

The son of Mexican parents, he made his way to the big screen at a time when very few Latino actors were cast in leading roles, thus breaking the mold and setting the stage for future Latino actors to come. In his roles in movies such as "Zoot Suit," "The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez," and "Mi Familia," Mr. Olmos portrayed the daily realities of the Latino experience in the United States.

Mr. Olmos transcended cultural barriers, and inspired a generation of teachers and students to overcome adversities and achieve academic success through his portrayal of math teacher Jaime Escalante in "Stand and Deliver." Mr. Olmos' work has won critical acclaim and garnered him prestigious awards such as an LA Drama Circle Award, an Emmy, two Golden Globe Awards, and an Academy Award nomination.

Mr. Olmos is extremely active in the community and is a spokesperson for organizations such as the Southwest Voter Registration Project and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. He is also a United States Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nation's Children's Fund, UNICEF. As the chairman of Latino Public Broadcasting, Mr. Olmos continues to advocate for diverse perspectives in public television.

I applaud Edward James Olmos for his achievements and the important contributions he has made to the Latino community. Congratulations on receiving the 2008 CINE Lifetime Achievement Award.

OBSERVING THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observance of the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide. On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman government detained hundreds of clergymen, professionals, intellectuals, and other political and community leaders. This marked the opening of a campaign of genocide that over the next 2 years would lead to the deaths of a million and a half Armenians.

It is important to both remember this event, and to acknowledge it as genocide. Not only does it allow us to pay proper respect to those who lost their lives in Armenia at the hands of the Ottoman Empire, but it also helps us to comprehend the malevolent and inhumane events that take place in our global community today. Ethnic conflict and sectarian fighting remain an urgent issue for both the U.S. and the international community to address. The historical lessons and the exchange of ideas that flow from an honest discussion about the genocide that took place in Armenia can help us take steps to prevent further atrocities from occurring in our time.

It is my hope that today's observation and reflection on the genocide in Armenia is part of a renewed effort of focusing our efforts towards the goal of understanding and eliminating the circumstances under which genocide can exist.

COMMEMORATION OF APRIL 22, 2008 AS EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Equal Pay Day in order to address the need for equal pay for hardworking women across America. According to the United States Census Bureau, women are paid on average about 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. For women of color, the gap is even wider. It is not acceptable that these wage gaps remain despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act more than 40 years ago in addition to a variety of related legislation prohibiting employment discrimination.

Equal Pay Day marks the time of the year in which the average median income paid to American women equals the earnings of males from the previous year. On this day various groups and organizations hold events across the Nation in order to highlight the detrimental effects of continuing inequity that are felt in the form of gender segregation in the work force, the undervaluation of the types of jobs held predominately by women, and gender discrimination built into the pay system.

In the State of Ohio, the median annual earnings of men with a college degree or more education is \$65,000. In contrast, the median annual earnings of women with a college degree or more is \$47,000, nearly \$20,000 less per year. This statistic in my home state of Ohio is alarming. It is even more disturbing to know that this is a trend that exists nationwide that is not just affecting women, but also their families and children who rely upon their wages for basic everyday needs such as health care or groceries. I am proud to say that I supported the passage of H.R. 2831, the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and that I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, two of the key bills in the 110th Congress that will help to close the pay gap between men and women.

African-American women have a long history of working out of their homes and have the highest labor force participation rate among all women at 63.4 percent. However, many African-American women are concentrated in low paying service jobs. African-American women comprise 6 percent of the entire country's workforce, but make up 14 percent of workers earning between \$15,000 and \$30,000 per year and are less than 1 percent of workers earning over \$100,000 per year. Not only do African-American women earn less, the growth in their earnings has lagged behind that of white women, 19 percent and 29 percent respectively. At the upper end of the earnings distribution, disparities in the labor market impact approximately 1 percent of African-American women in corporate officer positions whose earnings are on average \$229,000 compared to \$250,000 for Caucasian women.

Over the last 60 years, the labor force participation of women has more than doubled, which means nearly one out every two workers is a woman. Not only are more women working, but more of these working women are mothers as well. In 1963, when President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act

into law, full-time working women were paid 59 cents to every dollar received by men. Meanwhile, 45 years later in 2008, women are still only paid 77 cents for every dollar received by men. To state this more clearly, the wage gap has only narrowed by less than half of a penny per year.

According to the National Organization for Women, "If women received the same wages as men who work the same number of hours, have the same education and union status, are the same age, and live in the same region of the country, then these women's annual income would rise by \$4,000 and poverty rates would be cut in half. Working families would gain an astounding \$200 billion in family income annually."

I applaud my colleagues for passing H.R. 2831, the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act last year. I now urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which seeks to eliminate the gender wage gap in our Nation. These two bills are a beginning towards an end to a societal ill that has hurt our country's hardworking families for too long. I look forward to continuing to work with the people of the 11th Congressional district of Ohio and across this country to address this long withstanding inequity in our Country.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. By passing this bipartisan bill, we can help ensure that our respective States can continue to provide needed health care to citizens who are eligible for Medicaid.

I have heard from a number of health care providers, hospital administrators, public health officials, and constituents in my district in regards to seven Medicaid regulations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. The message has been clear: these regulations have the potential to devastate the health care safety net in Colorado, pulling an extraordinary amount of funding away from the State's health care economy with the highest cost placed on the backs of the most vulnerable.

Though I think that all seven regulations deserve a great deal more scrutiny and discussion, there are two regulations in particular that give me serious concern. The first, a regulation that would alter the definition of "publicly-owned providers," would put 34 hospital providers in my State at risk of losing funding budgeted for serving low-income and indigent patients. The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing estimates that the State would lose \$711 million over 5 years—a loss that the Department says would put "the financial stability of the entire safety-net provider community in Colorado at risk."

The second regulation with which I am concerned would completely eliminate Medicaid funding for the Graduate Medical Education program, pulling an estimated \$60 million from Colorado's teaching hospitals over 5 years.