

budget authority and \$1,590,801,000,000 for outlays.

The rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2330 strikes the emergency designation from the appropriation. Upon adoption of the rule, Sec. 314 of the Congressional Budget Act provides that these adjusted levels are automatically reduced by the amount that had been designated an emergency. Should the rule (H. Res. 183) not be adopted, these adjustments shall apply while the legislation is under consideration and shall take effect upon final enactment of the legislation. Questions may be directed to Dan Kowalski at 67270.

#### MICROBICIDES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Microbicides Development Act of 2001. I am pleased that so many of my good friends and colleagues have signed on as original cosponsors of this legislation which I am dropping in this evening. My thanks go to them.

Mr. Speaker, this week the United Nations convened a special session of the U.N. General Assembly to address how to combat the spreading HIV and AIDS epidemic. We have entered the third decade in the battle against HIV and AIDS. June 5, 1981, marked the first reported case of AIDS by the Centers for Disease Control, and since that time 400,000 people have died in the United States, and globally 21.8 million people have died of AIDS.

Tragically, women now represent the fastest growing group of new HIV infections in the United States, and women of color are disproportionately at risk. In the developing world, women now account for more than half of the HIV infections, and there is growing evidence that the position of women in developing societies will be a critical factor in shaping the course of the AIDS pandemic.

So what can women do? Women need and deserve access to a prevention method that is within their personal control. Women are the only group of people at risk who are expected to protect themselves without any tools to do so. We must strengthen women's immediate ability to protect themselves, including providing new women-controlled technologies; and one such technology does exist, called microbicides.

The Microbicides Development Act, which I am introducing, will encourage Federal investment for this critical research with the establishment of programs at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Through the work of NIH, nonprofit research institutions, and the private sector, a number of microbicide products are poised

for successful development. But this support is no longer enough for actually getting microbicides through the development pipeline and into the hands of millions who could benefit from them. Microbicides can only be brought to market if the Federal Government helps support critical safety and efficacy testing.

Health advocates around the world are convinced that microbicides could have a significant impact on HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Researchers have identified almost 60 microbicides, topical creams and gels that could be used to prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, such as chlamydia and herpes. But interest in the private sector in microbicides research has been lacking.

According to the Alliance for Microbicide Development, 38 biotech companies, 28 not-for-profit groups, and seven public agencies are investigating microbicides, and phase III clinical trials have begun on four of the most promising compounds. The studies will evaluate the compounds' efficacy and acceptability and will include consumer education as part of the compounds' development. However, it will be at least 2 years before any compound trials are completed.

Currently, the bulk of funds for microbicides research comes from NIH, nearly \$25 million per year, and the Global Microbicide Project, which was established with a \$35 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. However, more money is needed to bring the microbicides to market. Health advocates have asked NIH to increase the current budget for research to \$75 million per year.

Mr. Speaker, today the United States has the highest incidence of STDs in the industrialized world. Annually, it is estimated that 15.4 million Americans acquired a new sexually transmitted disease. STDs cause serious, costly, even deadly conditions for women and their children, including infertility, pregnancy complications, cervical cancer, infant mortality, and higher risk of contracting HIV.

This legislation has the potential to save billions of dollars in health care costs. Direct cost to the U.S. economy of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection is approximately \$8.4 billion. When the indirect costs, such as lost productivity, are included, that figure will rise to an estimated \$20 billion. With sufficient investment, a microbicide could be available around the world within 5 years. Think of the difference that would make.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support to this vital legislation.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mrs. MORELLA. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to commend the gentleman from Bethesda, Maryland, for her long-time concern on issues related to women's health.

I think this is a vitally important bill. It is something that this Congress should pass. It will affect millions and millions of women in a positive way. Sexually transmitted disease is a tremendous problem in this country. My hat is off to the gentlewoman, and I am happy to be a cosponsor of her bill.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I was just going to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) for being a cosponsor and for his work in making sure that Americans have appropriate access to health care.

#### EDUCATION IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, we are about to enter our July recess for the 4th of July holiday, and it must be noted that this Congress has completed two major legislative developments to date. One of those, of course, has been fully completed: the tax bill. That is fully completed, signed into law, and checks will begin to move soon.

Those checks will be going to the people at the very bottom of the rung as a result of legislation which was first proposed by the Progressive Caucus that every American should get some benefit from this tax cut. That did not exactly happen, but every taxpayer is getting a small benefit as a result of the action taken early in the session by the Progressive Caucus. The idea got out there and kept moving until finally it was incorporated in another form in the tax bill. So people at the bottom are going to get some small amount of money from the tax bill. That is real. It is completed.

The other piece of legislation that has almost been completed is the education bill, the leave-no-child-behind legislation of the President. The new President, of course, made this a high priority; and we have moved in both Houses, with both parties cooperating extensively, to pass the leave-no-child-behind legislation separately in the House and in the Senate. But there has been no conference, and the bill is now on hold.

I think it should be noted that there are rumors that the bill will be held deliberately until we have a chance to negotiate the major question of financing for the education bill. Education is on the legislative back burner right now; but in the hearts of the people who are polled out there, legislation is still a number one concern.

Education has to remain on the front burner. The fact it is being held here is a good development in that the critical question in the legislation that passed the House versus the legislation that passed the Senate is the amounts of money that are appropriated to carry out the features of the bill. The amounts of money are critical.