

public and private, have become more precarious. Across the country, they are seeing an increase in patients—women who have lost their jobs and health insurance, or who no longer have money to pay for medical care. These women are literally choosing between a month of birth control and bus fare.

Planned Parenthood health centers are part of an important network of women's health care providers and serve as a critical entry point into the health care system for millions of women.

In fact, Guttmacher reports more than six in ten clients consider family planning centers their main source of health care. Oftentimes, it is their first interaction with the country's health care system.

This is why increasing health insurance coverage is not enough. Ensuring access to a strong network of health care providers is fundamental to improving health care coordination and quality outcomes.

A strong women's health care infrastructure must be developed as we proceed with health care reform. Women need preventative services for reproductive and general health. Planned Parenthood clinics are providing these services now and we should make sure they continue to do so.

BELATED THANK YOU TO THE
MERCHANT MARINERS OF
WORLD WAR II ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service the U.S. Merchant Marines and the sacrifice each gave for our country. The merchant seamen of World War II were volunteers and a civilian military corps serving the United States in the war. They were denied veterans' benefits comparable to those provided to World War II era military veterans. By most reports, the World War II merchant marines suffered the greatest casualties of any of the fighting branches—with nearly 1-in-26 dying in battle.

H.R. 23, the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009 will provide benefits for an estimated 38,000 individuals in the first year of the enactment of this legislation. I believe this legislation is long overdue. I am eager to see them receive all the benefits they deserve.

I am proud and grateful for the opportunity to nominate constituents to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. There they receive an education for a future in this field. I applaud the hard work and dedication of the merchant mariners and the sacrifices they have made for our country.

HONORING MR. GLENN COLEMAN FOR HIS 23 YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE USDA NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Glenn Coleman, upon the occasion of his retirement, effective June 13, 2009, for his 23 years of service and dedication to the USDA National Forest Service.

Mr. Coleman, who came to the City of Alexandria, LA in 1986, has dedicated 23 years of service as a landscape architect to the Kisatchie National Forest Service. His service includes management and volunteer work with projects and organizations such as the Alexandria Tree Board Committee, the Forest Service African American Strategy Group, "Smokey the Bear" and the Rapides Parish School Fire Prevention Program, annual outdoor recreation events, recreation facility design, and the Forest Service Human Resource Program.

Beyond his professional career, Mr. Coleman has been proudly married for 20 years to Patricia Ann Coleman and is a loving father to Angela, Alisha, Andre, Kimberly, and Gregory. Friends and family describe Mr. Coleman as an individual who has dedicated his life to Christ and is an active member of The Greater New Hope Baptist Church where he served on the Deacon Board for 18 years under the direction of Rev. Robert Butler.

Mr. Coleman is a friend to many, and is deemed a gracious and hardworking person to all who have had the privilege of making his acquaintance.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Glenn Coleman for his many years of service to the National Forest Service in Louisiana and for his dedication to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S (TAIWAN) PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the first anniversary of the election of the Republic of China's (Taiwan) President Ma Ying-jeou. With close to 65,000 Taiwanese Americans in the Chicagoland area, I have closely observed President Ma's progress on the world stage during his first year in office.

In just one year, the Harvard educated President Ma has made accomplishments in leaps and bounds to improve Taiwan's international standing in no small part because of his work to normalize relations with mainland China.

Most recently, Taiwan has been accepted as an official observer at the World Health Assembly that will take place later this month in Geneva. The World Health Assembly, which is part of the World Health Organization, will give Taiwan's 23 million citizens a voice at this very important international forum.

Also, in April, officials from China and Taiwan participated in the Chiang-Chen Talks. The talks resulted in the signing of the following agreements: (1) "Agreement on Joint Cross-Strait Crime-fighting and Mutual Judicial Assistance;" (2) the "Cross-Strait Financial Cooperation Agreement;" and, (3) the "Supplementary Agreement on Cross-Strait Air Transport". All of these agreements will result in improved coordination between the Taiwan Straits neighbors in the areas of law enforcement, financial exchanges and travel.

Finally, President Ma's administration has successfully removed Taiwan from the Special 301 Watch List which is maintained by The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The removal from this list shows Taiwan's commitment to preventing the importing and exporting of illegally pirated materials such as DVDs and CDs.

These are three of President Ma's many achievements during his first year in office. Please join me in congratulating, President Ma, on a very successful first year.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
TRUTH IN FUR LABELING ACT
OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce, along with Representative MARY BONO MACK, the Truth in Fur Labeling Act of 2009, which would require the labeling of all garments containing animal fur.

Current law contains a glaring loophole that allows garments containing less than \$150 dollars in fur to be sold in the U.S. without an identifying label. The result is that consumers lack the information they need to make informed choices and may inadvertently purchase garments that contain real fur, possibly from a dog or cat. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) strongly supports this bill as a way to guarantee consumers full and accurate information and to cut down on the amount of illegal dog and cat fur making its way into the U.S.

In recent years, HSUS investigators found a proliferation of falsely labeled and falsely advertised dog fur on fashion clothing sold by some of the largest names in U.S. retailing. Of the fur-trimmed jackets subjected to mass spectrometry testing by HSUS, 96 percent were found to be domestic dog, wolf or raccoon dog, and either mislabeled or not labeled at all.

Half of all fur garments entering the United States come from China, where large numbers of domestic dogs and cats as well as raccoon dogs are killed every year for their fur by brutal methods, sometimes skinned alive. The Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000 banned the trade in dog and cat fur after an HSUS investigation revealed the death toll at 2 million animals a year and found domestic dog fur for sale in the United States.

While it is currently illegal to import, export, sell or advertise any domestic dog or cat fur in the United States and fur from other animals must be identified with a label, a loophole exists that allows a sizable portion of fur garments to avoid this labeling requirement.

The Fur Products Labeling Act of 1951 exempts garments with a “relatively small quantity or value” of fur from requiring labels disclosing the name of the species, the manufacturer, the country of origin and other pertinent information for consumers. The Federal Trade Commission defines that value today as \$150—an amount that allows multiple animal pelts on a garment without a label.

Regardless of value, consumers have the right to know if a product they purchase contains real fur. Consumers who may have allergies to fur, ethical objections to fur, or concern about the use of certain species, cannot make informed purchasing choices. Furthermore, the ability for consumers to make well-informed decisions based on complete information is a cornerstone of a functioning market economy.

Importantly, labeling fur trim will not be economically burdensome for apparel manufacturers or retailers. According to the Federal Trade Commission, the total number of fur garments, fur-trimmed garments, and fur accessories sold in the United States is estimated at 3,500,000. Of that, approximately 3,000,000 items—or 86 percent—are already required to abide by labeling requirements. It will not present a difficulty to label the additional 14 percent of products using animal fur. In fact, this legislation may actually increase the efficiency of the manufacturing process because it removes the need to determine an item’s value for labeling purposes.

Consumer protection officials and leaders in the retail and fashion industries support fur labeling. Legislation closing the loophole in the Fur Products Labeling Act has been endorsed by Tommy Hilfiger, Burlington Coat Factory, Loehmann’s, Buffalo Exchange, House of Deréon, Jay McCarroll, Andrew Marc, and others. Leading designers and businesses understand the need for clear labeling laws to protect consumer confidence in their products. Additionally, the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators (NACAA), an organization representing more than 160 government agencies and 50 corporate consumer offices, recently passed a resolution in support of truthful fur labeling and advertising, including the elimination of loopholes.

It is clear that current regulations undercut consumers’ ability to make informed purchases and contributes to the continued presence of dog and cat fur in garments sold in the U.S. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the committee of jurisdiction to bring attention to this issue and enact the needed reforms included in the Truth in Fur Labeling Act of 2009.

PERSON EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 18, 2009, I was unable to return to Washington, DC in time to cast my vote for rollcall votes No. 267–269. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall votes No. 267, H. Res. 300; No. 268, S. 386; and No. 269, H. Res. 442.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The House In Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Schools Facilities Act. In addition to authorizing critical funding for school modernization, this bill also authorizes a specific funding stream of \$600 million over six years for public schools that were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

We know that these funds are critically needed. As Education Week reported, in the hours after Hurricane Katrina struck, more than 100 public schools in New Orleans were flooded. And the roughly two dozen schools that didn’t flood suffered wind and rain damage.

Even though it has been nearly four years since the storm, many children continue to attend classes in temporary structures that are ill-suited to providing a 21st Century education. In addition, 21 percent of schools remain closed.

The funds authorized in H.R. 2187 will help put an end to the legacy of damage left by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING ROBERTA RAKOVE, RECIPIENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION GRASSROOTS CHAMPION AWARD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Roberta Rakove, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, of Sinai Health System for her outstanding leadership in creating grassroots and community activity in support of her hospital’s mission. Roberta Rakove was first nominated by the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA), and later awarded by both the IHA and the American Hospital Association (AHA) the Partnership for Action Grassroots Champion Award on April 28, 2009.

The Partnership for Action Grassroots Champion Award was established to recognize hospital leaders who most efficiently inform elected officials of the affect major issues have on a hospital’s fundamental role in the community; to recognize hospital leaders who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support for the hospital; and to recognize hospital leaders who continue to advocate on behalf of the hospital and its patients.

Roberta Rakove’s commitment to advocating for the hospital community extends to

her 15 years of devotion on IHA’s Advocacy Council, DSH Steering Committee, and other membership groups.

For 90 years the hospitals and caregivers of Sinai Health System have provided medical care and social services to communities in west and south Chicago. Sinai Community Institute provides social service outreach for the lifestyle issues that contribute to health while the Sinai Urban Health institute researches the prevalence of chronic disease in Chicago neighborhoods. Collectively, the Sinai Health System provides a full continuum of care for acute, primary, specialty and rehabilitation to meet the needs of the community.

MONGOLIA’S DEMOCRACY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, in a vast sweep of mountains, steppe, and desert in the heart of northern Asia, one of the most remarkable political transformations of the decade is unfolding. I rise today to commend democracy in Mongolia. The collapse of communism and totalitarianism has provided Mongolia with a historical opportunity of introducing simultaneous political and economic changes by dismantling the communist regime and central planning economy to build democracy and market capitalism.

Mongolia’s democratic transition explicitly indicates that Mongolia has reached remarkable achievements in building democracy and market capitalism.

Mongolia’s parliamentary democracy has been playing a meaningful role in building democracy and market capitalism, and civil society has emerged and developed. Mongolia’s democratic reforms have been radical and irreversible. Now, Mongolia is committed to successful completion of the final phase of its transition to market capitalism to deepen and strengthen democracy.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting Mongolia’s continued transition to democracy.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD L. KIRCHNER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Richard L. Kirchner for his 29 years of service to the Civil Air Patrol. Col. Kirchner retired in February after developing the Anoka Composite Squadron and serving as its Commander three times.

After joining the Civil Air Patrol in 1980, Col. Kirchner started the Anoka Composite Squadron in 1982 with just one member. Today, it stands at nearly 100 members and has produced leaders in the Civil Air Patrol, the U.S. Air Force, in business and the public sector across the country. Col. Kirchner was involved