

For the first time ever, H.R. 3 would expand the definition of federal funding to include tax deductions and credits of private income or expenses. In other words, current restrictions on government spending would also be applied to the private dollars families and small businesses decide to spend on health coverage. This is an unparalleled reinterpretation of federal funding that could have far-reaching consequences for families, businesses, and even religious institutions.

This bill explicitly prohibits individuals and small businesses that elect a private insurance plan with abortion coverage from claiming certain tax deductions, credits and exclusions for health care expenses, even if that abortion coverage is never used but happens to be part of a plan that otherwise works best for a particular family. Such a substantial change in federal policy would raise taxes on families and small businesses for private coverage that they are already struggling to afford.

This prohibition is also not equally applied to large employers, who can continue offering abortion coverage, creating an uneven and unjust application of abortion policy within the tax code. Further, since the IRS is charged with enforcing taxpayer compliance, this bill raises serious concerns over how the government might audit "questionable" benefit claims by women who receive an abortion as a result of sexual assault or legitimate life-threatening medical conditions.

It is also important to note that taking the unprecedented step of redefining "federal funding" to include the benefit of a tax exemption could raise political and legal questions for churches and other religious organizations which operate under similar restrictions as current law. Many religious institutions either receive segregated federal funds or tax exemptions to run activities such as adoption services, homeless shelters and food banks. This precedent challenges the very pro-life activities that these churches promote.

Although this bill contains many provisions that I do support, it simply goes too far by redefining the very meaning of federal funding.

Finally, we must not lose focus on the truly urgent priorities of Americans right now, namely economic security and deficit reduction. We are five months into this session and Republicans have yet to offer a single bill to help create jobs. I urge my colleagues to oppose the current version of this bill, stop allowing divisive social issues to dominate our time, and turn our attention to the true economic and fiscal challenges in front of us.

#### HONORING THE FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

### HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, our communities must place the highest value on preserving the role of prayer in our society and government, so that all Americans can continue to enjoy the benefits that our faith has bestowed upon us; and

Whereas, an appreciation for our history encourages dedication to the values and ideals which have enriched our nation; and

Whereas, in the highest traditions of our country, the Fifth Congressional District of

Florida has provided an exceptional example of the power of faith in our society; and

Whereas, on this day, the citizens and leaders of the community are gathered to partake in a non-denominational day of prayer.

Therefore, I, Richard B. Nugent, Member of Congress representing the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, do hereby recognize the district's observance of the 60th National Day of Prayer.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JACOB POMEROY

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob J. Pomeroy for the rank of an Eagle Scout. Jacob is a 10th grade student from South Hardin High School in Eldora, Iowa.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5% of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Jacob's project was to construct a barn-themed sun shelter for the Joyful Noise Preschool and the Waukee United Methodist Church. Jacob also went above and beyond the requirements by completing more than the minimum required number of merit badges.

Jacob has been involved in scouting since he became a Tiger Cub more than 11 years ago. Jacob's father, John Pomeroy, is also an Eagle Scout and current assistant Scout Master to Troop 178 from Waukee, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Jacob Pomeroy and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on earning an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

#### CELEBRATING MAURA MCNIEL'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Maura McNiel, a leading women's rights activist whose legacy impacts women in Dallas and all over the United States.

Maura McNiel was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 4, 1929 and grew up inspired by integration in Minneapolis-area schools. She moved to Dallas in 1953 and, dedicated to improve the lives of people and the world around her, became involved in the civil rights movement and environmental issues. Soon

after, Ms. McNiel immersed herself in the feminist cause, for which she is applauded today.

The list of Ms. McNiel's activities to improve the lives of others are endless: She spoke to reporters, politicians, organization leaders, and others and had a strong impact wherever she went. She founded Women for Change in 1971, the first women's center in Dallas, and then helped organize the Rape Crisis Center, the National Organization of Women and People for the American Way, Women's Coalition, Family Place (for battered women), the Southwest Credit Union, The Dallas Commission on the Status of Women and the Women's Issues Network.

But it was the personal touch she brought to her efforts that made each one a success.

She famously informed the all-male Rotary Club that just as birds flew better with two wings, marriages worked better as a partnership where both husband and wife shared responsibilities and demands. As her dialogue indicates, her approach was not antagonistic; rather, it was based upon building relationships. And that she did, with the Dallas City Hall, news organizations, and many, many others.

It was this both passionate and rational approach to women's rights that enabled her to successfully fight for Title IX in 1972, which expanded women's education opportunities. She understood that the success of a movement lies not just on its present, but also its future.

More importantly, she knew the importance of following words with action and personal sacrifice. As founding president of Women for Change, which created the first sanctuaries for family abuse victims, Maura took the lead by hosting the first woman in her own home.

A wonderful mother, Sunday school teacher, community leader, effective activist, Maura McNiel's work has led to achievements in women's studies, modern social work, advocacy on behalf of abused women, promotion of the Equal Rights Amendment, and passage of Title IX.

As her representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I ask my colleagues to join Maura McNiel's family and friends in wishing her a blessed 90th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

SUPPORT PASSAGE OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 244, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDES HAMAS MUST BE PROHIBITED FROM RECEIVING UNITED STATES AID UNTIL THAT GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY COMMITS TO THE QUARTET PRINCIPLES

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong support for House Resolution 244, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Palestinian government which includes Hamas must