

agencies—570 by the city and county of Denver, 344 by the State of Colorado, 131 by Adams County and 45 by El Paso County—the program also assisted many smaller agencies as well, including those in Hinsdale County, Moffat County, Federal Heights, Glenwood Springs, and Durango.

Police officers from across our State have told me the program has been a great success, improving the safety and security of American law enforcement officers and better enabling them to do their job. And while President Bush's budgets have repeatedly neglected to request the full funding authorized for the program, Congress has stepped up and recognized its importance and appropriated the funds needed to keep it strong.

Bulletproof vests are expensive but essential. No officer should be without one and they should be basic equipment made available to officers when we ask them to perform dangerous jobs. If we can afford to pay for training and equipment for Iraqi police—and we indeed are paying for that—I think we can afford to help pay for bulletproof vests for the officers who protect Americans here at home.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge approval of this bill, to renew and extend the authorization for this very important program.

HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1343, Health Centers Renewal Act of 2008. This bill fulfills America's promise to its citizens by protecting access to high quality health care.

Health Centers Renewal Act of 2008 will continue Congress's commitment to our Nation's 1,200 community health centers that provide high quality, affordable primary health care to more the 18 million Americans in over 7,000 communities nationwide. Numerous studies have shown that health centers are particularly effective because they remove barriers to care and deliver services in a manner adapted to the patients of individual communities. Health centers improve outcomes and mitigate health disparities, resulting in better health care for their patients and savings for the health care system. In fact, there is evidence that people who get most of their primary care from a health center have 41 percent lower overall health care costs than others, saving Federal taxpayers \$10 to \$17 billion in 2007 alone. The Community Health Centers program has been consistently rated as one of the most effective programs in the Department of Health and Human Services by the Office of Management and Budget.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1343 will ensure that the millions of Americans who rely on health care centers continue to have access to high quality and affordable health services.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1343.

TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus and an original co-sponsor of this bill, I am pleased to see The Travel Promotion Act (H.R. 3232) pass the House of Representatives.

This legislation will re-establish the United States as a premier destination for foreign travelers. Since September 11, the United States has seen a decline of more than 46 million overseas travelers costing our economy \$140 billion. This bill will put us back on track.

H.R. 3232 creates a nonprofit corporation to promote the United States to international visitors—this is a public-private partnership with no cost to the American taxpayer. With the current level of the dollar, the United States is a travel bargain and that message needs to get out.

Nearly every developed nation in the world spends millions of dollars to attract visitors, an investment that pays big dividends. Overseas visitors stay longer and spend more. The United States is missing out on a large share of the global tourism market, and we will continue to lose out without this sensible investment.

Another benefit of this bill is the increased person-to-person contact that we will enjoy. At a time when our image abroad is tarnished, this is an opportunity to use our communities to serve as diplomats to the world. There are no better ambassadors than the American people.

I want to thank Congressman BILL DELAHUNT and Congressman ROY BLUNT and for their leadership on this bill,

Additionally, I would like to thank my co-chair on the Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus, Congressman JON PORTER of Nevada, It has been my pleasure to work with him on his legislation and on many other travel-related issues. His tireless efforts for the travel community and the caucus are truly admirable.

CALLING CARD CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my opposition to the Calling Card Consumer Protection Act, H.R. 3402.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3402, the Calling Card Consumer Protection Act. This bill—while well-intentioned—would only add to an increase in regulatory confusion because it sets up a system where lateral government organizations will not only be enforcing laws but also issuing their own interpretations of those laws. This is inefficient and it will breed confusion and conflict.

How can we reasonably expect multiple governmental organizations, in this instance the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, to agree on the meaning of a particular statute when members of those individual commissions can't seem to agree among themselves? The truth is we can't and that is why the FCC and FTC dual authority provision should be corrected.

Finally, I recognize that State attorneys general can play a role in enforcing a Federal statute. However, empowering multiple entities with this authority will only force American businesses to spend valuable resources fighting litigation rather than investing in infrastructure, jobs, and consumer services.

Madam Speaker for these reasons I ask that my colleagues oppose H.R. 3402.

EFFECTIVE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PROSECUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 4120, the Effective Child Pornography Prosecution Act. I am very pleased to be the lead Republican cosponsor, and I thank the gentlewoman from Kansas for all of her hard work on this legislation that will close an unacceptable loophole in the Federal criminal code.

Last year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit overturned a lower court's decision in *U.S. v. Schaefer* and freed a defendant who had been convicted of receiving and possessing child pornography. The case was not overturned for lack of evidence, but rather because the prosecution failed to prove that images downloaded from the Internet moved across State lines in "interstate commerce."

The judges who decided this case pointed out that the use of the phrase "in commerce" instead of "affecting commerce" in the law signaled Congress' intent to limit Federal jurisdiction in the prosecution of child pornographers. As co-chair of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. We in Congress know the horrible consequences that result from the sexual exploitation of children used to create these images. We also take very seriously our duty to do everything in our power to protect children, punish predators and deter future acts of abuse.

That is why the bill we are considering today deserves our full support. It will close the loophole in current law by replacing the phrase "in commerce" with the phrase "affecting commerce" in the child pornography statute.

I also was pleased that the Senate chose to include additional provisions making it easier to prosecute those who willfully access child pornography on the Internet. These changes will give prosecutors the tools they need to ensure that predators who use the Internet to transmit or access child pornography end up behind bars, where they belong.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the gentlewoman from Kansas, my good friend, NANCY BOYDA, for introducing this legislation. I also would like to thank the National

Center for Missing and Exploited Children for their assistance and counsel in drafting the bill. Mr. Speaker, as a mother of four and grandmother of seven, I know there is nothing more important than safeguarding our children from predators. We must not allow those who sexually exploit children to avoid prosecution because of a technicality.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4120 and send this important bill to the White House for the President's signature.

CONSOLIDATED SECURITY, DISASTER ASSISTANCE, AND CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this continuing resolution spending bill contained needed funding provisions, many of which I support. In fact, three separate Appropriations bills—Defense, Homeland Security, and Military Construction—Veterans Affairs are included in the Continuing Resolution (CR) package. The insertion of these individual bills within the CR will ensure the safety and security of our Nation, maintain the commitment of Congress to our men and women in uniform, and provide for the needs of our veterans through the next fiscal year.

Despite the needed funding to our troops and veterans, the Democrat leadership decided to take political advantage of this spending bill and slipped in several inappropriate spending measures. This legislation includes unjustified spending measures that should have had the opportunity to be considered through the normal legislative process, and not tacked onto a massive, catch-all Appropriations bill.

One of these unjustified spending measures includes a \$25 billion bailout of the auto industry of which \$7.5 billion is appropriated in the bill. First in line were Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac then Bear Stearns, and now a bailout to the auto manufacturing industry—Mr. Speaker, where does it end?

We must address the core economic problems that hold back workers from better paying jobs and that stifle businesses from being successful. The best and most responsible approach Congress can take is to continue to pursue policies designed to get our economy growing again. After September 11, 2001, our Nation's general aviation and airline manufacturing industry greatly suffered. Congress had a choice, to throw millions of dollars at the aviation industry or take a market based approach and allow accelerated depreciation of its products. The Republican majority chose to pass a jobs and economic growth bill that included depreciation and expensing provisions, which according to manufacturers, have resulted in back orders until 2012–2013. This is just one example of a market based solution to an economic crisis.

This is the type of policy that should guide this Congress in dealing with the failings of the auto industry, the housing industry, and so on. I cannot support a bill that attempts to undercut the integrity of our Nation's free market in-

frastructure through a \$25 billion bailout of the auto industry.

**THE TRINITY VALLEY EXPOSITION
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to recognize the Trinity Valley Exposition on its 100th anniversary this October. The TVE has been a fixture in southeast Texas that brings fun and culture together for a great yearly event. Additionally, outside of the celebration in the autumn, TVE is active in the community and invests in the youth of our great State.

The TVE is a charitable organization located in Liberty, Texas. The main groups benefitting from the works of the TVE are the young people residing in the counties of Liberty and Chambers. Over the past few years, the TVE has contributed thousands of dollars in scholarships to those students who are going to be attending post-secondary institutions. For example, in 2004, the TVE gave \$30,000 in scholarships to students in the area.

The TVE owns 60 acres of land, a covered arena, an exposition hall, and a pavilion. Various functions occur in these places throughout the year. People are allowed to rent these facilities, giving members of the community a chance to convene and offering anyone a great place to have ceremonies, celebrations, and get-togethers.

The TVE is a volunteer organization that relies on its helpers to be effective, especially, every fall when the TVE hosts a county fair. This is a tradition that attracts people from many places, near and far, to gather for the festivities. There is no gate charge, all events are free, and the entire public is invited.

This time, for the 100-year anniversary, the event is extra special with numerous contests engaging participants in kind-spirited competition. The contests include: quilting, baking, scarecrow, kiddie tractor pull, and salsa. Also, this year, favorite TVE memory is a contest, calling people to recollect special experiences of times past. In addition to these events, the TVE asks the children to participate in a coloring contest or in playing one of many games available. There will be live family entertainment, a magician, hotdogs, and rice. The grand event closes with a fireworks display to usher out a truly meaningful milestone.

The TVE is a tradition that brings the community together and calls to mind many of the things that identify us as Texans. Therefore, I am happy to draw attention to the Trinity Valley Exposition on its 100th year of operation.

VETERANS APPRECIATION CELEBRATION LEADING UP TO VETERANS DAY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, beginning November 1st, 2008 Charlotte

County will begin a Veterans Appreciation Celebration leading up to Veterans Day. This celebration will honor the Veterans in our area who have bravely served our country. It is my honor to recognize and thank the Veterans who made this day possible and the community leaders who helped to put this wonderful celebration together. Events included in this 18-day celebration are:

A Homeless Stand Down on November 1st, 2008, being hosted by the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition and the Charlotte County Veterans Service Office. The stand down will attempt to increase the community's awareness of homeless veterans and bring a variety of social service providers together to help these veterans. During the stand down, showers, haircuts, food and clothing will be provided for homeless veterans, as well as medical and counseling services.

A Purple Heart Memorial Dedication Ceremony to honor all branches of service on Tamiami Trail and Cochran Blvd in Port Charlotte, Florida. This ceremony will take place on November 2nd, 2008.

A Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 8th, 2008 in Punta Gorda, Florida.

Veterans Day Celebrations throughout the community on November 11th, 2008.

An Army/Navy youth football game at Franz Ross Park on November 16th, 2008.

A Veterans Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Disabled American Veterans on November 17th, 2008 in Punta Gorda, Florida.

Without the service of our great Veterans, we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we do today. On behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District, I applaud Charlotte County in their efforts to honor these men and women who so bravely served our country.

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S SEX ED
WEEK OF ACTION**

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today at a time when our country is facing grave concerns over the economy, yet this administration has supported \$1.3 billion on ineffective abstinence-only programs.

The CDC has just reported that more than 1 in 4 girls are infected with a sexually transmitted infection. It is clear that teens do not have access to full information about how to lead safe and healthy lives. This reaffirms what people in my home state of California already know: abstinence-only programs do not work.

I am proud to be from the first state that has rejected wasteful Title V abstinence-only funding. California leads the Nation in its effort to prevent unintended pregnancy through access to family planning, comprehensive sex education, public funding of family planning services and laws and policies protecting access to reproductive health care.

We must expand access to these services. This is why I support the outreach and community programs of the Planned Parenthood of Mar Monte. They provide comprehensive sex education programs through community outreach to high school students, parenting