

Members, such as Indonesia. Similar obligations exist under the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.

A stated purpose of the standards in the proposed U.S. legislation is to restrict advertising and promotional practices most likely to entice youth into tobacco use, while affording ample opportunity to market tobacco products to adults. Like menthol cigarettes (and unlike other flavored cigarettes), clove cigarettes are not targeted at youth smokers. Clove cigarettes are estimated to account for only 0.1% of the total number of cigarettes consumed in the United States and only approximately 0.8% of youth smokers have smoked clove cigarettes and that number of youths is declining based on recent studies. Menthol cigarettes, on the other hand, are estimated to account for approximately 26% of the cigarettes consumed in the United States and approximately 29.7% of youth smokers smoke menthol cigarettes. Moreover, there is no scientifically supportable evidence or risk assessment establishing specific human health risks associated with clove cigarettes that would justify banning those cigarettes while continuing to permit the sale of menthol cigarettes.

These facts are compelling. Imports of Indonesia's clove cigarettes are prohibited for no reason other than they contain a natural herbal additive, while U.S. cigarettes containing menthol—a processed herbal additive—are explicitly exempted from the prohibition. The Government of Indonesia firmly believes that such discriminatory treatment is inconsistent with the United States international obligations and, if enacted, will have a significant adverse effect on Indonesian trade.

The Government of Indonesia therefore respectfully asks that you carefully consider our concerns and, in the interest of our positive trade relationship, ensure that both the spirit and the requirements of the WTO agreements are observed. Further, absent elimination of the prohibition on imports of clove cigarettes, pursuant to Article 2.5 of the TBT Agreement and Article 5.8 of the SPS Agreement, we ask the United States to explain how that prohibition is justified.

As you are aware, Indonesia has expressed concern over the Bill at previous meetings of the Indonesia-U.S. Trade and Investment Council.

We trust that your government would understand the difficulties we are faced with, as well as the severity and the urgency of this matter to our people whose livelihood very much depends on the existence of the cigarettes industry. We would be very appreciative of your attention to this matter and would welcome the opportunity to discuss it further with you, at your convenience.

We look forward to an opportunity in building and strengthening the robust relationship between our two countries. Thank you.

Your sincerely,

MARI ELKA PANGESTU.

TEXAS' PORTABLE HOSPITALS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, over the past several years, Southeast Texas has been the target during Hurricane Season. Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita hit in 2006

and the very recent Hurricane Ike in September 2008. Not to mention Hurricane Gustav, which did not cause a disaster in Texas, many believe it was just a trial run before Hurricane Ike. Hurricane Ike came along two weeks later on September 13, 2008.

These hurricanes have taught emergency management officials to be prepared in time of a disaster. Through their preparedness they are able to assist and help other individuals evacuate the city in a timely manner. The most recent development is the Portable Inflation Hospital presented by the East Texas Gulf Coast Regional Trauma Advisory. With the help of the emergency management officials, numerous area hospitals and others, this incredible development was established. State and federal Grants help fund the hospital that cost around 1.5 million. This portable hospital is a great way for medical personnel to assist patients during a disaster and for the patients to get the quick response medical help they need. The medical assistance can range from distributing medications to on site emergency care. The facility can operate as one or three separate facilities. It is equipped with beds, living areas, and other units. This project has had a great response from individuals willing to donate, but still needs any help it can get from our local Southeast Texans. The medical personnel and emergency officials are very grateful for this newly facility. It will be located in Southeast Texas, but can be set up across the state. The hospital will cost five thousand dollars to operate daily plus an additional twelve thousand dollars to generate the portable hospital.

Emergency preparedness is very crucial in time of a disaster. With our great response teams in Southeast Texas the portable hospital will be ready in time of need. I would like to thank the individuals who spend endless hours preparing for Hurricane Season.

HONORING MR. JACOB
TANENBAUM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jacob Tanenbaum, an outstanding constituent and educator from the 17th Congressional District of New York, for his exemplary efforts in bringing real scientific research to the classroom.

Jacob Tanenbaum, an elementary school teacher at the South Orangetown schools in Rockland County, New York, was chosen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Teacher at Sea Program to participate in a two-week research cruise in the North Atlantic this past fall to study Atlantic fisheries while aboard NOAA Ship HENRY B. BIGELOW.

Embarking from Newport, Rhode Island, Mr. Tanenbaum's research cruise followed a track off the United States' northeastern coast. Mr. Tanenbaum not only researched fisheries, but also wrote a daily blog, took photographs, interviewed scientists, and engaged in dialogue with his students, fellow teachers, and the general public. Mr. Tanenbaum became an integral part of the research team and ship's crew and established relationships that

will give him and his colleagues access to scientific resources for many years to come. With his at-sea experience, Mr. Tanenbaum has been able to enrich his curriculum and excite his students about science.

In one of his blogs, Mr. Tanenbaum wrote, "Through NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program, students are not just learning about exciting research projects at sea, they are witnesses to them, and on some level, participants in them. The Teacher at Sea program is about something far more important than test scores and text books. It is about inspiration and excitement. Inspiring learning and creating excitement about learning are not just simple hoped-for extras in an educational setting—they are the most essential parts of a culture of learning."

I congratulate Mr. Tanenbaum on his spirit of adventure in the name of education, his willingness to try new things, and his ability to bring this experience back into the classroom. NOAA's Teacher at Sea program has afforded Mr. Tanenbaum an unparalleled opportunity to provide his students with hands-on scientific education, grounded in his unique experience. The lessons he learned on the BIGELOW will stay with Mr. Tanenbaum for the rest of his teaching career, acting as a source from which he will always be able to draw inspiration and creativity.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONFLICTED INVESTMENT ADVICE PROHIBITION ACT OF 2009

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Conflicted Investment Advice Prohibition Act of 2009, CIAPA, which would restore the Employee Retirement Income Security Act's, ERISA, prohibition on self-interested investment advisers providing advice to employer-sponsored retirement accounts; thereby, safeguarding the retirement savings of millions of hardworking Americans.

On the eve of the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the Bush administration attempted to finalize a regulation concerning the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, ERISA, that raised substantial questions of law and policy. Essentially, the final rule issued would have allowed conflicted financial advice to workers with regard to their 401(k) and other types of defined contribution plans. Fortunately, thanks to letters of opposition from Chairman MILLER and me, as well as several other Members of Congress, as well as consumer advocacy groups and several financial industry insiders who serve in the interest of investors, the Obama administration has delayed the effective date of the regulation for further examination of its intent.

I believe in the value of providing American workers with access to investment advice, so long as the advice is independent and free from conflict—serving in the interest of the worker, rather than the interest of the financial advisor. During a time where American workers have already lost \$2 trillion in assets due to last year's market downturn, exposing their hard-earned retirement savings to greater risk by allowing advisers to offer them conflicted

advice is irresponsible and imprudent. During consideration of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, many of my colleagues were well intended with respect to ensuring that if workers were to receive investment advice with respect to their retirement savings, it would be independent. Despite their good intentions, the process of the bill's consideration created a statutory loophole; at the end of the regulatory process, conflicted advice could be offered to workers.

In lieu of exposing workers to conflicted investment advice, CIAPA would permit independent investment advisers to provide advice to workers regarding their retirement goals. Furthermore, it would maintain the allowance of the computer model arrangement so long as an independent expert or agency certifies the model.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor and support the Conflicted Investment Advice Prohibition Act of 2009.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING
PARENT SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the contributions of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA) in Northern Virginia. These associations serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

Schools located throughout Northern Virginia are consistently recognized as being among the very best in our country. I strongly believe one factor in the excellent education received by our students is the high level of involvement and encouragement provided by parents through PTAs and PTSAs. Parent volunteers exist in a number of capacities within each school ranging from providing planning and implementation help for social events to helping ensure that teachers have the classroom resources they need to succeed.

The Northern Virginia District PTA represents a region with more than 220 schools. Maintaining a healthy and strong organization is an important part of allowing these groups to have the greatest possible impact on the students they serve. To encourage such strength, it is important to note the individual PTAs that excel in this mission.

I am pleased to present the following recognitions for 2008–2009 school year:

PTA Schools of Excellence designations have been awarded to the Lake Anne Elementary School PTA and Lake Braddock Secondary School PTSA.

The PTAs at Mantua Elementary School and Oakton Elementary School were acknowledged by the National Parent Teacher Association for their outstanding participation in Take Your Family to School Week.

Eight schools have achieved a PTA membership level exceeding one member per student attending the school. Those associations are Chesterbrook Elementary PTA, Falls Church Elementary PTA, Flint Hill Elementary PTA, Haycock Elementary PTA, Langley High School PTSA, Nottingham Elementary PTA,

Wayneood Elementary PTA, and Wolftrap Elementary PTA. All members involved should recognize that these remarkably high levels of parental involvement suggest a strong commitment to ensure a quality public education within our school systems.

The growth and expansion of PTAs is an important part of sustaining the impact of the associations. The Virginia PTA provided a charter for the Quander Road School PTSA in Alexandria. Kelly Greenwood, who serves as President of Quander Road School PTSA, and the school's principal, William Files, should be commended for their efforts to engage parents to participate in this association's founding.

Of particular note are the contributions of three individuals to their respective schools' PTAs: Kristen Arseneau, of Terra Centre Elementary School PTA, was awarded the District Outstanding Achievement Award;

Sue Bernstein, of Hollin Meadows Elementary PTA, has been named District Volunteer of the Year for Primary Schools;

Robin Harris, of George C. Marshall High School PTSA, was named District Volunteer of the Year for Secondary Schools.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of these individuals and the organizations with which they work. Dedicated involvement from so many parents reflects a strong commitment to public education and community service that students in our schools are fortunate to experience. I offer my strong support for these organizations and their dedicated volunteers.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE
BILL ORTON

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember our friend and former colleague William "Bill" Orton, who served with distinction in this chamber from 1991 to 1997. I had the great honor of serving alongside Bill and working closely with him in the early days of the Blue Dog Coalition.

During his time in this body and—before that, working in the executive branch—Bill proved himself to be thoughtful and honorable, and those of us who had the pleasure to serve with him know that he entered public service for the right reasons. He cared deeply about the future of this country and understood the importance of ensuring fiscal sustainability for the generations of Americans who come after us.

Betty Ann and I, along with many others in Congress and across our country, were deeply saddened to learn of Bill's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill's wife Jacquelyn and their sons Will and Wesley during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate you and our colleagues joining us to remember Bill's service to our nation and offer our condolences to his family and to all Utahns.

U.S. NAVY SEALS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand in this hall that is a symbol for the world of our country's freedom. Americans have fought and paid the ultimate price for this nation and the freedoms we value so deeply.

That is why it is such an honor for me to stand before you today Madam Speaker, because today I am standing to say thank you and to cheer from the gallery for the world to hear—All hail the men and women of the United States Navy and all hail the brave men of the Navy SEALs.

For all the flags we fly and yellow ribbons we tie, for all the times we stand in support of the job carried out by our service men and women. Rarely does a moment come when we as a nation get a chance to thank these individuals whose duty and job it is to go far beyond the limits and demands of a normal soldier.

Rare is the chance this nation gets to see and understand exactly how good these men are at their job, till now.

On Wednesday April 8th a crew of pirates took hostage an unarmed American merchant ship. Captured was Captain Richard Phillips and for 5 days this Sea Captain was held at gun point on a small boat drifting at sea.

On Easter Sunday after many days of unrest, a team of Navy SEALs were sent in to rescue Captain Phillips. It only took 3 shots from sniper rifles and a matter of minutes for the SEALs to disable all the 3 pirates on the ship and free Captain Phillips.

These brave Navy SEALs take the responsibility to continuously put themselves in the thick of the most dangerous situations the world presents. These SEALs risk their lives to protect Americans and they do it not for their gain and not for glory. They do it out of love for a country and fellow Americans.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy stood before this nation and talked about the ever changing world that we lived in, how war itself was changing and in order for this country to continue to thrive and protect its own interests this country needed to establish a small, elite military force that could conduct covert missions and battle unconventional warfare. To that end the United States created one of the most highly trained and skilled unit in our armed forces, the Navy SEALs.

A SEAL spends two years training in the harshest conditions simply for the right to do this job. A SEAL's life is one of just being a step ahead of death. These brave men begin a mission and all too often only their failures are ever known.

An opportunity for this nation to stop and thank these SEALs for all that they have done does not come around that often and I for one am glad that today I get this chance.

We need more people like these SEALs in this country, people who are willing to put this nation first and their petty differences aside for the greater good.

We need more people in this country who are willing to stand for all that is right and honorable in this world and be willing to defend those that are weak, held down or scared to fight for themselves.