

C.W. Bill Young **United States Congressman**

Congressman Bill Young, who represents the 10th Congressional District of Florida, is serving in his 17th term in the United States House of Representatives. He is the senior member in the Florida Congressional delegation and Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, which has jurisdiction over all federal discretionary spending. His committee handles approximately one-third of the \$2 trillion federal budget. In this role, the “big chairman” – as he is known on Capitol Hill – oversees the work of all 13 House appropriations subcommittees that draft the annual budget for thousands of federal programs, including those in the Department of Health and Human Services such as the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and other federal health agencies.

Chairman Young has been a stalwart supporter of the NIH and other federal health programs, having served on his Committee’s health appropriations subcommittee for over 20 years. For the first four years of his Chairmanship of the House Appropriations Committee he continued to serve as Vice Chair of the health appropriations subcommittee. Under his leadership, House Appropriations Committee bills have reflected his priorities, including strong support for a wide range of health and medical research programs. During his tenure, the campaign to double the budget of the National Institutes of Health was accomplished. In Fiscal Year 2004, his committee followed the doubling campaign by providing a \$1 billion increase for the NIH to achieve a funding level of almost \$28 billion.

Over the years, Congressman Young, and his wife Beverly, have been tenacious in advocating for biomedical research and public health programs – especially for children, the elderly and others who are most vulnerable. They have been partners in an effort to improve the quality of medical care available for our nation's children. Together, they successfully fought for federal funding for the effort to eradicate polio worldwide, to train emergency medical personnel to meet the special needs of children and to increase the immunization rate for preschoolers. The Youngs have been particularly interested in ensuring that more clinical trials are conducted on pharmaceutical drugs given to children and they have advocated establishing a solid science base for dosage recommendations for children. Four years ago, Congressman Young initiated a new federal activity to provide direct funding for Pediatric Graduate Medical Education – a program that has now provided over \$1 billion since its inception to support training in the nation’s children’s hospitals.

But the numbers don’t tell the whole story. The Youngs have a deep and abiding commitment to helping children and they have spent countless hours at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg over the years getting to know families and helping them with the daily aspects of caring for sick children. Many times they have provided respite to parents, taking an evening shift for the parents to allow them to go home and get some sleep. Beverly and the Chairman have rocked premies in their arms while their parents were needed elsewhere. They have held a young child’s hand while catheters and needles were inserted. They have provided encouragement to dying children and to those facing life threatening disease for the first time. The Youngs have often visited on holidays giving up their own personal time to provide comfort to families of children confined to the Hospital. Each year, they collect toys at the Congressman’s birthday

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party and take them around to hospitalized children or children living in the various homeless shelters in St. Petersburg.

Most notably, the Youngs established the international registry of volunteers willing to donate bone marrow to save the life of another person. The National Marrow Donor Program they founded in 1986 now includes more than 5 million volunteers who hold the key to life for patients with leukemia or any one of 60 otherwise fatal disorders. Through the registry, almost 20,000 transplants have been achieved as well as 250 transplants of umbilical cord blood. Congressman Young established the program with a small appropriation to the Navy in 1985. In a later appropriations bill, his colleagues on the committee directed that the program be named in his honor the "C. W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program."

Through his Committee work, Chairman Young has taken action to enhance research efforts in many areas, including the full spectrum of cancer research, neuroscience, Parkinson's Disease, Tourette Syndrome, Sickle Cell Disease, ALS, AIDS, oral health research, Alzheimer's Disease, asthma, diabetes, arthritis, vision loss and blindness, lupus, Chromosome 18, muscular dystrophy, heart disease and stroke, polycystic kidney disease, organ transplantation, maternal and child health, substance abuse and mental health, and dystonia. He is a champion of maintaining a strong public health infrastructure through the Centers for Disease Control and its public health programs. Additionally, he has initiated new medical research efforts for breast cancer, prostate cancer, neurofibromatosis, Parkinson's, and other areas through the Department of Defense appropriations process, providing billions of dollars in new funding for peer-reviewed scientific studies.

Another primary area of Rep. Young's responsibility in Congress has been the field of national security and intelligence. As a freshman, he served on the House Armed Services Committee. In 1981, he was appointed to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security. With the Republican takeover of the House in November 1994, he was named Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security by the Speaker of the House. In addition to his service on the Appropriations Committee, Congressman Young is also the first Republican member of the House ever appointed by a Speaker to serve a second term on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and his 14 years of service on the Committee is the longest service by any member of the House in the history of the committee.

Chairman Young's record of commitment to a strong national defense is long and distinguished. As Chairman of the Committee, he has focused on improving the quality of life for the men and women who serve our nation in uniform and on ensuring that they have the best equipment and training available to do their job. He works tirelessly to provide the resources necessary to provide for our national security, including new funding for homeland security.

Congressman Young and Beverly regularly meet with enlisted personnel and officers to learn more about their needs, whether on the job or recuperating from battlefield injuries in medical facilities such as Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval Hospitals. As a result of these meetings, Chairman Young's annual national security appropriations bills have consistently addressed many of these needs which include improved base housing, better medical care, and a significant investment in more modern equipment. Chairman Young has been instrumental in helping to create the US Military Cancer Institute and expand the Amputee Center of Excellence at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

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