

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR
ABORTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

House Republicans are waging a war against women and they have made their extreme and dangerous agenda clear—to undermine women's access to reproductive health care.

H.R. 3 is a radical attack on women and their reproductive rights. It extends unprecedented limitation on access to abortions, and it singles out and punishes women who want access to this legal service.

Do not be confused. H.R. 3 goes far beyond current law—which is already highly restrictive, and which I oppose. The Hyde Amendment already prohibits women enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare, federal employees, women serving in the military, women in federal prisons, Peace Corps volunteers, and women seeking care under the Indian Health Services Act from getting the care they need. Its very narrow exceptions do not even give women facing severe health conditions like cancer access to medically necessary abortion care so they can receive chemotherapy treatment.

One of the original goals of this legislation was to narrow the already harmful Hyde exceptions even further. The bill's sponsors tried to redefine rape and incest—to take us back to a time when saying “no” wasn't enough. Public outcry at this mean-spirited and hurtful attempt to make it harder for survivors of rape and incest to access coverage for abortion services forced its removal. Unfortunately, based on the House Judiciary Committee Report accompanying H.R. 3, some members of this chamber are still intent on narrowing the rape exception.

This bill is both hurtful and offensive. H.R. 3 expands an unfair, punitive policy that is dangerous to women's health and applies it to millions of women and men in the private insurance market. No one should be limited in terms of their access to safe and legal abortion.

This legislation redefines the concept of “government funding” far beyond the current common understanding. It prohibits even private and nonfederal government funds from being spent on any activity remotely related to the provision of abortion—any time federal money is involved in funding or subsidizing other, nonabortion-related care.

This legislation increases taxes on small businesses with abortion coverage in their private insurance plans. For decades, small businesses have been fighting insurance company premium demands and struggling to maintain health insurance coverage for their employees. Many of those small businesses—1 in 3—are owned by women, but this bill affects both men and women.

The Affordable Care Act provides small businesses with tax credits to help make health insurance both accessible and affordable. Those tax credits are available now. Today, they are worth up to 35 percent of health insurance premium costs. By 2014, they will be worth up to 50 percent.

The Republicans have already passed legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act—taking away tax credits from small business owners and employees who need help. Repeal is bound to fail. But H.R. 3 takes another course—it would repeal this benefit for any small business insurance policy that includes coverage of abortions.

Small business owners will face an unfair and discriminatory choice. If they need the tax credit to make coverage for themselves and their employees affordable, they will need to drop the abortion benefit. If they want to keep the benefit, they will have to go without the tax credit—raising their costs and taking away money that could be used to expand their business and maybe hire another employee. H.R. 3 will raise taxes on millions of small businesses.

Nearly 90 percent of private health insurance policies offer abortion coverage and this is a blatant attempt to force employers to drop abortion coverage from their private health insurance plans.

Now is the time to work on the issues that are most important to Americans—creating jobs and improving the economy—rather than punishing small businesses and workers through legislation that takes health care away from women.

American women will suffer if this bill becomes law.

RECOGNIZING HELEN SPIVEY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Helen Spivey who today is receiving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2010 Regional Director's Conservation Award.

I had the distinct pleasure and honor to serve and sit next to Helen in the Florida House of Representatives, and I am proud that her many years of service yielded such tremendous benefits to the people of Florida and our state's unique ecosystem. Her recognition today is warranted and well deserved.

For several decades, Helen Spivey has been an iconic leader in the protection of Florida's special ecosystems and in particular, the endangered Florida manatee. For that work, she holds a very special title to those of us that know her well—“The Manatee Lady.”

For decades, Helen has fought to preserve the more pristine and natural Florida she knew in her youth. Since moving to Crystal River in the 1970s, she has built a long resume volunteering in efforts to fight uncontrolled urban growth, pollution from wastewater facilities, and of course to protect Florida manatees.

From serving on the Crystal River City Council to being elected to the Florida Legislature, Helen's life exemplifies the best a citizen has to offer as an active and effective community and public servant.

While she has worked in collaboration with many conservation organizations over her lifetime, her connection to the Save the Manatee Club is special.

Since 2000, she has served as co-chair of the Save the Manatee Club's Board of Directors. In this role, she works tirelessly for the gentle creature of our Florida waterways. The

Club could not have a better advocate for their efforts.

Today, the Fish and Wildlife Service is honoring Helen for her work on expanding the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge to include the critically important Three Sisters Springs property.

This project is a microcosm of Helen's long fight to protect Florida's incredible natural wonders and to protect much needed habitat for the Florida Manatee.

Three Sisters is an urban spring that has been under threat of development for many years. But through Helen's leadership, this 57-acre property was acquired by the Service to forever preserve this ecologically important habitat.

Each year, more than 150 manatees winter in and around this spring, and it draws tourists from across the state and beyond to behold this gentle giant of our waterways. If you have ever experienced a Florida manatee up close, you understand how special this creature is, and how important it is that we protect this impressive species for future generations.

The Three Sisters project took many years to realize and required the collaboration of many public and private partners. I was honored to work with Helen and with Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite of Brooksville, Florida, and Florida's senior Senator BILL NELSON to help secure federal funding for a portion of this important project.

But it was Helen that was the driving force that made the Three Sisters Springs Project a reality. She worked tirelessly to coordinate state, local and federal agencies, and the private partners needed to line up all the funding required to protect this precious resource. She has never been someone to take “no” for an answer, and with her bright spirit and intellect, she constantly wins over new allies for her cause.

Now that the spring's site is under federal management, I look forward to its full restoration and the inclusion of an interpretive platform and station that will enhance visitors' appreciation for this special ecosystem.

Once again, Helen should be very proud, as we are, of her hard fought victory for Florida's ecosystem and for the Florida manatee.

But I know what Helen will actually do . . . which is to smile, give us all a small nod, and then get right back to work on her next endeavor.

In a 2004 article in the St. Petersburg Times, Helen was quoted as saying, “I guess I wouldn't want people to remember me . . . but I would be really pleased if they could see an ecosystem that functions and a world that is not asphalt and concrete.”

Well, Helen, we will most certainly remember you and the work you continue to do each day to make your vision a reality.

And with your work regarding saving Three Sisters Spring, you have added one more special ecosystem to the list of protected places in our beloved Florida. I am thrilled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is honoring you today—because no one is more deserving of this recognition.

So today, as you receive this award while also celebrating your eighty-third birthday, Florida thanks you for all that you do. I am so proud of you and simply can't wait to see what you accomplish in your next eighty-three years.

HONORING MOTT MIDDLE
COLLEGE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on May 12th Mott Middle College in Flint Michigan will celebrate its 20th year of preparing at-risk high school students for further education and the workforce. Through collaboration between Genesee Intermediate School District and Mott Community College, students from 21 school districts and 10 public academies in Genesee County are able to integrate high school, community college and the world of work as part of their educational experience.

Mott Middle College opened in 1991 funded by a grant from The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, to specialize in dropout prevention. Working with students that may not succeed in a traditional high school setting, Mott Middle College offers students the opportunity to earn college credits and a high school diploma simultaneously. The student body currently averages 400 students, and over its 20 year history the school has graduated over 650 students.

The teachers are trained to function as focus group leaders to small groups of students. The teachers and support staff work very hard to develop an education system that meets the needs of all learning styles and foster one-on-one relationships with students. The school also utilizes community resources to assist students with their academic, career and personal development. In 2002 the school began to shift from a middle college to an early college to increase the emphasis on student dual enrollment. During the 2009–2010 school year, 375 students earned 1,562 college credits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the administrators, educators, staff, graduates, and community partners for working diligently to help accomplish the educational goals of students; and for creating a program that has gained a national reputation for excellence. As a role model for other middle and early colleges, Mott Middle College has set the bar very high for success and I wish them the best in the coming years.

HONORING DR. GEORGE DAVISON
TENNISON

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dr. George Davison Tennison born on July 5, 1918.

Dr. George Tennison was known as “Dr. George” to everyone in Silsbee, Texas. Dr. George, a veteran of World War II served his country proudly as a U.S. Navy physician in the war. He served as part of the Navy Medical Corp on board a troop transport. He received an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946. After leaving the Navy, he returned to Silsbee where he practiced medicine for 52 years. It is widely speculated that Dr. George

delivered over 5,000 babies over his distinguished career.

Dr. George was a rare breed of rural physician who traveled country dirt roads in the evenings after office hours to provide care for patients who had no transportation into town.

In 1940, Dr. George married Elise Nelson of Zachary, Louisiana, and they had five children over 70 years of marriage.

Dr. George was long active in the community. He was a former school board President and member of the Kiwanis Club, bank board, and the hospital board.

Dr. George was known around Silsbee for his love of duck hunting. He loved hunting so much that he frequently got up at 3 A.M. to go out on the duck marshes before daylight. After a couple hours of hunting, he returned to his clinic for a full day of treating patients.

He was also known for his award winning roses. For as long as he was able, he grew hundreds of rose bushes in his yard and won many rose competitions.

Dr. George was instrumental in starting the first Episcopal Church in Hardin County, St. John’s, where he served on the church vestry.

Dr. George is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Elise Nelson Tennison.

HONORING MISS ABBY KEENE

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss Abby Keene.

She is freshman at Southern Wayne High School in Dudley, NC. Abby is currently an active member of the Southern Wayne High School FFA and is currently working with training a goat for the goat exhibition and show. She is preparing for a land judging contest in which she will be a judge. Prior to her diagnosis she was a cheerleader, softball player and dancer.

In the fall of 2009 after a routine exam by their family doctor, Abby was found to have an enlarged spleen. Further test revealed that she suffers from a rare liver disease named Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC). PSC is a liver disease of the bile ducts and is very rare in children and even more rare to be diagnosed in a female. The only known treatment is a transplant and she is currently on a waiting list for a transplant at Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA.

Abby’s mother Deon has teamed up with COTA (Children’s Organ Transplant Association) along with friends, neighbors, local churches, fire department/rescue units, Grant-ham Grange, Southern Wayne High School FFA, and other local civic groups to raise \$50,000 for Abby to receive a transplant. On May 14, 2011, Eureka Christian Church is hosting a BBQ lunch and dinner, followed by an auction of donated items. Abby is hoping to return to her active roles upon completion of her liver transplant.

Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Miss Abby Keene and wish her the best in her upcoming future.

RECOGNIZING TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Teacher Appreciation week and the extraordinary work done by America’s teachers to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need to compete and thrive in the 21st century.

Every day, hard working men and women go into the classroom to prepare our children for a successful future. For this, they deserve not just our utmost gratitude and respect but fair and adequate compensation. Instead, teachers and other public workers across the nation are under attack. Earlier this year, I went to Wisconsin to lend support for teachers and other state workers who are not only fighting cutbacks in salaries and benefits but the loss of long-standing collective bargaining rights. Fortunately, in Wisconsin and other states, people are turning out in large numbers to show opposition to those attacks and demonstrate support for teachers and public employees.

Rather than demonize teachers, it is imperative that we recognize the essential role they play in our society not only this week but throughout the year. President Obama has spoken at length about America’s need to “Win the Future.” As our nation looks to achieve that objective, we must not lose sight of the fact that nothing has a more direct impact on student achievement than having a great teacher in the classroom.

As a former elementary school teacher, I know just the teaching profession is both rewarding and challenging. I encourage every American to take a moment this week to thank a teacher for the incredible work they are doing to make our nation a better place.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF INOVA FAIRFAX HOSPITAL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Inova Fairfax Hospital, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Fairfax Hospital was first proposed by a group of concerned citizens who embraced the concept of a not-for-profit hospital. With the strong support of the community, Fairfax County and the federal government, The Fairfax Hospital was built and opened its doors on February 6th, 1961. With a visionary and dedicated group of physicians, nurses, allied health care professionals, management, board members and auxiliaries, The Fairfax Hospital has become a premier health care institution in the Washington, D.C. area.

During the past 50 years, Fairfax Hospital, renamed Inova Fairfax Hospital in 1997, has significantly expanded to 833 acute-care beds and is now the busiest hospital in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It serves as the flagship facility of Inova Health System, which now includes hospitals in Alexandria, Mount Vernon, Fair Oaks, and Loudoun.