

Most shocking is that these disparities contribute to our higher death rates from heart disease, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life-endangering conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the disparities are real and frightening. In fact, of the 46 million uninsured Americans, at least 60 percent of Hispanic Americans and more than 43 percent of African Americans are uninsured. Further, while African-Americans comprise only 12.3 percent of the population, we account for half of all of the newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS infections. Statistics also indicate that non-Hispanic whites have a higher 5-year cancer survival rate than minority populations.

For this reason, I also would like to recognize National Minority Cancer Awareness Week which is an important effort held during the week of April 16–22. During the week, education is used as the weapon to empower the nation about the shocking disparities that are found within the population of individuals suffering from cancer.

Mr. Speaker, through these statistics, coupled with both the Satcher-Woolfe and the Institute of Medicine's 2002 indictments of our nation's health care system, it is safe to say that health and healthcare disparities are not only factual, but they also have an overwhelming negative impact on minority populations.

That is why dedication to keeping the harsh reality of health care disparities in the public spotlight is essential. For it should be mission of this Congress to raise the expectations of this society—it should also be our mission to assure that all Americans receive the health care they deserve.

If we are to bring about this change—if we are to substantially improve the health and life expectancy of all Americans, we must first fully appreciate the enormity of the challenge that we are confronting. We must also fundamentally change the way that this nation addresses our public health challenges. In fact, too many Americans of every race are dying before their time.

Mr. Speaker, we still have a difficult road to travel before universal health care is recognized as a basic civil right in this country. I have been working on these health care problems for quite a while now, and I am convinced that the acceptance of universal health care as a fundamental civil right will aid us in ending the debilitating health care system that is crumbling before us. In my mind, both sides of the aisle can provide part of the answer to this very big issue hampering our nation.

IN HONOR OF THE CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE ELEANORE NISSLEY

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2006*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true leader and visionary, the Honorable Eleanore Nissley of Ridgewood, New Jersey. Eleanore is being honored for her outstanding civic contributions by the Center for Civic Responsibility next week. It is an honor richly deserved and long overdue.

Eleanore Nissley has been a shining star in New Jersey politics and community life for 40

years. She served as Bergen County's Republican Committeewoman and has offered her talents and political acumen to candidates and campaigns at every level. In fact, given the integral role Mrs. Nissley has played in New Jersey politics, the New Jersey Federation of Republican Women named her Woman of the Year. Her longtime friend and President of the NJFRW, Dot Romaine calls Eleanore "the epitome of the Republican woman."

A native of Rutherford and an avid sports fan, Eleanore has served on the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority. Eleanore also gives her time and energy to the Boy Scouts, and she serves on the Board of Directors for the Interchange Bank.

One would think, Mr. Speaker, with all that Eleanore Nissley gives to her community that she hasn't a spare moment to herself. But, in fact, Mrs. Nissley's business abilities are equally renowned. And, Eleanore is committed first and foremost to her family. The mother of four and grandmother of many, Eleanore always finds time to devote to her loving lineage.

I am pleased beyond words, Mr. Speaker, to take this opportunity to add my thanks and praise to this chorus as well. Eleanore Nissley has time and time again given me advice and counsel that is priceless. I value Eleanore's friendship. And, I look forward to years of working with her to make North Jersey an even better place to live and work and raise a family.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO ITS CITIZENS SERVING IN AND RETURNING FROM OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2006*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish every employer in America was able to follow the lead of the County of Santa Clara, California. County employees who are on active military duty in direct connection with an armed conflict receive a salary augmentation which, in combination with their military pay, provides 100% of their base salary. Their employee benefits are also continued while they are deployed. Employees receive this salary augmentation and benefits for an indefinite period as long as they are involved in military service. The effort to support those in military service, guard and Reserves, doesn't end there.

The Veterans Service Office is a county funded agency established in 1946, assisting veterans and their families to obtain the benefits and services they have earned through their military services. The Veterans Service Office works closely with the Santa Clara County Employment Committee (VEC). The mission of the VEC is to promote the employment of veterans within the county by assisting local employers in recruiting veterans for job openings as well as providing employment-related assistance services for job-seeking veterans.

Each month, the California Department of Veterans Affairs forwards a list of returning veterans to the County VSO. This list includes on average the names of 50 to 100 veterans who have indicated an interest in receiving information on the services available for them from the county. Upon their return each veteran receives a letter from the VSO and a copy of the county's "Welcome Home" pamphlet, which includes information on veterans' services, health care, employment assistance and other benefits.

The Veterans Service Office, working in collaboration with the Peninsula Veterans Center, explores every opportunity to speak to returning veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. These talks occur as frequently as weekly, or whenever the officials are invited to address groups, such as new Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees—veterans who have recently returned home.

I have heard from families that, even though there is understandable worry about a loved one in a combat zone, at least that worry is not joined by worry about financial disaster. For those deployed, the strain and stress of separation from family is not compounded by financial worries.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to draw attention to the efforts of the Government of Santa Clara County and its employees as they serve the needs of our returning veterans and those currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Many in our country disagreed with the decision to invade Iraq, but no American should disagree with the need to support our troops and their families while they serve and to assist veterans after their active service is complete.

Santa Clara County, like other local governments in California, faces a fiscal bind. State and Federal governments have shifted costs to local government but in California, local governments have no ability to raise taxes in response. That means fiscal crunch time.

Despite that, the people of Santa Clara County, led by its Board of Supervisors and professional staff know this: the time of deployment should not be fiscal crunch time for the service member and family.

Let all employers, both public and private, look to Santa Clara County as a model of employer behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of efforts of the Government of Santa Clara County and its employees as they serve the needs of our returning veterans and those currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. I am proud of the citizens and taxpayers of Santa Clara County who stand behind these fine efforts.

NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2006

### HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2006*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I am most pleased to introduce the Native American Languages Act of 2006. This is a reintroduction in revised form of my bill, H.R. 2362, from the 108th Congress.

This vital legislation will authorize the Secretary of Education to provide grants to or enter into contracts with Native American language educational organizations, Native American language colleges, Indian tribal governments, organizations that demonstrate the potential to become Native American language educational organizations, or consortia of such entities, to establish Native American language nests for students under the age of 7 and their families. It will also authorize grants to operate, expand, and increase the number of Native American language survival schools throughout the country for Native American children and Native American language-speaking children.

The bill also authorizes the establishment of four demonstration projects that will provide assistance to Native American language survival schools and Native American language nests. The programs selected are well known nationally: all have over ten years of highly successful operation, and are all Native American controlled.

The demonstration sites range from a statewide system to a small localized program for under fifty students, and from programs restricted to elementary students to programs that go through high school and beyond. They include programs on reservations, programs in highly remote areas, and programs in urban areas. Students enrolled in them include children who are first language speakers and students from families where the language has not been spoken for three generations. They include programs with special strengths in teacher training and in resource materials development.

The four sites selected are the four research sites in an ongoing national study of academic effectiveness by prominent Native American and non-Native American educational researchers and major research entities with extensive experience in the field. The demonstration programs are authorized to use technology in cooperating and coordinating their work with each other and with other participating Native American language programs. They will provide direction to the Secretary of Education in developing site visit evaluations of programs and may conduct follow-up data collection that will be valuable in providing direction to schools.

Lastly, the bill provides direction relative to addressing barriers that have prevented Native Americans from accessing education in Native American languages. It also directs the Secretary of Education to provide for the inclusion of Native American language nests and Native American language survival schools in federal support for private schools and charter schools.

The Native American Languages Amendments Act of 2006 is consistent with longstanding federal self-determination policies toward native peoples, which support the promotion of economic and social self-sufficiency, as well as the preservation and revitalization of native culture, languages, art, history, religion, and values. Since language is a significant factor in the perpetuation of native cultures, the federal government enacted the Native American Languages Act of 1990 urging federal support for Native American languages, and the Native American Languages Act Amendments of 1992 establishing a grant program at the Administration for Native Americans to fund the preservation of Native Amer-

ican languages. My bill continues this commitment by our federal government to ensure the survival of these unique cultures and languages.

In my home state, I am proud that the people of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii have strongly supported the revitalization of Hawaiian culture, art, and language. In 1978, for example, the State of Hawaii wrote into its constitution a specific declaration that Hawaiian is one of our two official languages, along with English. This was a remarkable reversal from decades in which the very survival of the Native Hawaiian language was at risk due to benign neglect and to conscious efforts to discourage its use.

There is also support for Hawaiian language programs in both our public and private schools. At the forefront of these efforts have been supporters of Aha Punana Leo, a Hawaiian language immersion program which has endeavored to include both students and parents in an exciting and innovative way to revitalize Hawaiian language and culture. Ms. Namaka Rawlins, Director of Aha Punana Leo, and her husband, Dr. William (Pila) Wilson, have been pivotal in these efforts. The lessons of family and community involvement in the preservation of the Hawaiian language that they and others have proven are and can be used by other native communities and cultures across the country.

While the Aha Punana Leo program initially started with pre-school students, Hawaiian language survival schools were also established to allow for students to graduate from high school. Over 2,000 students are currently enrolled in Hawaiian language nests and survival schools. A Hawaiian language center—Hale Kuamoo—was eventually established at the University of Hawaii at Hilo with the collaboration of Aha Punana Leo as well as a Native College—Ka Haka Ula O Keelikolani College. Both programs have been crucial in providing training to teachers in Hawaiian language, college courses in Hawaiian, and graduate education in Hawaiian language and culture.

The revitalization of the Hawaiian language in my state has been instrumental in the preservation of Hawaiian culture, which is important to all of us who call Hawaii home. Today's legislation will take this lesson nationwide in continuing the commitment made by the federal government in 1990 and the progress that has been made since that time to preserve Native American languages, including the Hawaiian language. Mahalo, and aloha.

#### NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

### HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2006*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the winners of the Illinois Regional Science Bowl—Sarah Carden, Alex Lapidis, Jeremy Lee, Tyler Mitchell, and Benjamin Xie. With the support of their coach, Mr. Kevin Farrell, these talented young students from Naperville North High School bested a field of Illinois brightest for a chance to compete in the 16th annual Department of Energy National Science Bowl.

As the only federally sponsored science competition, the National Science Bowl hosts

over 12,000 participants, making it the largest such competition in the United States. Each year, this event adds energy and excitement to the study of math and science for students across the country. Mr. Speaker, it is by inspiring and supporting the next generation of America's scientific leaders today that we can ensure America's competitiveness in the global marketplace tomorrow.

So once again, to the five promising young scholars from Naperville North representing the Land of Lincoln in this weekend's National Science Bowl, congratulations and good luck.

#### INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5020) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I rise today for the purposes of explaining my vote on H.R. 5020, which this chamber considered yesterday. I have a high regard for the intelligence officials that serve our country, and I strongly support efforts to make sure that they have the resources to complete their mission competently, professionally, thoroughly and legally. After listening to the debate on this bill, I reached the conclusion that this bill does nothing to rein in this Administration's domestic surveillance program conducted by the National Security Agency.

This bill contains some good provisions. It imposes restrictions on the growth of the National Director of intelligence to ensure resources are applied to strengthening the intelligence community's ability to penetrate hard targets, and not just add to the growth in bureaucracy. It fully funds the counter-terrorism program. However, the bill's provisions concerning oversight of domestic counterintelligence activity is tepid at best.

I believe we can conduct domestic intelligence activities in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and the protections guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. There exists a debate in this country if whether the NSA domestic surveillance program is being conducted within the limits of the FISA. During the debate on the bill, I learned several Members sought to offer a bipartisan amendment clarifying that all surveillance of American citizens must follow the law and be consonant with the 4th Amendment of the Constitution. The Rules Committee denied us an opportunity to consider that amendment. Any process that denies us the opportunity to protect our constitutional guarantees does not deserve my support, and for that reason, I voted against the passage of H.R. 5020.