

over the next 5 years, which will allow States to ensure millions of children who are now uninsured. And then we will provide \$7.9 billion over the President's budget for education funding so we can really mean it when we say, No child left behind.

#### FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT OF 2007

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, enshrined in the first amendment of the Constitution are these words: "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press."

Nevertheless, in the last two decades, we have seen a troubling increase in the number of occasions where reporters have faced threats of subpoena, subpoenas and even jail time for refusing to reveal confidential sources.

Mr. Speaker, compelling reporters to testify and compelling them to reveal the identity of their confidential sources is a detriment to the public interest. And last week, my colleague, Congressman RICK BOUCHER of Virginia, along with a distinguished bipartisan group of original cosponsors, introduced the Free Flow of Information Act, which would protect a reporter's right to keep confidential sources confidential.

As a conservative who believes in limited government, I believe the only check on government power in real time is a free and independent press.

I urge all of my colleagues to give due consideration to this bipartisan legislation. Let us put a stitch in this tear in the first amendment freedom of the press. I urge cosponsorship of the Free Flow of Information Act.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY HAS RETURNED

(Mr. WELCH of Vermont asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, accountability has returned to Washington with a new Congress that takes its oversight responsibilities very seriously.

In the past 4 months, Congress has conducted over 180 oversight hearings on issues very important to the American people. These are not just hearings; they're hearings that have led to action.

Walter Reed: Since we concluded our hearing, we determined on a bipartisan basis after the information came out that more money was needed. We put \$1.7 billion to make certain that we would take care of our wounded warriors.

Congress now continues to oversee the ever-changing U.S. attorney scandal. The American people absolutely must have confidence that the U.S. Attorney's Office is about enforcing the

law, not making it up as they go along or pursuing outcomes for partisan political reasons.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot have real accountability without congressional oversight, and this is one of the ways the new Democratic Congress is changing the way that we do business here in Washington.

#### H.R. 1595, GUAM WORLD WAR II LOYALTY RECOGNITION ACT

(Mr. FORTUÑO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, three former Republican Governors from Guam; in addition to the current Governor, Felix Camacho; two former Democratic Guam Governors; one former Republican Guam Delegate; two former Guam Delegates; and the current Delegate from Guam, MADELEINE BORDALLO, have all fought for fair treatment for the patriotic people of Guam who endured nearly 3 years of brutal enemy occupation during World War II.

In addition, the 109th Republican-controlled Congress, the Resources Committee, chaired by Congressman Richard Pombo; the Judiciary Committee, chaired by Mr. SENSENBRENNER, both acted in a bipartisan effort to favorably pass legislation to give parity to Guam.

Acknowledging the patriotism of the people of Guam, who were American nationals, throughout Guam's occupation has been a bipartisan effort for decades.

This issue is about patriotism; certainly not about partisanship. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1595 when it comes up for a vote today.

#### NATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Today is National Teacher's Day, a day which is very important to me and my family.

This year's theme for National Teacher's Day is "Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools." And I know that's true.

I had wonderful teachers in the Jefferson County public schools, and those teachers had a tremendous impact on my life.

Our three daughters are products of Jefferson County public schools, and my sister is a public school teacher.

Few other professionals touch as many people as teachers do. Teachers are our role models, our confidants, our taskmasters and our moral compass.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to invest in our schools, reduce class sizes and ensure that our teachers have the tools and resources they need to give our children the high quality education necessary to succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I'm introducing legislation to recognize the 125th anniversary of the City of Billings, Montana. First discovered by Lewis and Clark on the famous expedition, Billings is now the most populous city in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region of the United States.

I know for many U.S. cities, 125 years isn't very long. However, for Billings, these years have created a rich history that stretches beyond its age.

Historically, Billings has been the gateway to the Pacific northwest. Even its name, which originated with the former president of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Frederic Billings, is a description of the city's historical role as an important railway link to the northwest.

Billings has also been home to many notable people. For instance, in 1907, famous cowboy, author and illustrator, Will James came to Billings, where he lived and worked for years. Finally, the city is home to the oldest higher education institution in the State of Montana, Rocky Mountain College.

Today the city serves as an example of an all-American city through both its flourishing economy and its continued growth. I congratulate the city of Billings, Montana, and its years of rich history.

#### KEEPING OUR CONTRACT WITH OUR NATION'S VETERANS

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FILNER. When the Democrats became the majority of this Congress earlier this year, we promised to keep our contract with our Nation's veterans, to keep our contract.

So how have we done during the first four months as Democrats? Wherever we stand on the war, wherever we stand on the war, we are committed to make sure that every young man and woman who returns from that war gets all the care, the love, the attention, the honor, respect and dignity that this Nation can bestow.

And in the first three budget bills that went by this House, in the last 3 months, we were able to add over last year's total over \$13 billion for veterans health care; \$13 billion, that's almost a 30 percent increase over last year. The biggest in the history of the Veterans' Administration.

And we're going to use that money to make sure that the terrible brain-injured veterans that come back, those who have physical scars or mental scars (PTSD, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) will get all the care that an advanced Nation can give.

As a nation, we are not doing our job now, but we Democrats are committed to making sure the job is done.