

student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

For my CYAC community service project, I volunteered as an attorney at the Collin County Teen Court, providing 30 hours of service between October 2010 and January 2011. The mission of Teen Court is to teach first-time juvenile misdemeanor offenders a lesson by sentencing the defendants with service hours and jury duty. The jury at Teen Court hears the testimony of the defendants and the arguments of the attorneys in order to come to a decision. A judge presides over the court proceeding and makes the court session formal and official. Teen Court is vital to the lives of young people in the Collin County community. Not only do the defendants in Teen Court begin to strive for better character; the jury members that hear the testimony of the defendants make sound changes in their own lives also. Through my work at Teen Court I have helped the teens who have made poor judgment. My job as an attorney has been crucial to bring the facts of the cases to the jury so that they can deliver fair verdicts. In addition, my experience in the Teen Court has inspired me to consider law as a potential career choice.

—Grant Powell

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 225. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 225.

OPPOSITION TO EFFORTS TO EXPAND A FEDERALLY-FUNDED SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. I submit the following letters:

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, DC, March 30, 2011.

Senator HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: We write to express our opposition to renewed efforts to expand a federally-funded school voucher program in the District of Columbia. We appreciate your interest in providing support to public education in the District. We strongly believe, however, that federal funds should be invested in the existing public education program—both the public schools and the public charter schools—rather than diverted to private schools.

We support the decision by Congress and the President several years ago to phase out the voucher program. Multiple US Department of Education reports of the program indicate that the program has not lived up to the promises made by proponents. Moreover, a Government Accountability Office report revealed that many of the voucher students attend private schools with fewer resources and lower standards than our public schools. The evidence is clear that the use of vouchers has had no statistically significant impact on overall student achievement in math or reading, or for students from schools in need of improvement.

We have serious concerns about using government funds to send our students to private schools that do not have to adhere to the same standards and accountability as do public and public charter schools. For example, private religious schools, which 80% of voucher students attend, operate outside the anti-discrimination provisions of the District's Human Rights Act. Moreover, the voucher proposal is inequitable: if fully funded, the authorization would provide at least \$8,000 per student for vouchers, but only about \$723 per public charter school student, and even less—about \$437 per public school student.

Although we believe that students who are already receiving a voucher should have the opportunity to maintain and use that voucher through graduation from high school, we do not support expansion of the program to new students. The District has devoted considerable funds to public education. As a result, parents in the District have both public school choice and access to the most extensive set of alternatives to traditional public schools in the country.

We appreciate your willingness to take into account the wishes of the District's elected officials on the quintessentially local matter of education as you consider this issue.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. BROWN,
Councilmember, At-Large.

MARY M. CHEH,
Councilmember, Ward 3.

JIM GRAHAM,
Councilmember, Ward 1.

PHIL MENDELSON,
Councilmember, At-Large.

TOMMY WELLS,
Councilmember, Ward 6.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, DC, March 30, 2011.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN PELOSI: We write to express our opposition to renewed efforts to expand a federally-funded school voucher

program in the District of Columbia. We appreciate your interest in providing support to public education in the District. We strongly believe, however, that federal funds should be invested in the existing public education program—both the public schools and the public charter schools—rather than diverted to private schools.

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PHIL MENDELSON,
Councilmember, At-Large.

TOMMY WELLS,
Councilmember, Ward 6.

COREY LAUGHLIN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker it brings me great pleasure to pay tribute to a young man who has exhibited a level of caring and selflessness well beyond his years. Corey Laughlin of Pueblo, Colorado, has taken it upon himself to bring the sport of baseball to underprivileged children who play in the Runyan Field Baseball Program.