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House of Representatives

PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS
WEEK AND THE NATIONAL PATIENT
SAFETY FOUNDATION

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this week is Patient Safety Awareness Week, and today I'd like to recognize the National Patient Safety Foundation and the organizations in my district that work to promote and improve patient safety.

In Arizona's District One, we have several facilities that are committed to patient safety, including Oro Valley Hospital, Flagstaff Medical Center, and Ventana Medical Systems [, Inc.]. Oro Valley Hospital has been nationally recognized for its efforts, which include daily safety huddles and employee empowerment. At Flagstaff

Medical Center, their patient safety program also encourages employee collaboration.

My district is home to Ventana Medical Systems [, Inc.], a world leader in developing solutions for tissue-based diagnoses. Ventana has a new advisory board that brings together experts to review patient safety.

I applaud the National Patient Safety Foundation and the hospitals and companies in my district and nationwide who are leading the way to keep patient safety as a top priority.

Bracketed text was added by Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011

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House of Representatives

NATIONAL MEDICAL LABORATORY
PROFESSIONALS WEEK, APRIL
24–30, 2011

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I offer this on behalf of my colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and her constituents in Arizona's 8th congressional district. This year, more than 10 billion laboratory tests are being performed—tests that are important to the health and, often, the very lives of our family members, our friends, and ourselves.

Thirteen percent of the U.S. population is already over the age of 65 and every seven seconds one of us turns 50. Combine these facts with the steadily lengthening life expectancy of the average American, and today's emphasis on preventive medicine and early detection of disease conditions. The result is an exponentially growing, almost overwhelming demand for medical laboratory services across the nation.

The American Society for Clinical Pathology advises that among the highly trained and dedicated professionals who work in medical laboratories are histotechnologists, histologic technicians, pathologists, medical technologists, cytotechnologists, medical laboratory technicians, and phlebotomists who engage in life-saving work every day.

Given the critical nature of their work, laboratory professionals require state-of-the-art technological support. Take, for example, the

preparation of microscope slides for biopsies. Three hundred million tissue slides—most of them key to detecting cancer—are processed in U.S. histology labs each year. Actively working to eliminate patient identification errors and cross-contamination, the nation's top lab professionals have replaced outdated labeling and slide preparation processes with smart solutions—fully automated, integrated individual slide staining systems and workflow management platforms that offer confidence in their ability to deliver the right patient results.

I am proud to note that the leading global provider of such patient-focused, tissue-based cancer diagnostics is Ventana Medical Systems, Inc., headquartered in southern Arizona's eighth congressional district. Their mantra underscores the mission of every medical laboratory: deliver the right patient results in a timely manner.

With the approach of National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (April 24–30), I join Ventana's 1,300 employees in saluting our nation's medical laboratorians. Their dedication, professionalism and hard work, combined with state-of-the-art technology, are essential to prolonging the healthy lives of millions.

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