

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2847) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chair, as a Member of the House Science and Technology Committee, I strongly support full funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

NASA's research, innovation and exploration have had a positive impact on education, national security, health care, and the environment.

The aerospace industry alone employs approximately 500,000 people across the nation and accounts for nearly 2 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product.

Furthermore, NASA attracts students interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—fields vital to our country's long-term strength and prosperity.

With proper funding, NASA will be able to continue a robust research program and develop new technologies to ensure that the United States remains the global leader in space exploration and innovation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
GYNECOLOGIC CANCER EDU-
CATION AND AWARENESS ACT
OF 2009

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2009: a life-saving, bipartisan bill to reauthorize Johanna's Law, a national awareness program to educate women about the symptoms, risk factors, and prevention of gynecologic cancers such as ovarian, uterine, and cervical cancers.

Every hour, approximately 10 women in the U.S. are diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer such as ovarian, cervical, and uterine cancers. Each year, we lose over 26,000 of our mothers, sisters, daughters and friends to one of these terrible cancers. This is a tragedy. Research shows that many of those deaths could be prevented if more women knew the risk factors and recognized the early symptoms of gynecologic cancers so that they could discuss them with their doctors. Ovarian cancer has a 90 percent survival rate if detected in Stage One and only a 20 percent survival rate if detected in Stage Three or Four.

That is why, in December 2006, Congress passed the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act—also known as Johanna's Law, named for Johanna Silver Gordon, a dynamic and dedicated public

school teacher, a loving and beloved mother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend. Despite being a health conscious woman who visited the gynecologist regularly for pelvic exams and PAP smears, Johanna was blindsided by a late stage diagnosis of ovarian cancer—learning only after her diagnosis that the symptoms she had been experiencing were common symptoms of ovarian cancer, not those of a minor gastrointestinal problem, as she'd assumed. Sadly, despite multiple surgeries and aggressive chemotherapy, 3½ years after her diagnosis, Johanna lost her life to ovarian cancer. Determined not to allow Johanna's death to be in vain, Johanna's sister Sheryl Silver proposed Johanna's Law.

This bill provides for an education campaign led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to increase the awareness and knowledge of health care providers and women with respect to gynecological cancers. The program has been funded for the past two years, allowing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to begin a national awareness campaign about the signs and symptoms of gynecologic cancers.

In order to continue and build on these important efforts, the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2009 will reauthorize the CDC's awareness campaign and create a new grant program to support non-profit organizations in carrying out complementary education and awareness campaigns that extend the reach of the CDC's work. The bill enjoys the support of the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance (OCNA), the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC), the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists (SGO), the Alliance for Women's Cancer Awareness, Society of Gynecologic Nurse Oncologists (SGNO), Gynecologic Cancer Foundation, Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE), CONVERSATIONS: The International Ovarian Cancer Connection, the Cancer Awareness Team for Ovarian Cancer (Ohio), CanSurvive Support Group, UAB Gynecology (Alabama), Capitol Ovarian Cancer Coalition (COCO) (Kentucky), Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance, Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance, Nine Girls Ask (California), OASIS of Southern California, Ovacom United States (Florida), Ovarian and Breast Cancer Alliance of Washington State, Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Arizona, Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Greater California, Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Oregon and Southwest Washington, Ovarian Cancer Orange County Alliance, Ovar'Coming Together (Indiana), Ovarian Awareness of Kentucky, Sandy Rollman Ovarian Cancer Foundation (Pennsylvania), Space Coast Ovarian/Gynecologic Cancer Alliance (Florida), and the Women's Cancer Awareness Group (California).

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to move swiftly to ensure that women have the lifesaving information they need about gynecologic cancers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 354, had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF NATIONAL CARIBBEAN-AMER-
ICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm and reverence that I acknowledge Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Caribbean-Americans have made so many invaluable contributions to our nation's culture and historical development. With an indomitable spirit, resolve, and determination, Caribbean-Americans have maintained their unique cultural and social identity and made incredible strides in carving out their respective place within the American Dream. I want to commend my colleague BARBARA LEE for bringing this measure before the floor.

Numerous Caribbean-Americans have left an indelible mark on American history and culture. For example, Sidney Poitier, who spent his youth on Cat Island in the Bahamas, went on to become the first Black American actor to win an Academy Award. Sidney Poitier was a pioneer and where it once was an unobtainable goal, many Black actors and actresses now have the opportunity to enter an elite group of acclaimed Oscar winners. I also think of the incomparable Harry Belafonte. At his peak, Harry Belafonte was a gifted musician, talented actor, and fierce social activist. Although Harry Belafonte was not born in the Caribbean, he spent a lot of time in his mother's native country, Jamaica.

And lastly, as a Member of Congress, I cannot discount the contributions and achievements of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. Congresswoman Chisholm frequently credited her success to the education she received while attending school in Barbados. As the first Black woman elected to the House of Representatives, she was a dedicated public servant and a trailblazer. It is often repeated, that we stand on the shoulders of great men and women who, through diligence and determination, paved the way for African-Americans today to achieve greatness. And as many of those shoulders belonged to Caribbean-Americans, it is truly fitting that we take this month to celebrate their heritage.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 127. And as a vocal advocate for the Caribbean, I will continue to do my part and work with my colleagues to help the region face its challenges in hopes of propelling it into a great and prosperous future. So as we take this month to honor Caribbean-American heritage and history, it is my sincere hope that in time, we will be able to celebrate even greater achievements and developments in both the lives of Caribbean-Americans in the United States as well as the nations of the Caribbean.

OBAMA MEDICARE CUTS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, President Obama used his