EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REPEALING THE JOB-KILLING HEALTH CARE LAW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, since the misleadingly-named ''Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act'' was signed into law last year, Americans have uncovered more reasons to oppose it. For all the talk of ''reform'' that accompanied its passage, the law will actually entrench the worst aspects of our broken system, driving out-of-control costs even higher and taking health care out of the patient's hands and giving control to the government.

Contrary to what they were told, taxpayers have learned that the true cost of the law is closer to $2.6 trillion over the next 10 years, and will add more than $700 billion to the deficit. Accounting gimmicks that included scoring the bill using 10 years of revenue but only 6 years of new spending and double-counting of Social Security payroll taxes, CLASS Act premiums, and Medicare cuts made it seem like this program would land the country in the black, but will only result in more red ink.

As a result of this law, employers across America have discovered that onerous reporting requirements will force them to file 1099 forms for every vendor with which they do $600 worth of business. An accountant in my district just told me that he will have to expand his staff by 25 percent to accommodate all of his extra paperwork. This is not the type of job creation America envisioned.

Furthermore, when employer costs of insuring employees goes up, Americans will lose their private insurance plans, and will be forced to go on to government plans. This will also add to the deficit. Additionally, businesses and labor unions alike have realized that Obamacare is a bad deal, and at least 222 have sought waivers from having to comply with the law. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has approved special privilege exemptions for dozens of labor unions and the half a million union members they cover. And even more troubling is that Secretary Sebelius has been tardy in responding to a FOIA inquiry regarding the secretive details of these waiver requests.

And, last but of course not least, patients will soon come to discover that this law may not only be dangerous to their pocketbooks, but to their health.

Mandates, dictates, controls, tax hikes, and subsidies will flat-line any genuine effort to reform the country's health care system. The exploding cost of health care is bankrupting the country, yet the government's open-ended commitment to subsidizing health care is the very reason costs are skyrocketing.

Fortunately, instead of waivers for a select few, we have a universal remedy: repeal the law for all. I urge my colleagues to heed the calls voters made last year during the debate and at the ballot boxes, and vote to undo this job-killing legislation.

HONORING JUDGE BRAD BRADLEY AND HIS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, the Honorable Brad Bradley. For more than 25 years, Judge Bradley has made innumerable professional and philanthropic contributions to the people and communities of Northeast Tarrant County.

Judge Bradley has continually given of his time and service to the people of this area, especially to its youth. Judge Bradley's non-profit organization, Carroll Education Foundation, has provided over $1,000,000 in scholarships and grants to the teachers and students in Carroll ISD.

Judge Bradley also founded Northeast Tarrant County's first Teen Court, allowing high school students to be tried in a court and jury of their peers, encouraging a better understanding of the judicial system. Judge Bradley's MetroPort Teen Court Bar Association also encourages teens to pursue an education in law.

In addition to engaging teens' interests in the judicial system, Judge Bradley helps over 33,000 children in Northeast Tarrant County each year with his program, Summer Santa. He recognized a need for children needing assistance and has provided funds for camp scholarships, medical checkups, and clothing through Summer Santa. Judge Bradley's most recent venture, the Pro Players Foundation, benefits disadvantaged children.

Today, Judge Bradley receives the Lifetime Community Service Award presented by Southlake Style Magazine in recognition of his exemplary contributions to the city of Southlake. It is my great privilege to recognize Judge Brad Bradley for the generosity and commitment he has shown to the people of Southlake and surrounding areas.

HONORING MARGARET DUNNE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished career of Margaret Dunne. For over 25 years, she has instilled a love for reading in the children of Chicago's Independence Park neighborhood, and inspired a life of service in all of her colleagues.

Ms. Dunne began her career with impressive educational merit. She has Masters degrees in English, Special Education, and Library and Information Science. With this background, Margaret joined the Independence Park branch of the Chicago Public Library, where she would spend her entire career as the Children's Librarian.

Throughout her career, Margaret has worked to reach as many children as possible through visits to classrooms, parks, and daycare centers. She has also been instrumental in programming the Chicago Public Library's Summer Reading Program, which encourages children to continue reading during their summer vacations. Her exciting summer reading themes have delighted and inspired children, consistently making the Independence Park Library's Summer Reading Program one of the most successful in Chicago.

Margaret's hard work and dedication garnered citywide attention and, in 2002, earned her the Chicago Public Library's Librarian of the Year Award. Consistently, she has served as a mentor for many people in the field of librarianship and has inspired a high level of commitment to children's reading programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Margaret Dunne and her commitment to promoting a love of reading in children. Her career has touched the lives of people both young and old. In the words of her colleagues, ''her dedication will be greatly missed by all.''

INSTRUCTING CERTAIN COMMITTEES TO REPORT LEGISLATION REPLACING THE JOB-KILLING HEALTH CARE LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Dear Madam Speaker, I inadvertently voted ''no'' on the Matheson amendment to H. Res. 9, which would instruct the committee of jurisdiction to include a permanent fix to the Medicare physician payment formula in legislation to replace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. I intended to vote ''yes'' on the Matheson amendment.

I have always been a strong supporter of having the most optimal Medicare reimbursement rate for our nation's physicians. This is because the level of Medicare reimbursement rates to physicians does have a significant impact on the quality and level of health care physicians will provide to our nation's senior citizens and disabled.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE VINTONDALE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST AND KNITTERS FROM THE JOHNSTOWN REGION

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the Vintondale Veterans of Foreign Wars post, the needle arts club of the Nanty Glo Senior Center, and the In-Stitches Sewing Club of the SS. Gregory and Barnabas Roman Catholic Church for their consorted effort to comfort our wounded troops and their families.

Together, these groups recently provided 100 handcrafted blankets to wounded service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda right before the holiday season.

Organized by Joseph Gresko and Charles Sago, two members of Post 5211 VFW, the project was part of a tradition in helping veterans and active duty service members. Mr. Gresko and Mr. Sago requested the assistance of women in the community to knit these comforting gifts for our brave men and women. Marge Younkin, and her fellow members of the needle arts club at the Nanty Glo Senior Center, and Eleanor Chromy, and her fellow members of the In-Stitches Sewing Club of the SS. Gregory and Barnabas Catholic Church, answered the call. With a donation from the church's Altar and Rosary Society and contributions of yarn from other individuals, these women set out to work.

Their efforts not only touched the lives of the service members that received the blankets, but also earned the participants recognition as "Persons of the Week" in the local newspaper, the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat, for their generosity and care. Performing this act of kindness for our brave men and women was not about receiving accolades for these individuals. As Mr. Sago has stated, these gifts are reminders that there are people these soldiers never knew who truly appreciate what they have done.

Upon delivering the blankets to our wounded service members, I let them know that these gifts were a token of our appreciation for the service and sacrifice they have made, and continue to make, on behalf of a grateful nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the individuals in the Johnstown community who generously dedicated their time, talent, and heart for this worthy project.

INSTRUCTING CERTAIN COMMITTEES TO REPORT LEGISLATION REPLACING THE JOB-KILLING HEALTH CARE LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to House Resolution 9, which instructs authorizing committees to develop legislation replacing existing healthcare laws. While I applaud the majority's intention to finally present their own comprehensive solutions to the health care crisis in this country, I note that they don't need a resolution by the entire House to do so. Committees can develop legislation on their own at any time. Moreover, I reject the idea that the Patients Protection and Affordable Care Act must be "replaced." The PPACA represents a century of effort by people of all political persuasions to give people the peace of mind that comes from knowing they have access to affordable care. No law is ever perfect. Certainly, all legislation can all be improved and I welcome the opportunity to further the progress made by the 111th Congress on health care reform.

Furthermore, current law meets most, if not all, of the goals identified in today's resolution. Since health care reform passed, the economy has grown, more than a million jobs have been created and thousands of small businesses have used tax credits to begin offering employees coverage for the first time. In order to foster competition and choice, the Department of Health and Human Services recently established a website where people can compare policies and when the exchanges launch in 2014, individuals and small businesses will select from a wide range of carriers competing for their business. Patients now have the right to choose their own primary care physician and women don't have to ask permission to see an obstetrician. Insurance carriers cannot arbitrarily deny care and patients have a robust right to repeal when company bureaucrats override doctors. Children cannot be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions and soon all Americans will enjoy that protection.

When PPACA is fully implemented, 32 million people will have coverage who never had it before, millions more will be able to afford coverage more easily, and seniors will not pay so dearly for prescription drugs. All of these actions can be done while extending Medicare solvency by twelve years by reducing waste, fraud and abuse and while slashing the deficit by $1.4 trillion over the next twenty years.

The Republican plan introduced in the House last session would cover just 3 million more Americans by 2019—leaving 51 million Americans uninsured in 2019. That plan reduced the deficit by $68 billion over the next 10 years—far less than the law we passed—and offered none of the cost savings and consumer protections that make health care reform work for all Americans. I sincerely hope Republicans offer more substantial solutions this session.

Finally, one goal of today's resolution that I must take issue with is the provision regarding abortion. Nothing in the PPACA allows for taxpayer funded abortions and I would strenuously object to any new laws that further restricted a woman's right to choose or allow medical professionals to deny legitimate services based on their own religious beliefs. There is no reason why the healthcare options for women—participating in insurance exchanges should be any different than they are for women who can afford coverage on their own.

LET'S HELP ALL AMERICANS ACHIEVE THE AMERICAN DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced the Homebuyer Tax Credit Renewal Act of 2011 (H.R. 330), which will reinstate both the $8000 first-time homebuyer credit and the $6500 long-time homebuyer credit for a period of 1 year.

According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), 479,622 homebuyers claimed the credit in 2009. While the numbers for 2010 are not yet available, there is no doubt that the tax credit was instrumental in helping many first-time buyers achieve the American dream of homeownership by increasing down-payments and lowering monthly mortgage payments.

Homeownership is one of the best ways for working Americans to accumulate assets for retirement and to ensure neighborhoods are stable and well-maintained. Homeowners are also able to benefit from tax deductions like the mortgage interest and property tax deductions.

Homeownership also benefits children in numerous ways. Children of homeowners score better on academic tests, graduate at a higher rate, have fewer behavioral problems, and enjoy a better social environment. Living in an owned home is also a predictor of future success, as homeowners' children earn more than renters' children, are less likely to be on welfare, and are more likely to become homeowners themselves.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this important legislation

WE MUST DEBATE ABOUT VIOLENCE IN OUR SOCIETY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has long labored under a stigma of violence.

An estimated one in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. 30% of all students through grade six will experience bullying, either as victims or perpetrators.

Domestic violence, spousal abuse, child abuse, violence in our schools, gang violence, racial violence and violence against those we perceive to be different than us remain prevalent.

So what should we do?

What if we had an organized approach to dealing with violence in our society? What if we treated violence as phenomenon that could be addressed, diminished and resolved?

We have always been told that war is inevitable. That violence is inevitable.

We must challenge these notions. Government has a role in creating an organized approach to addressing violence and to create structures to lessen violence and its impact on our lives.

We cannot wait for more tragic events to occur to force us to examine issues of violence here at home.

There is no time like the present to begin, again, the debate about violence in our society. I intend to facilitate this debate with a proposal I will soon bring forward.

JUSTICE FOR LAULI'I

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced a private bill (H.R. 354) on behalf of a remarkable young man, Lauli'i Matu'u.

Lauli'i was born deaf and was abandoned by his birth-family in Western Samoa. Lauli'i lived on the streets until age 10 when Greg Lewis, a U.S. citizen, took him in, taught him sign language, and cared for his medical needs. In 1992, Mr. Lewis was appointed as legal guardian to Lauli'i, but it took 14 years before Greg was finally able to bring Lauli'i to the U.S. Lauli'i is in danger of being deported because his humanitarian visa has expired. Lauli'i has no family or ties to Western Samoa, deporting Lauli'i would be a travesty of justice! My bill will grant Lauli'i permanent U.S. residence.

REPEALING THE JOB-KILLING HEALTH CARE LAW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 2, legislation repealing the massive health care law passed last year.

Obamacare creates an unfunded mandate for states that took federal stimulus funds for Medicaid.

This unfunded mandate will cost states like Arizona hundreds of millions of dollars.

It also ties their hands from changing their Medicaid programs to prevent them from becoming unaffordable.

States must be allowed to tailor their programs as they see fit in order to ensure their long-term sustainability.

There are claims that repealing Obamacare would lead to massive deficits because it is supposedly paid for, but I would like to point out one item that was intended to raise revenues in order to help pay for the health care law that is already facing repeal.

The healthcare bill includes a requirement that small businesses file a report every time they spend more than $600.

This filing requirement went into effect at the end of last year and I am among a considerable bipartisan effort seeking to repeal it.

Time and time again, we pass a law that is supposedly paid for . . . only to find out that the supposed pay-fors aren't worth the paper n which they were written.

Sadly, when all of the budget gimmicks and fiscal hijinx are accounted for;provisions like these in Obamacare aren't paid for at all.

In fact, the House Budget Committee Chairman recently noted that the true cost of Obamacare to taxpayers is more than $700 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I agree that something must be done about the rising costs of health care, but Obamacare is not the answer.

This is a bad law: we need to just start over and enact healthcare reforms that improve quality and control costs.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE HAMANN, EL CAJON 2010 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, it's with a profound sense of appreciation and respect that I rise today to acknowledge the contribution of Steve Hamann to the San Diego community. Steve was recently named 2010 Citizen of the Year for the city of El Cajon, which I am proud to represent in Congress. Each of the candidates in the running for Citizen of the Year would have been an excellent choice, but Steve's tireless work and charity on behalf of so many others puts him in a class by himself.

Anyone who knows Steve understands that his purpose is not derived from self-motivation. His commitment to helping others showcases his good nature and moral character, demonstrated through more than 16 years of charity work, where he raised millions of dollars for numerous causes. All of it on donated time and without compensation—a mark of true dedication and purpose.

Such an extraordinary level of involvement is why Steven is known around East County San Diego as the ''Auctioneer Extraordinaire.'' He has spent countless hours hosting events each year—more than 80 in one year, in fact—and, thankfully for all us, he shows no sign of slowing down anytime soon. A member of the Rotary Club of El Cajon, Steve embodies the Rotarian motto of ''Service above Self.''

The list of organizations Steve lends his time and efforts to support is long, but certainly worth noting. He is well known for his work with the Boys and Girls Clubs of East County, Stoney's Kids, St. Madeleine Sophie's Center, the East County Salvation Army, The East County Chamber of Commerce, the El Cajon Community Development Center, the El Cajon Elks Lodge, the Heartland Boy Scouts, the Cajon Valley Union School District, the Grossmont Union High School District, the Grossmont Cuyamaca College District, the Mother Goose Parade, the Home of Guiding Hands, the El Cajon Recreation Department, the East County YMCA, the Grossmont Hospital Foundation and the Olaf Wieghorst Museum.

Aside from his sterling reputation, I got to better know Steve as the moderator for the East County Chamber of Commerce's Congressional Debates. The one thing about Steve in this setting is that he has always been as firm as he has been fair, demonstrating his objectivity while asking tough questions that help better inform community residents about their choices entering election season. Steve is also Editor-in-Chief for the East County Herald newspaper, where he focuses on promoting most of El Cajon's events and featuring those events in quality photo series. This is just one more service to the community that Steve provides.

Many San Diegans, as do most Americans, often wonder if they are making a difference in their communities or do enough to help influence the lives of others. Steve is a good example of someone who should never have to wonder whether they are making an impact. The evidence is in his work, hours dedicated and results. Steve serves as an excellent example to others too, reminding us all that a little time and attention to helping others goes a very long way.

I cannot say enough about Steve. He is an ambassador for our community and, without question, makes El Cajon a better place for each one of its residents. I want to thank Steve for his work and congratulate him on the Citizen of the Year award. His wife of 32 years, Lorraine, and his children Sarah and Ben, undoubtedly share Steve's enthusiasm and good nature. I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to them too.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Steve Hamann and wishing him continued success in all future endeavors. The El Cajon community and our nation benefit from Steve's leadership, as well as others who commit their lives to causes bigger than themselves.

FAIR TAXES FOR SENIORS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced the Fair Taxes for Seniors Act (H.R. 331), which will provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 years of age or older. Passing this bill will give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The Fair Taxes for Seniors Act doubles the current exemption by providing a one-time increase to $500,000 for a single person and $1 million for a couple that can be excluded from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Because they will be able to keep more, an added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

WILLIE O. STEAM TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the life and service of Willie O. Steam, of Denver, Colorado. Patrolman Steam was killed in the line of duty in 1921 and was one of a few black police officers of his time.

Patrolman Steam, employed under the administration of Chief H.R. Williams, was a Special Policeman who worked full-time as a night watchman at City Hall. The week prior to his murder Patrolman Steam enforced an ordinance that prohibited illegal dances. Steam's

killer, Keil O'Neill, had been the offender of the ordinance and came to the dance hall where Mr. Steam was patrolling. O'Neill shot Patrolmen Steam once in the back and once in the head in retaliation. Mr. Steam never had a chance to remove his weapon from his holster, according to witness reports.

According to Chief Williams, Steam was ''one of the most dependable and efficient men connected with the police department. He occupied a place on the force that was unique and getting another man to fill in the manner which Steam did, will be hard.'' For Steam's service to his community, the City of Denver paid his funeral expenses.

Mr. Steam's sacrifice needs to be recognized and commended by this body. He was only 48 years old at the time of his death, leaving a wife behind. I rise today to offer thanks to Patrolman Steam and his family for their service to the city of Denver and the State of Colorado.

PROTECT RETIREES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, millions of retirees that worked in the public sector feel very threatened right now, and for good reason: their pensions are being threatened. As we engage in a national conversation about how to reduce the deficit both in our States and in our Nation, let us be clear about one thing: we will not be cutting the pensions of retirees—including teachers, police, fire and EMS workers, public works personnel, and many others—who devoted their careers to serving the public. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities recently reported that States are facing 2012 fiscal year operating deficits totaling nearly $125 billion dollars. This number represents both short and long-term financial challenges for States. But the fear, blame and confusion surrounding such a number has put a tremendous amount of pressure on elected officials and State legislatures to make immediate and drastic cuts to State services, including retiree pensions. Recently, a proposal was suggested to give States the ability to file for bankruptcy. Such an initiative is a non-starter, as it would do far more harm than good. It means that States who declare bankruptcy could seek to back out of their solemn promise to provide for those who served the public after their service was done.

Those promises are known as defined benefit pensions. The public employees were promised the security of knowing those benefits would be there when they need them. If States successfully cancel out these agreements under cover of bankruptcy, the costs to individuals as well as the trust in government will be enormous. We cannot, we must not and we will not ask retirees to pay the consequences of upending these long-term promises for the sake of a false short-term financial solution.

HONORING ALICE MUELRATH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Alice Muelrath who passed away January 6, 2011, in Santa Rosa, California, at the age of 93. Mrs. Muelrath was deeply involved in the local dairy farming community, having grown up in a ranching family before marrying a ranch hand who later acquired two dairy operations of his own.

Alice's parents, John and Maria Albini, were part of a wave of immigrants from Italy who settled the area in the early 1900s, and Alice grew up in Bodega Bay. She and her three siblings spoke fluent Italian which was useful for both translating between cultures and keeping secrets from the kids.

In 1936, Alice married Peter Muelrath. The couple acquired a ranch in Bodega Bay and later second one near Santa Rosa. At the Santa Rosa ranch, Alice developed a skill for growing colorful flowers and was known for the beauty and variety of her plantings. They had two children, Bob and Mary; Bob, who is also a Sonoma County farmer, served as president of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

Alice was a cheerful and energetic woman who contributed with enthusiasm to a variety of community causes such as North Bay Dairy Women, Sonoma County Historical Society, Marin and Sonoma Italian Club, Sonoma County Farm Bureau, and Palm Drive Hospital.

Alice's husband passed away in 1983. In addition to her son and daughter, she is survived by her sisters Elsie Carmody and Jennie Poncia, five grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Alice Muelrath exemplifies the proud Italian-American ranching tradition of Sonoma and Marin Counties. She and her family demonstrate the vibrancy and importance of agriculture in our community, and I am proud to honor her long life.

WE MUST ENSURE SAFE ROADS AND BRIDGES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced the Safety, Efficiency and Accountability in Transportation Projects through Public Inspection Act of 2011 (H.R. 328) to require public employees to perform the inspection and related essential public functions on all state and local transportation projects. My bill is intended to ensure that public safety is protected, transportation funds are not wasted and projects are delivered in a timely manner.

On transportation projects, the construction inspector is the eyes, ears and voice of the public. Inspectors ensure that construction and seismic standards are met, that projects meet safety requirements and that the materials used will stand the test of time. In short, inspectors are there to ensure that the motoring public gets what they pay for and public safety and the public interest are protected.

When the construction inspection function is outsourced to a private company, there is no longer a representative of the public on the job site. In this circumstance, one private company is charged with the task of inspecting the work of another private company. This creates multiple conflicts for the private inspector. First, the private inspectors' primary obligation and responsibility is not to the public, but to the success and profitability of his company. Because the private construction company whose work they are inspecting on one project may be a business partner on a future project, private inspectors may also feel pressure from the private contractor to take steps that ensure larger profits for both firms. I am concerned that these conflicts have led private inspectors to cut corners and overlook problems that threaten public safety, increase costs and delay projects.

There are many examples in which public safety has been threatened by the use of private inspectors, including Boston's ''Big Dig'' (where a concrete slab from a tunnel ceiling fell and killed a woman), the L.A. Redline subway (Hollywood Blvd. collapsed), the 8–805 Interchange in San Diego (10,000 defective welds on a seismic retrofit), the Connecticut I–84 project (hundreds of drains that lead nowhere).

Contracting out public inspection work also does not save money! Defective work requires extensive repairs, and inevitably, the taxpayer gets stuck with the bill. Comparative studies have also found that contracting-out engineering, design, and inspection costs more than to do this work in-house, and none of these studies found that consultant engineers were less expensive. Factors that contribute to consultants' excessive costs include the lack of competitive bidding, cost-plus provisions in contracts, salary differentials between the private and public sectors, profit margins of from 10% to 15%, and additional costs connected with selecting and supervising consultants.

Failure to have public construction inspectors has also delayed projects in the past and will undoubtedly do so in the future. One such example is the privately inspected $12 million carpool bridge connecting the San Diego (405) and the Costa Mesa (55) Freeways. The project was to have been completed in April 2003. However, work was halted in August 2002 when chunks of concrete were falling from the structure and many cracks were noticed. Contractor and private inspector errors were later discovered and the carpool ramp did not open until January 2005.

The public and the federal government understand what's at stake. In a 2006 California public opinion poll, 71% of those surveyed said they want state engineers to inspect the construction of state highways; only 20% found private firms acceptable for the task. David M. Walker, the Comptroller General of the United States, stated: ''There's something civil servants have that the private sector doesn't, and that is the duty of loyalty to the greater good—the duty of loyalty to the collective best interest of all rather than the interest of a few. Companies have duties of loyalty to their shareholders, not to the country.''

I hope my colleagues will join me in protecting the public good by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

TRIBUTE FOR RILEY KING

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Riley King of Durango, Colorado, for his efforts in co-founding Unite Our World, a non-profit charity that provides medical assistance and builds schools for impoverished children abroad.

Mr. King and his friend Matt Peters have always been entrepreneurial and focused on community involvement. Following their high school graduations, both men started a series of seasonal businesses to pay for their travel expenses abroad. In 2009, Riley King and Matt Peters founded Unite Our World after Mr. King visited a school in Uganda. These young men are intensely focused on giving back to their community. Acknowledging his own birth into privilege, Mr. King admits with pride that he has an obligation to serve those who have less.

Unite Our World's core mission is to advocate and provide assistance for children who do not have sufficient educational resources within their own countries. Recently, the organization expanded its mission and involved itself in the battle against the AIDS epidemic in Uganda. Mr. King currently serves as president of the non-profit company.

Mr. Speaker, America is lucky to have committed citizens such as Mr. King and Mr. Peters. I am proud to commend both these young men for their leadership and contribution to our world community.

REMEMBERING LOUISE HILMA BALLERSTEDT RAGGIO

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a civil rights champion and dear friend, Ms. Louise Hilma Ballerstedt Raggio. Ms. Raggio made an enormous impact for women throughout Texas, and she will be greatly missed.

Louise Raggio was a true Texan. Born in Austin, Texas, Ms. Raggio spent her life as a leader who would not allow bias to prevail. Louise Raggio never backed down from correcting an injustice. She did not accept there was a glass ceiling, and led the way for millions of Texas woman. Her intellect and moral compass took her on a path that would break barriers and advance the rights of women.

Louise Raggio is perhaps best known for her work on the Marital Property Act of 1967. Prior to this act it was assumed a woman was property of her husband, and hence could not buy or sell her own property, perform bank transactions or sign contracts without her husband's approval. If adhered to, this meant that a company could not hire a woman without her husband's consent. Breaking down this barrier impacted the lives of millions of women and their families. It changed conventional thought and allowed Texas women the freedoms that were allowed in most other states.

Ms. Raggio was inspired by her predecessors in the women's suffrage movement. She felt she was taking up the torch for all they had achieved. Her work was a continuation of other battles fought and won, but there was still much to be accomplished.

It is also notable that Ms. Raggio served as the first female assistant district attorney in Dallas County, and argued and won one of the first Texas cases to be heard in front of an all-woman jury. She was inducted to the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1985 and received the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award in 1995.

Ms. Raggio was preceded in death by her husband, Grier Raggio in 1988. She is survived by her three sons, Grier Jr., Thomas and Kenneth, and seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She will be missed, but her spirit and contributions will not be forgotten.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. XXXX, SCAAP REIMBURSEMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. XXXX, the SCAAP Reimbursement Protection Act of 2011.

When I was a new Member of Congress, local police officials came to me and explained how a change in the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program—also known as SCAAP—was having a profound impact on their budgets.

Securing our nation's borders is the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. However, communities across the country continue to face extraordinary costs associated with incarcerating undocumented criminals at a time when they can least afford it.

The SCAAP program was established to reimburse state and local governments for these costs.

From the SCAAP's inception in 1994 until 2003, states were permitted to seek reimbursement for the costs of detaining deportable immigrants charged with a felony or two or more misdemeanors.

In 2003, the Department of Justice reinterpreted the SCAAP statute in a way that caused a drastic drop in every state's reimbursement. Under this interpretation, states only receive reimbursement if a criminal alien is convicted of a felony or two misdemeanors and the arrest and conviction occur in the same fiscal year.

This may seem like a small change, but it has had large repercussions in the law enforcement community. In my state of California, SCAAP reimbursement payments have declined from $220 million in FY2002, prior to the Department of Justice's reinterpretation, to $112 million in FY2009.

This nearly 50 percent decline in funding greatly impairs funding of in local law enforcement efforts and makes it harder to fight crime in throughout my state.

Due to major state and county budget shortfalls, every dollar included in SCAAP reimbursement means a dollar that a State can spend for other essential public safety services. When Congress originally developed SCAAP, we knew that, without SCAAP, state and local budgets would be overwhelmed by costs that should be the federal government's responsibility.

My legislation would modify the SCAAP statute so that states and localities can be reimbursed for the cost of incarcerating aliens who are either "charged with or convicted" of a felony or two misdemeanors regardless of the fiscal year of the incarceration and conviction—just like it was before the Department of Justice's reinterpretation in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when states struggle with tough budget choices, we be doing all we can to help them. We must restore SCAAP to reflect the meaning Congress originally intended it to have.

I urge my colleagues to join me in correcting this flawed Department of Justice interpretation and help our local police departments.

SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced the Department of Defense and Civilian Law Enforcement Coordination Act of 2011 (H.R. 324). My bill would amend federal law to permit Department of Defense law enforcement officers to better coordinate and cooperate with civilian law enforcement agencies. I drafted this legislation in cooperation with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) because many DOD law enforcement officers in my district have informed me that they are prohibited from basic coordination and cooperation with civilian agencies near DOD facilities. We need to ensure that federal, state, and local law enforcement are able to work together to apprehend criminals and to prevent and solve crimes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

CHARLIE AND JUDY McNEIL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Charlie and Judy McNeil of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado, for a lifetime of contributions to their local community and continued leadership in the non-profit sector. The couple was recently named Man and Woman of the Year by their local newspaper.

Charlie McNeil has an impressive professional career, as well as a distinguished track record in community service and leadership. Mr. McNeil is an engineer by trade, a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, and received the prestigious Distinguished Achievement Medal from his alma mater. After a career managing mines and working in corporate offices, Mr. McNeil became President and CEO

of Kaiser Steel's Mineral Resources Division. In 1996, he founded NexGen Resources. After finishing in the private sector, McNeil served on National Coal Council after receiving a nomination from the Secretary of Energy. Mr. McNeil has served as director of the Mining and Reclamation Council, National Coal Association, and the Colorado Mining Association. He also serves on the School of Mines board of governors, the Brigham Young University School of Business National Advisory Council, and is vice President of the Denver Area Boy Scouts.

Judy McNeil's career is equally impressive, carving her own path in the non-profit sector and as a leader in her church. After a brief time in the retail sector, Mrs. McNeil worked for the North Dakota Wheat Commission. When the family moved to Colorado, she served at the Denver Area Public Affairs Council for the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, and has been leader in her church for the past 35 years. Ms. McNeil is a strong proponent of the arts—she served four years at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Her work in the medical field has not gone unnoticed either. The Children's Diabetes Foundation tapped Mrs. McNeil to chair their Brass Ring Luncheon in 2008, and she is now the incoming president at the Children's Diabetes Foundation Guild.

Charlie and Judy McNeil will surely continue their dedication to their community for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I feel it is fitting that this body recognizes Charlie and Judy McNeil for their lifetime of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 100th anniversary of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce.

Originally, the Anniston Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1910 and celebrated their first year at their Annual Meeting in 1911. Two neighboring cities and a town, Oxford, Jacksonville and Piedmont also formed chambers of commerce. In 1979, Oxford and Jacksonville merged with Anniston to create the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, and in 1984, Piedmont also joined, truly creating a "Voice of Business."

The Chamber solicits input from member businesses, forms policy and acts as a spokesperson for the business and professional community. As the first stop for newcomers, the Chamber serves as the area's "front porch" and referral center. The Chamber provides specific services such as training, marketing tools, networking opportunities and information to assist members in growing their businesses, thus strengthening the local economy.

Over 300 volunteers carry out the annual Program of Action. The chamber is independent of government funding and its entrepreneurial spirit has led the organization to a point in which it delivers three dollars of service value for every dollar paid in dues. The chamber has played a crucial role in many community milestones including the establishment of Fort McClellan and Anniston Army Depot, continuing safe destruction of stored chemical munitions, easing of tensions during the Civil Rights era, recruitment of industries, formation of the Economic Development Council and construction of the Veterans' Memorial Parkway.

As Calhoun County and northeast Alabama move forward, the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce is poised for continuing growth and success and I am proud to honor the 100th anniversary of this important organization in my hometown. Congratulations to the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce.

IRANIAN EXECUTIONS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, in late 2009, Iranian dissidents took to the streets to protest the fraudulent election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in what would become Iran's Green Movement. These protesters stood up to hard-line government militias, which fired on crowds and raided universities, killing dozens, injuring scores more, and imprisoning thousands.

Today, the thuggish Iranian regime went a step further. In what was undoubtedly meant as a message to the pro-democracy opposition, two political activists who had protested the 2009 election—Ja'far Kazemi and Mohammad Ali Haj Aghaie—were executed. Hanged, Mr. Speaker. Death by hanging. . . .

Last Congress, the President signed into law an Iran sanctions bill. One provision targets those in Iran committing the human rights abuses. So far, the Administration has targeted just eight individuals for their involvement in beatings and torture. Sadly, Monday's events show there are many, many more human rights abusers to target. Anybody who has quashed the human rights of those seeking democracy deserves to be on this list.

LET'S PROTECT MOBILE HOMES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Mobile Home Protection Act, H.R. 326. The purpose of this bill is to provide Section 8 assistance to low-income owners of mobile homes.

Owning one's home is a central part of the American Dream. For many low-income Americans, mobile homes provide the opportunity to achieve this goal of homeownership.

However, in many cases, while the family owns their home, they do not own the land on which the home sits. In some cases, the landlord will not accept Section 8 vouchers for the land on which the mobile home sits.

I have introduced the Mobile Home Protection Act to correct this problem. This bill would provide this Section 8 assistance directly to the homeowners to apply toward their rent costs for the land on which their homes sit.

Many mobile home owners have invested their life savings into buying their mobile homes. As mobile home park rents increase, these low-income homeowners are not able to keep up with this cost. This legislation will help keep these homeowners in their homes and maintain these established communities.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 25th anniversary of the St. Clair County, Illinois, Health Department.

By 1985, there was gathering evidence of the need for a public health department to serve the residents of St. Clair County. Since the 1930s there had been a health department, the East Side Health District, to serve the residents of East St. Louis and several surrounding communities but public health care services did not exist for residents outside the East Side Health District service area.

As Chairman of the St. Clair County Board at the time, I was very concerned that county residents did not have access to public health services. As a result, I appointed a citizens committee, made up of concerned citizens and health care professionals, to determine if there was, indeed, a need for a county-wide public health department.

After many meetings and input from the public, in October of 1985, I presented a resolution to the St. Clair County Board that was approved, creating the St. Clair County Health Department. I am very proud to have played a role in establishing the St. Clair County Health Department.

The new Board of Health met to elect officers in January, 1986, and recruited Kevin Hutchinson to serve as the Executive Director, a post he has held to this day. Funding for the Health Department came from the existing tuberculosis tax, which was converted to a public health tax.

The new Health Department focused on the most critical priorities initially, targeting issues such as communicable disease prevention, food safety and maternal and child health. Today, the Health Department is organized into four divisions, Administration, Health Protection, Community Health and Personal Health.

Evidence of the need for this department can be found in its growth and expansion during the past 25 years. From just over 20 employees and a budget of under $500,000, the department has grown to 70 employees and a budget exceeding $6 million. While the need is great, the dedicated professionals of the St. Clair County Health Department continue to meet that need by providing excellent health care, prevention services and educational outreach to the communities and residents of St. Clair County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the board of directors, administration and employees of the St. Clair County

Health Department, as well as the members of the St. Clair County Board, on their 25th anniversary, and wishing them the very best for many more years of continued service to the people of St. Clair County, Illinois.

CLEAN AIR FOR OUR BORDER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Foreign Air Impact Regulation (FAIR) Air Act (H.R. 325). The purpose of this bill is to combat air pollution along our borders and to ensure that our communities are not unfairly penalized.

Our border communities are being besieged by toxic pollutants from neighboring countries. This is making the air quality along our border worse than ever—and leaves our communities with little recourse to improve the situation.

The FAIR AIR Act says that if pollution from another country causes non-attainment of air pollution regulations, then the EPA and the Secretary of State should work together to lower it. Furthermore, the effective date of reclassification should be delayed until the Secretary of State and local leaders develop a plan with the neighboring country to improve the air quality.

We cannot put this international problem on the backs of those who simply happen to live along the border. There truly needs to be a bi-national cooperative solution to address this important issue. We all breathe the same air and it is only with bi-national cooperation and working together to achieve better air quality standards for all.

REEVES BROWN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Reeves Brown of Grand Junction, Colorado, for his lifetime of contributions in promoting agricultural interests and effective government in the State of Colorado.

Mr. Brown has an impressive agricultural pedigree and has proven himself to be a valuable leader in the field. Mr. Brown grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana and received a B.S. in Agriculture Business from Montana State University. He began his career at the National Cattlemen's Association, serving two years with the organization. Afterwards, Mr. Brown spent nearly a decade at the Colorado Cattlemen's Association as Executive Vice President, during which time he elevated the Association as a national leader in animal care and natural resources issues. During Brown's tenure the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust was created in 1993, preserving over 250,000 acres of Colorado farmland. His leadership in agricultural conservation has spilled over into other States, too. Similar ag land trusts have conserved over one million acres of land. His efforts speak to his commitment in preserving the agricultural business in the United States.

For the past ten years, Mr. Brown has led the non-profit CLUB 20 as Executive Director, which aims to provide a dialogue and recommend public policy for the Western Colorado region. Mr. Brown's leadership earned him the recognition of Colorado's newly elected Governor—On January 3, Mr. Brown was appointed director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, overseeing the diverse needs of Colorado communities. The department's responsibilities include areas such as education, land management, transportation, energy, water, and health care.

Mr. Brown's commitment to good public policy and track record of effective, collaborative decision-making will surely serve the people of Colorado well. Mr. Speaker, for his years of service in the public and agricultural sectors, Mr. Brown deserves the commendation of this body. We wish him the best of luck on his next endeavor.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF ROLLIE SMITH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Rollie Smith, Fresno Field Director with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). After 12 years of dedicated service in Fresno, Rollie is moving to Washington, D.C. to be closer to his family.

Rollie Smith first came to Fresno, California in 1997 when he began work with Catholic Charities of Fresno. One year later, HUD hired Rollie as a community activist to help revitalize the City of Fresno. Rollie originally planned to help out for a few years, however his passion and commitment to the community quickly moved him up the ladder within HUD. Rollie became the Fresno Field Director in 2004 and has been doing a great job for the past seven years.

Rollie received his Masters' degrees from Loyola University, Chicago Jesuit Theological School, and the University of Chicago. A natural born leader and teacher, Rollie also taught classes at Loyola University, California State University, and the University of Hawaii.

One of Rollie's specialties was his unique ability to bring groups of people together to help solve issues affecting people in the Central Valley. One of these groups, the Federal Interagency Task Force, is a group that meets regularly and works together to tackle issues such as inadequate housing, poor education, health care, and low-paying jobs. Rollie will be truly missed in Fresno.

I applaud Rollie Smith for his many years of tireless work on behalf of families in California and the Central Valley. I know he will enjoy more time with his wife Bernie, his son Aaron Smith and his wife Carolyn, his daughter Suzanne Chartol and her husband J.P. Chartol, and his three grandchildren Adeline, Claire, and Remy Chartol.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that in addition to his countless gifts to our community, Rollie has been a true champion for my constituents. He and his team have always been available to discuss issues and work together to make our Central Valley a better place. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication and success of Rollie Smith and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors.

OUR MILITARY MUST BE ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Military Environmental Responsibility Act (H.R. 332). The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Defense to fully comply with Federal and State environmental laws.

Military exemptions from requirements and enforcement provisions under environment, public safety, and worker protection laws harm the environment and human health. Our constituents who border military bases should have the same protections as other municipalities.

This bill will not compromise military readiness. Environmental laws currently include exemptions for the military in the event of "paramount interest of the United States". These exemptions have only been used a handful of times, and the President would retain that authority over this legislation.

Americans believe that their government should be accountable to them and play by the same rules that they have to follow. Much of the cynicism and apathy of recent years can be traced directly to public perception that government officials and agencies are not accountable to anyone. We can only begin to restore faith in government and participation in democracy by ensuring that the federal government works under the same laws and regulations as private businesses and individuals.

DESTINEE REED TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Destinee Reed of Grand Junction, Colorado, for winning a statewide talent competition. Ms. Reed's entry into the competition earned her the opportunity to perform at Governor Hickenlooper's inaugural celebration on January 11, 2011.

Ms. Reed, 15 years old, composed and sang her song "My Colorado," where she sings about the beauty of her home state, mentioning wild mustangs, Palisade peaches, and skiing. The statewide contest accepted applications from elementary, middle and high school students, and while others won prizes as well, she was the only one allowed to perform at the Governor's inaugural party. Ms. Reed recognizes the performance as a unique and privileged opportunity for a young musical artist.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to congratulate Ms. Reed on her musical accomplishments at such a young age. We wish her the best of luck with her academic and musical ambitions.

ON THE DOORSTEP OF PROMISING HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENTS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, when talking to non-partisan health care financing experts about the ideal health care system, their preference is clear: they usually agree that a single-payer system that prevents the health insurance companies from getting between you and your doctor is the way to go. But they usually follow up with a caveat—the health insurance industry and the pharmaceutical industry are too powerful to allow it to happen: it is not politically feasible.

I am thrilled to say that argument is now a relic. On January 19, Harvard economist William Hsiao released a report that examined three health care systems for Vermont, whose new governor campaigned on a single-payer platform. The report found that a true single payer system would save Vermont 8–12 percent off their health care spending upon implementation and another 12–14 percent as the system gets up and running. The result is that 5000 new jobs will be created because of the burden lifted off of businesses. And it would cover every Vermonter.

An article by VTDigger.org announced that ''Even the private insurance companies, many of whose policy-holders would presumably be diverted to the new 'single pipe' which would channel all payments to doctors and hospitals through set rates for procedures cautiously welcomed Hsiao's proposal.''

We are at the doorstep of one of the most promising developments in health care of our time.

JUSTICE FOR THE PERRONE-LEMOS FAMILY

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced a private bill (H.R. 355) on behalf of two extraordinary individuals, Pablo Perrone and Cristina Lemos.

In 1987, Pablo and Cristina, labor union leaders in Uruguay, were persecuted by the radical socialist group, the Tupamaros. After receiving multiple death threats for refusing to join forces with the group, they fled to the United States and immediately claimed asylum after entry. Due to an incompetent lawyer, the judge denied their asylum cases. An appeal was made but was mishandled by the lawyer and eventually lost by the Department of Justice for 10 years. As a result of this injustice, Pablo and Cristina were never given an opportunity to state their case, a case that if heard, would have granted them lawful presence in the United States.

Now, over 20 years later, the same party that persecuted Pablo and Cristina is now in power. Pablo and Cristina have two U.S. citizen daughters, Loredana and Victoria, who speak limited Spanish and have lived in San Diego, California all their lives as excellent students. As contributing members of their community, Pablo and Cristina pay taxes every year and devote countless hours to community service. Pablo and Cristina have no living family members in Uruguay. If deported, they will be forced to take their two U.S. citizen daughters with them, to a country where they risk persecution, and face exceptional economic, educational, and emotional hardship.

SUE TUFFIN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Sue Tuffin of Grand Junction, Colorado, for her dedication to her community. She has a unique and exceptional success story and has quickly risen through the ranks in her career in public service.

Ms. Tuffin is of exceptional character, and has shown discipline, tenacity, and savvy in her career and personal life. As a single mother, Tuffin realized she needed to go back to school to provide a better life for her son and herself—she was making 90 cents an hour to make ends meet. When she was married, she had worked in an office to put her then husband through college. Wanting to do the same, Ms. Tuffin enrolled at Southern Colorado State College to pursue a four-year degree. She finished her coursework in two. During this time, she worked four jobs to support herself and raise her young son.

Following college, Ms. Tuffin quickly received promotions at Manpower, an employment services company in Pueblo. She jumped from receptionist to counselor to supervisor. After Manpower, Tuffin worked at the Delta Department of Human Services, and eventually became director of both the Delta Health Department and Human Services Department. Ms. Tuffin spent a decade working for the State of Colorado reforming welfare. Recently, she was chosen to direct the Mesa County Workforce Center which provides employment resources and training programs.

Tuffin's own success story will surely inspire those she serves at the Workforce Center. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask this body to commend Sue Tuffin for her perseverance in her personal and professional life. We wish her the best of luck in her new position.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN DAN HOFFMAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the contributions of Captain Dan Hoffman, a longtime public servant and Chief of the Parma Police Department. A natural leader and dedicated law enforcement officer, Captain Hoffman devoted nearly four decades of his life to protecting the people of Ohio.

Mr. Hoffman grew up on the near west side of Cleveland and graduated from Old Lincoln High School. He began his career with the East Cleveland Police Department in June of 1973, and moved to the Parma department five years later. Over the last 33 years, Hoffman has worked in many areas of the Parma Police Department. In his early years, he served on the Uniform Patrol Division, the Motorcycle Unit, the S.W.A.T. Unit, the Detective Bureau, the Special Investigations Unit, and the Services Division. He later moved up to work as Commander of the Uniform Patrol, Records, and Services divisions before being promoted to Executive Officer and finally Chief. Somehow, Hoffman still made time to attend both the FBI National Academy and Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command.

Like a true leader, Hoffman credits his employees and colleagues for the department's success. In a letter announcing his retirement, he wrote ''As I think about all of the past and present employees who have worked so hard to get us where we are now I am filled with a sense of pride for all of their and your accomplishments. It is apparent that everyone has committed to ensuring the safety and quality of life for the citizens of Parma.''

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in applauding Dan Hoffman for his outstanding service to the people of Parma. May every American citizen feel deep gratitude for the bravery, dedication, and talent of men and women who spend their lives keeping our communities safe. Captain Hoffman had a true calling to law enforcement and he leaves behind a legacy of public spirit, excellence, and camaraderie.

STOP THE OVERPRINTING (STOP) ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, Washington has a dangerous spending problem that poses grave risk to future American prosperity. The only way we can start producing results for the people again is to transform the culture of spending in this town into a culture of savings.

Over at least the past two years, the House did not cut spending on one single occasion. Those days are over. Under our majority, government will learn to do more with less.

We may not eliminate the entire deficit overnight, but this House will fight to make tangible progress by cutting unnecessary spending and needless regulation, and growing jobs and the economy. We call it cut and grow.

It is in this light that we will bring spending back down to 2008 levels, and bring to the floor a spending cut each and every week. Two weeks ago, we sent a clear signal of fiscal discipline by trimming our own congressional budgets by 5 percent. This week, we have brought to the floor a spending cut picked by the public through our YouCut program begun last year. This reduction would eliminate mandatory printing of bills and resolutions by the Government Printing Office for the use of Members of the House of Representatives and Senate. In the digital age, there's no reason we can't save taxpayer dollars by forcing congressional offices to receive bills and resolutions through the Internet.

This legislation is a small but still important and largely symbolic step towards getting spending under control. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ASHLEY TURTON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Ashley Turton, a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. Mrs. Turton's devotion to public service, and her passionate love for her family and children, has left a mark on countless lives.

Mrs. Turton dedicated her life to serving the American public. She served as press secretary, and later, chief of staff to Congresswoman DeLauro. She also worked as an aid to Congressman Richard Gephardt. She was a leader during her career as a public servant and she worked for the benefit of the people.

Upon leaving the public sector, Mrs. Turton continued to promote responsibility and good work ethics as a regulatory affairs analyst for Progressive Energy. She was a valued employee and a cooperative colleague, always happy and enjoying life's pleasures.

For everything Mrs. Turton was, she was a kind and caring mother first. A mother of three, Mrs. Turton was an active part of her neighborhood, where she was commonly seen playing with her children.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Ashley Turton, whose legacy of professionalism, service to others, and love and cheerful radiance will forever remain in our hearts and minds. I extend my sincere condolences to Mrs. Turton's husband, Dan Turton, a colleague of ours and a friend to many, and to Mrs. Turton's parents, siblings and children. Mrs. Turton's commitment to the common good and love will remain an example for us and those to come.

TRIBUTE FOR MARTA TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a new United States citizen and an outstanding contributor to America's armed forces and her community, Marta Taylor of Montrose, Colorado. Ms. Taylor and her late husband began Operation Sweet Tooth in 2003, and organization which has delivered over 140 tons of supplies to troops abroad.

Ms. Taylor moved to the United States in 1980 after spending most of her life in Poland under Soviet rule. Shortly after arriving, she met Landy Taylor and married him ten years later. The two started a family, eventually having seven boys.

Ms. Taylor has always felt strongly about supporting U.S. troops—six of her sons are U.S. veterans. In 2003, as some of the first troops were preparing for deployment to Iraq, Ms. Taylor and her husband delivered 30 pizzas and offered thanks to the men and women about to serve at war. Once the couple realized the impact their recognition had on soldier morale, the two organized Operation Sweet Tooth two months later. Marta has involved herself in the packing of nearly every box since 2003. Since her husband's passing in 2007, Marta has solely fundraised and organized for Operation Sweet Tooth. Ms. Taylor's exceptional efforts for our uniformed service members are an inspiring example of selflessness.

On December 21, 2010, Ms. Taylor received full U.S. citizenship after scoring 100 percent on her citizenship test. On January 3, 2011, Ms. Taylor attended the deployment of the Montrose National Guard as a VIP guest. For her almost decade-long efforts and continued generosity and service, Ms. Taylor deserves the commendation of this body.

JUSTICE FOR FLAVIA

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced a private bill (H.R. 356) on behalf of an exceptional woman, Flavia Maboloc Cahoon.

Over 18 years ago, Flavia legally immigrated to the United States from the Philippines. She was accompanied by her four-year-old daughter, Jane Drury, now serving in the U.S. Navy on the USS *Bunker Hill.* In 2005, after several failed appeals were made to correct a mistake she made on her original naturalization application, Flavia was taken from her home in January and was subjected to inhumane conditions at an over-crowded detention facility near the U.S.-Mexico border for two weeks. Flavia is a hardworking, law-abiding woman who has lived her life being of service as a nurse and volunteer. If deported, Flavia will most certainly face economic and emotional hardship without family or financial support.

TRIBUTE FOR BOB LUNA

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere honor to rise and pay tribute to Mr. Bob Luna. Through his charitable efforts to bring the beauties and joys of the outdoors to our nation's veterans, Mr. Luna has been able to provide many soldiers with cherished hunting experiences and memories.

Since 2008, Bob Luna and his Colorado Hunting Expeditions, along with the National Rifle Association Foundation, have sponsored the Mark Ecker II Memorial Heroes Hunt. This annual January tradition gives the opportunity for 20 veterans to participate in a Rocky Mountain hunt. Many of the veterans are mentally or physically disabled due to injuries and experiences resulting from their bravery in combat. The chance to participate in big game pursuit means everything to these soldiers. The Memorial Heroes Hunt, which takes place in Dolores, Colorado, will be continuing with its fourth installment this January, and Mr. Luna's efforts and passion serve as an exemplary example of what one citizen can give back to our nation's soldiers.

It should also be noted that many local businesses from Montezuma County, Colorado donate food, equipment, and lodging in an effort to make sure this wonderful tradition continues.

Mr. Speaker it is my honor to recognize Mr. Bob Luna before this Congress today. The efforts of Bob Luna's actions speak volumes about his dedication to our country.

TRIBUTE FOR MATT PETERS

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Matt Peters of Durango, Colorado, for his efforts in co-founding Unite Our World, a non-profit charity that provides medical assistance and builds schools for impoverished children abroad.

Mr. Peters and his friend Riley King have always been entrepreneurially inclined and focused on giving back to society. After their high school graduations, both men started a few seasonal businesses to fund their travels abroad. When Mr. King had the opportunity to visit a school in Uganda in 2009, both of the young men decided to found Unite Our World. After being born into a country full of opportunity and wealth, both men felt they needed to give back to the world at large.

Unite Our World's core mission is to advocate and provide assistance for children who do not have sufficient educational resources within their own countries. Recently, the organization expanded its mission and involved itself in the battle against the AIDS epidemic in Uganda. Mr. Peters currently serves as vice president of the non-profit.

Mr. Speaker, America is lucky to have committed citizens such as Mr. Peters and Mr. King. I am proud to commend both these young men for their leadership and contribution to our world community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 26

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the report and recommendations, including any recommendations for legislative action, issued by the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling.
SR–325

10 a.m.
Environmental and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine transportation's role in supporting the economy and job creation.
SD–406

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine protecting American taxpayers, focusing on accomplishments and ongoing challenges in the fight against fraud.
SD–226

JANUARY 27

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the results of the investigation by the Department of Defense and the Department of the Air Force into the release of proprietary data in the KC-X competiton.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings to examine the budget and economic outlook for fiscal years 2011–2021.
SD–608

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the Affordable Care Act, focusing on the impact of health insurance reform on health care consumers.
SD–430

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine counterterrorism lessions from the U.S. government's failure to prevent the Fort Hood attack.
SD–342

Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine encouraging entrepreneurship in economically disadvantaged, rural and traditionally under-served areas.
SR–428A

1:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Disaster Recovery Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine claims and social services in the aftermath of Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
SD–342

2:15 p.m.
Foreign Relations
European Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine crackdown in Belarus, focusing on responding to the Lukashenko regime.
SD–419

FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the energy and oil market outlook for the 112th Congress.
SD–366

FEBRUARY 16

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the U.S. Department of Energy's budget for fiscal year 2012.
SD–366