

was killed by the state of Georgia in September, and now her daughter has died. Correia was a brave and courageous woman who was her brother's most stalwart advocate for clemency. She was an angel of mercy who sacrificed her health to win her brother's life.

For a state which could have used its power to do what is right, the outcome is tragic. But for the Davis family, if it had to be this way, it is an elegant ending. God has finally accomplished what the state of Georgia could not. In his mercy he granted their prayers to be all together again—happy, healed and whole. They leave us the lessons of their lives and a legacy of struggle that strengthened a movement for repeal of the death penalty in this country. I send my deepest condolences to the Davis family and to Martina Correia's son, who needs our support in this time. May God richly bless you for the sacrifice you as a family have made in the long, hard struggle for justice in America.

CAMP ASHRAF IN IRAQ

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, the clock is running down for the 3,400 residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq. I share the concern of many of my constituents and others across our country and around the world for the status of those living in Camp Ashraf. It is my fear that if the Iraqi government follows through on their threat to shut down the camp that we could be facing a monumental human rights tragedy. I have joined many of my colleagues in calling for access to the camp by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It is indefensible that UNHCR has not been given access to those in Ashraf. This in itself seems to be a violation of international human rights law.

It is imperative that the government of Iraq revoke its year end deadline for the closure of Ashraf. UNHCR must be provided sufficient time to process each and every one of these individual cases. Regardless of the State Department's position concerning the legal status of MEK, the department has both a moral and legal responsibility to do everything in its power to ensure that UNHCR is provided access to the camp.

It is my hope that when Prime Minister Maliki visits with President Obama, that he will agree to remove the December 31 deadline for the closure of Camp Ashraf. There is still time to avoid a catastrophe and the Secretary of State should act with the assurance that decisive action will have the support of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY ANN CHRISTOPHER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Mary Ann Christopher, who, after 29 years of service, will depart her posi-

tion as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group, Inc. to assume the same position at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York. Her dedication to the well-being of New Jerseyans in need deserves this body's recognition.

During her decade long-tenure as CEO, Mrs. Christopher spearheaded a geographic expansion which transformed the agency from a two-county provider to a statewide organization. Mrs. Christopher led the development of a continuum of services, including home-health care, hospice care, community-based prevention and outreach initiatives, clinics for the poor and school-based health care. In recent years, she skillfully steered the organization through a myriad of federal and state policy changes, directed a second capital campaign that resulted in the agency's new, modern headquarters, and launched a name change and comprehensive branding initiative.

Mrs. Christopher is a leading national voice on a wide range of health care issues. She regularly interacts with decision makers on Capitol Hill, and in Trenton to develop legislative and regulatory policies to enhance the quality of health care for New Jersey citizens. Her public policy work has included advancement of public-private partnerships to address the growing nursing shortage, expansion of telehealth services, ensuring adequate reimbursement for Medicare home-health care, and improving Medicaid care programs strengthening her state's human services system for the most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing and thanking Mrs. Mary Ann Christopher for her 29 years of service to New Jersey and her dedication to providing healthcare to those in need.

THE ATTAİN ACT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Achievement Through Technology and Innovation Act of 2011 (ATTAİN).

Given the challenges facing job seekers in our current economy, technology skills are now more critical than ever. As a nation, we need to prioritize technology literacy, and it should begin with our educational system.

Whether students are preparing for college or planning to go straight into the workforce, we must provide them with the high tech skills employers and the economy demand. Obtaining these critical skills is of particular concern to low income and minority students who are falling further behind their higher income peers in terms of 21st century college and workplace skills.

Not only has technology literacy become a critical life skill, but studies show technology also has a tremendous impact on student learning. In this era of ever shrinking school budgets, overcrowded schools and over-extended teachers, technology provides an opportunity to improve academic outcomes for our students.

I had the opportunity to see this first hand at the LA School for Global Studies in my district. This school seamlessly integrates tech-

nology in the classroom and I was amazed to see students that were previously low performers academically and at risk of dropping out of school, engaged and eager to learn. My visit underscored the promise that initiatives like the ATTAİN Act hold for closing the student achievement gap.

The ATTAİN Act amends the current "Enhancing Education Through Technology" program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to better target federal education technology resources to raise student achievement, ensure high quality teaching and improve our education system while ensuring our students are college and career ready and prepared to compete in the digital economy.

The bill authorizes up to \$1 billion in annual funding to train teachers, purchase education technology hardware and software, and to support student technological literacy.

Under the bill's provisions, if Congress appropriates more than \$300 million annually for ATTAİN, 60% would be used to purchase new technology and train teachers on how to effectively use these new tools.

The remaining 40 percent of ATTAİN funds would be distributed through competitive grants that encourage schools to undertake comprehensive, technology based reform initiatives that have been proven to increase student achievement.

However, should Congress appropriate \$300 million or less for this program annually, the Secretary of Education would allocate the entirety of the funding to conduct a competition and award grants to those states with the most promising initiatives to improve K-12 education through the use of technology. This provision is intended to ensure that there is adequate funding to impact student outcomes during lean fiscal years.

It is my hope that through this competition states and districts across the country will be compelled to evaluate their technology use and work to integrate it effectively throughout all classrooms, and especially those that are currently underserved by education technology.

Mr. Speaker, we know that when teachers are properly trained and schools are properly equipped with technology, students are engaged, eager to learn, and ultimately better prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century. I believe that the ATTAİN Act is integral to our continued efforts to deliver all students the world class education they expect, need and deserve. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this important bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL B. MITCHELL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Police Sergeant Michael B. Mitchell, who is retiring after nearly 30 years of law enforcement service, with 23 years of that service to the City of Fairfield. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.