

up partly because of expensive and sometimes unnecessary procedures. Most members of Congress aren't scientists or health care researchers, so a panel of experts would be better suited to use the best research to recommend reforms. I will vote against a bill to repeal IPAB that doesn't put a better system in its place.

Unfortunately, this week the House Majority released a budget plan (the Ryan Budget) that would end the Medicare guarantee for our seniors. The Ryan Budget would again turn Medicare into a voucher system where seniors would have to purchase private plans. Private plans could deny and delay coverage, without Medicare's consumer protections our seniors get today. Last year's House budget tried this same plan, and the Congressional Budget Office said it would increase costs to people on Medicare by \$6,000 per person starting in 2022.

The bill we're voting on today, H.R. 5, also recycles an old misguided proposal for medical negligence reform. Someone who is harmed by misconduct by a health professional should not be barred from appropriate compensation for a permanent disability or loss of a loved one.

The reality is that most medical providers are doing the right thing. A small percentage of doctors are responsible for over half the medical malpractice cases. We shouldn't be protecting this minority of providers over the rights of patients injured through these providers' negligence. Today's bill would deny justice to those who have been harmed by a small number of medical providers.

Today's bill, H.R. 5, would also hurt states' rights by preempting state medical malpractice laws. A cap on damages for physical impairment, pain, suffering, and even death could not exceed \$250,000, regardless of individual states' existing limits.

Today's bill also extends far beyond medical malpractice. It would also apply to limit patients' rights in all "health care lawsuits," which could include cases against pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, nursing homes, HMOs, insurance companies, and hospitals.

While proponents of medical malpractice reform argue that frivolous lawsuits are driving up insurance premiums, the fact is, economic studies have shown that medical malpractice payouts are not the cause of higher premiums for consumers. Instead, premium increases are caused by other factors, such as too little competition in the private insurance market.

I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 5.

On the second anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, we should be fighting to make healthcare more accessible for our people, not less.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF  
MS. SYLVIA WHEELING OF THE  
BALDWIN CENTER

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2012*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Ms. Sylvia Wheeling, Baldwin Center Director of Food Services, on the occasion of

her retirement from the human service agency, located in the great city of Pontiac, Michigan.

A 30-year volunteer at Baldwin Center, Sylvia Wheeling truly epitomizes what it means to be a dedicated servant to the community. In 1981, as a member of the former Baldwin Avenue United Methodist Church, Sylvia was the first person to respond to her pastor's appeal to the church that it reach out to the surrounding community and be a good friend and neighbor. She started by cooking a few meals. Now, some 30 years later, Sylvia manages a kitchen that served more than 65,000 meals to men, women and children.

Baldwin Center has grown significantly during Sylvia Wheeling's tenure there and she has been an integral volunteer dutifully supporting its many programs and services.

As testament to her impact on the lives of many neighbors in the Pontiac community, one person recalled how a man, who was trying on a pair of pants at the center's Clothes Closet, had his size 13 pair of boots stolen from him. Within a half hour, a compassionate Sylvia had driven to a store and purchased a new pair for him.

Another person remembered how Sylvia stayed in the Intensive Care Unit with a homeless woman until her father could be found.

Similarly, others can recite many times when her influential presence defused conflicts, and how even when she had to be stern, Sylvia nonetheless showed grace under fire.

In a December 31, 2009 Oakland Press feature story titled, "Soup kitchen volunteer feels 'blessed'" Sylvia Wheeling said the following: "I am very grateful I could be a part of that. I have been very blessed."

We are very grateful and blessed that she has shared her time, her talent and her treasure with Pontiac, Michigan's Baldwin Center for 30 wonderful years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me today in saluting and congratulating, Ms. Sylvia Wheeling, Director of Food Services at Baldwin Center of Pontiac Michigan. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING DANIEL CASAS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2012*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Daniel Casas is a freshman at Clear Brook High School in Galveston County, Texas. His essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country. Daniel chose September 11th, 2001.

An important event that has occurred in the last 50 years was September 11, 2001. September 11, 2001, was a big disaster for the United States of America. Thousands of people died from this tragic event, people were scared when they boarded airplanes, which were the vehicle by which this much of this destruction was brought on the United States of America. Islamic terrorists that were linked to Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda, hijacked four American airliners. The terrorists crashed all four planes into different locations on the east coast of America, two crashed into the World Trade Center towers located in financial district of New York City, one into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and the final one crashed into a rural field in Pennsylvania. The passengers on flight 93 fought to regain control of the aircraft from the hijackers but did not succeed. More than 3,000 people in total were killed during these attacks. Most of the people killed were located in the World Trade Center. New York Army National Guard units were quickly called up to restore order and provide disaster relief in the wake of this tragedy. At the pentagon, 74 military and civilian personnel were killed. President Bush called approximately 10,000 soldiers up to active duty in Iran. Due to this terrorists act which occurred many American's were enraged and then enlisted in the military to retaliate for what the terrorists had done to our country. In December 2001, more than 17,000 soldiers from reserve components from various home land security functions were called to service. The Department of Defense called this effort "Operation Noble Eagle". Because of what these terrorists did a lot of Americans now refer to all Muslims as terrorists. Due to these events the United States has created more effective metal detectors and improved the security around our airports, ports and other points of entry into the country. The United States was bought together as a nation in this great time of despair.

RECOGNITION OF LYNCH  
SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Lynch Syndrome Awareness Day. Lynch Syndrome is a hereditary condition that exposes families to a higher risk of contracting aggressive cancers at a younger than average age.

First identified in 1966 by Dr. Henry T. Lynch, Lynch syndrome is a genetic disorder caused by a mutation in mismatch repair genes MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, EPCAM, and PMS2. Mismatch genes typically protect the body from cancers by repairing the errors in DNA replication, but due to the mutation, those mismatch genes have stopped functioning properly. Consequently, the defective gene causes individuals affected by Lynch Syndrome to sustain a lifetime risk of up to eighty-two percent of developing Colorectal Cancer, sixty-five percent of contracting Endometrial Cancer, nineteen percent Gastric Cancer and a much higher than average risk of contracting many other cancers, most often at a younger than average age.

The only accurate method of diagnosing Lynch Syndrome is through genetic testing and a comprehensive assessment of the family's medical history. To be diagnosed with