

Sanilac and Tuscola Counties. Their emphasis is on community economic development, housing and energy-related activities. Through their economic development program, they have developed a storm window manufacturing unit into a corporation named Cass River Enterprises, Incorporated with Mary Ann as the Chief Executive Officer.

In addition to her duties with the Human Development Commission, Mary Ann has held several leadership positions with both local and national organizations. Mary Ann served two terms as President of the National Association of Community Action Agencies and three terms as Secretary, was President of both the State and Regional Community Action Agency Associations, a member of the National Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security Steering Committee, Treasurer of the Mid America Community Action Association, Board Member and President of the Great Lakes Rural Network, President of the Michigan Economic Development Coalition, member of the National Community Action Foundation Board of Directors, Board member of the Economic Development Association of Michigan, Board member of Rural Partners of Michigan, and Chairperson of the Michigan Community Action Agency Association Legislative Committee. Locally, she is Chairperson of the Christian Services Committee of the Church of the Sacred Heart and serves as a Lay Minister. Mary Ann is the recipient of the Caro Business & Professional Women's Woman of Achievement Award, honored as Caro's Citizen of the Year, and was the recipient of the Caro Knights of Columbus Council's Family of the Year Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the work of Mary Ann Vandemark. She is a dear friend and I value her advice, her wisdom and her enthusiasm. I congratulate her on a well deserved retirement and wish her the best in this new phase of her life.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,661,039,727,506.65.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,024,946,690,541.30 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$2,332,709,328.50 since just yesterday.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

FLAWS OF MEDICAID EXPANSION

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, there are major flaws in the health care legislation that

passed the U.S. House of Representatives this week. Utah Governor Gary Herbert recently shared with me two major deficiencies in the Medicaid expansion as addressed in the health care bill.

First, Medicaid expansion ignores the fiscal impact on states. Utah, along with many other states, currently faces challenging financial circumstances. It would be impossible to pay for a sizeable Medicaid expansion and still maintain other critical state priorities such as education and social services without tax increases. This would dampen any economic recovery.

Second, Medicaid expansion ignores the program's current deficiencies. Medicaid is designed to be a temporary help and not a permanent solution for financing medical care because it restricts patient responsibility and limits choices and options. Utah is struggling to find enough providers who are willing to treat Medicaid patients as it is. Putting more people on this program will likely overwhelm the provider system and decrease access for those that need it most.

Medicaid expansion solves the problem of the uninsured by forcing more people into an already overburdened public program. This is an inevitable crush on states' finances and the economy.

STATE OF UTAH,

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,

Salt Lake City, UT, March 21, 2010.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Longworth Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CHAFFETZ: I am writing in the hope there is still an opportunity to eliminate the proposed Medicaid expansion in the current health care reform legislation. There are two major flaws with the proposed expansion.

First, the Medicaid expansion ignores the fiscal impact on states. Even though there was a previous commitment that states will not be burdened with the cost of a growing program, it is clear the current versions of the expansion proposal do not keep this commitment. Utah, along with many other states, currently faces challenging financial circumstances. We, in Utah, have fought to minimize the impact on our citizens, but it would be impossible to pay for a sizeable Medicaid expansion and still maintain our commitment to other critical state priorities such as education and social services without tax increases. This would dampen the economic recovery we are beginning to experience.

Second, Medicaid expansion ignores the program's current deficiencies. This proposal would significantly increase the number of Utahns on Medicaid. Instead, we need to get more people off Medicaid and covered by private insurance. Medicaid is designed to be a temporary help to those in need. It is not designed to be a permanent solution for financing medical care because it restricts patient responsibility and limits choices and options. It would be better to pursue approaches that help individuals and families become the primary decision-makers when it comes to their health and health care.

We are struggling to find enough providers who are willing to treat Medicaid patients as it is. Putting more people in this program will likely overwhelm the provider system and decrease access for those that need it the most. Nothing in the current proposal addresses how this problem will be resolved.

I am firmly opposed to a plan that intends to solve the problem of the uninsured by forcing more people into an already overburdened public program. Even though the bill

intends to soften the impact with a 2019 full implementation date, this is simply delaying the inevitable crush on states' finances and the economy.

Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

GARY R. HERBERT,
Governor.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR, THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE ON THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1141, which honors the achievements and distinguished career of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and recognizes her impact as an American symbol of hard work and rugged individualism. H. Res. 1141 is an important measure that acknowledges the truly impressive career of Sandra Day O'Connor and pays tribute to her distinguished record as one of the nation's great jurists that has inspired generations of women across the country and around the world.

I thank Chairman JOHN CONYERS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, for taking the time to acknowledge Justice O'Connor's positive impact on the legal profession, the world of public service, and the lives of women and girls with dreams as ambitious as her own.

Madam Speaker, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's rise to the top of the legal profession is a testament to the power of tirelessly dedicating yourself to the pursuit of your dreams and staying true to your core values. After graduating in the top three of her class at Stanford Law School, Justice O'Connor practiced law in Frankfurt, Germany and Phoenix, Arizona. Soon, however, she took her talents to the arena of public service, serving as the Arizona Assistant Attorney General and Majority Leader in the Arizona State Senate. In 1979, she was appointed by Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt to serve on the Arizona Court of Appeals. Her fair-minded decisions, detailed knowledge of the law, and growing stature in the legal profession led President Ronald Reagan to nominate Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981 to serve as the first woman on the United States Supreme Court.

Justice O'Connor served for 24 terms on the United States Supreme Court. Her service was marked by her centrist judicial philosophy, consensus-building role on the Court, and determination to uphold the law and the Constitution. A shining moment in Justice O'Connor's legacy was her support of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment, which further strengthened her role as a role model for women of all generations. On August 12, 2009, President Barack Obama awarded Sandra Day O'Connor the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a deserved honor for an important national figure who inspires countless Americans.