federal rules and bureaucracies have held them back and smothered their efforts through unnecessary burdens and restrictions. Now the freshmen are reaching out to leaders like my own Governor, Governor Tommy Thompson, in an effort to help them unleash a whole new wave of creativity and innovation in State after State.

It is the freshmen who are initiating this project because, even though we are Members of Congress, we are very much still State legislators, local officials, and private sector small business persons at heart.

Here specifically is what the beyond the Beltway project will do. The freshman class, as a group, have asked our governors, legislative leaders, directly and through the various associations to help us identify some of those Federal rules and restrictions that are holding them back. We want to turn these suggestions into an ongoing action agenda. Member by member and issue by issue, we want to provide relief.

We are coming forward now with the Beyond the Beltway initiative because we have also introduced the first measure result from this new dialogue. This legislation would direct each Federal agency to develop an expedited review process for waiver requests.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, oftentimes States need Federal approval or waivers to initiate their State programs if