

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUGET
SOUND RECOVERY ACT OF 2009

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2009.

One of the iconic physical features of my home state is Puget Sound. It is a keystone of our identity in Washington State. In a region known for its beauty, Puget Sound is beyond comparison.

But the postcard image of Puget Sound belies the fact that it is in decline. Over the last 20 years we have seen increasing signs that water quality is deteriorating. We are experiencing low-oxygen zones in a growing number of areas within Puget Sound. Many of our most cherished aquatic species are in trouble with salmon and Orcas listed under the Endangered Species Act. At this point, nearly three-quarters of our original estuaries and wetlands are gone. And as a toxic remnant of its more industrialized past, the bottom of the Sound has many thousands of acres of extreme contamination.

Even with this decline, the Sound remains a natural wonder, and my legislation will provide an increased Federal role to reverse the deterioration. Its 2,800 square miles of inland marine waters makes Puget Sound the Nation's second largest estuary after Chesapeake Bay. There is a strong marine and natural resource industry. The bounty of the Sound includes several hundred fish species, plentiful shellfish and shrimp, 25 different marine mammals and 100 different species of sea birds.

Several years ago, the State of Washington led by Governor Gregoire recognized the dire condition of Puget Sound. In response, the Puget Sound Partnership was set up to lead the state effort to restore the Sound. The Partnership developed the Puget Sound Action Agenda which was recently approved by the EPA as the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. This Action Agenda will serve as the blueprint that local and state government, Tribes, and federal agencies will follow in this cooperative effort to restore Puget Sound. In tandem with these efforts occurring in Washington State, the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee which I chair has approved increasing amounts of funding for Puget Sound in the annual EPA budget. For FY 2010, I am proud that the EPA budget contains \$50 million for Puget Sound. President Obama signed this spending bill into law on October 30th.

The Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2009 sets up an EPA office in Washington State to coordinate the federal effort to implement the Action Agenda. The other Federal agencies that are involved in the cleanup include the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Park Service, the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service within the Department of Agriculture, the United States Geological Survey, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security and Transportation. In addition, this bill authorizes grants to study the causes of the Sound's declining water quality and ways to counter these threats, as well as grants for sewer and stormwater discharge projects.

I am pleased that the 6 Washington State Delegation Members whose districts surround the Puget Sound are original cosponsors of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, the Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2009 is an important step to authorize the federal role in the cleanup of this important water body.

CHERYL ANDERSON PEGUES ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and my good friend, Cheryl Pegues, as she celebrates her retirement. A dedicated professional, volunteer, mentor and friend, Cheryl has earned the respect and admiration of those throughout our community.

Cheryl has been a member of the Administration at Gateway Community College in New Haven, Connecticut for more than two decades. She spent 18 years as the Director of Financial Aid, a year and a half as Acting Dean of Students, and, today, is retiring from the position of Director of Student Development and Services. Prior to her move to Gateway, she served as Assistant Director of the Connecticut Talent Assistance Cooperative-Education Opportunity Center—a federal TRIO program where she also served as an education counselor. As you know, TRIO programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Throughout her professional career, Cheryl sought to assist young people in their endeavors to further their education. Many of those she worked with would not have otherwise benefitted from a college education. Education is the cornerstone of success and today, more than ever before, our young people are facing weighty challenges as they try to pursue a college degree—and those challenges are even larger for disadvantaged children. Cheryl's work has opened the doors of opportunity for countless young people and made all the difference in their lives.

Cheryl's interest in enriching the lives of young people extends far beyond her professional life. Over the years she has been an active member of the Board of Directors of the Latino Youth Development, the Education Support Services program, the Children in Crisis Coordinating Committee, and the Urban Improvement Corps. Cheryl served on the original Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Conference Committee and has organized financial aid workshops and college orientation seminars upon request from local high schools, churches, as well as civic and service organizations.

In addition to all of this, Cheryl still finds the time to serve as a Deacon and active parishioner at Immanuel Missionary Baptist Church. She also served as a member of numerous professional organizations including the Theta Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha

Sorority, the National Council of Negro Women, the Greater New Haven Chapter of the NAACP, and the New Haven Chapter of the Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Her invaluable contributions have left an indelible mark on our community and I have no doubt that Cheryl will continue in her work to enrich the lives of young people and make our community a better place to live, learn and grow.

Today, as she celebrates her retirement from her professional life, I am proud to join her husband, Elbert, her children, Elbert and Elicia, and her granddaughter, Kaila, as well as the many family, friends, and colleagues in extending my sincere congratulations to Cheryl Pegues. Her extraordinary professional career and infinite generosity touched the hearts and minds of many. I wish her all the best for many more years of health and happiness.

HEALTH CARE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, 4-1/2 decades ago on this very floor, Congress debated legislation closely related to the bill we will consider later this week.

It is said that history is destined to repeat itself, especially when we repeat ourselves. So listen to these statements from the predecessors of my friends in the minority when they debated the bill creating Medicare.

Their arguments sound very familiar—some strikingly similar—to the comments we've been hearing about the Affordable Health Care for America Act:

Quoting Representative Durwood G. Hall, a Republican congressman from Missouri, who happened to also be a medical doctor:

Mr. Speaker, the basis of quality medical care is the voluntary relationship between the doctor and patient. This would begin to disappear as the Government supplants the individual as the purchaser and provider of health services . . .

Are we to tell the people of America, the senior citizens, that they are not capable of determining this matter . . .

The result will inescapably be third-party intrusion into the practice of hospitalization and medicine. The physician's judgment would be open to question by others, not responsible for the patient's wellbeing . . .

Congressman Hall went onto say:

. . . Its adoption would be another downward step toward of loss of freedom of choice.

Consequently, we cannot stand idly by now, as the Nation is urged to embark on an ill-conceived adventure in Government medicine, the end of which, no one can see, and from which the patient is certain to be the ultimate sufferer. For make no mistake about it: The medical profession will never deprive the people of high-quality medical care and the fruits of progress of medical science. That will come when the Government begins meddling and interfering with medical freedom.

Quoting Edward Derwinski, a Republican congressman from Illinois, who made similar arguments:

As we look into the future, we see clear signs of rigid governmental control of our