

The standards that this language would undermine were based on standards first adopted under the Bush Administration. They are common-sense, flexible, and an important step for our constituents with disabilities.

Yet the language in this bill would prohibit the Department of Justice from enforcing these regulations, even though swimming venues only need to satisfy these standards if doing so is "readily achievable" and does not cause an undue burden.

These regulations would allow disabled Americans seeking to swim for physical relief, emotional therapy, or simple enjoyment the ability to do so, thus enjoying the same benefits that you or I would receive from swimming. And the regulations ensure that no business faces an undue hardship in doing so.

I'm disappointed that this language made its way into the bill.

Sometimes it feels like there is little we can agree on here, and I would hope that providing physical, emotional, and social relief to Americans struggling with physical disabilities while not imposing on businesses would be something we could come together on. I hope that as this bill goes to conference, this harmful language is removed so that all Americans—regardless of abilities—can enjoy one of life's simple pleasures.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, during National Teacher Appreciation Week, I rise to honor our teachers.

Teachers are at the heart of our community, and this week we commemorate the hard-working men and women who educate and inspire our children. As part of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I was asked by the National Education Association to name a teacher who had a significant impact on my education. My journalism and debate coach, Mr. Ralph Chavez, quickly came to mind. He was not only a teacher but a mentor, friend and counselor. He inspired me to push myself, and helped me become the person I am today. This week, I am proud to help recognize all of our dedicated teachers who, like Mr. Chavez, have educated and motivated their students. As a parent and grandparent, I am grateful for the contributions of all of our educators, and am particularly proud of the teachers in the El Paso community.

As a Member of Congress, one of the best ways I can help make National Teacher Appreciation Week more meaningful is to continue working to provide our teachers with the resources they need to educate their students. Today's teachers face many challenges and deserve not only our recognition, but our full measure of support for their efforts.

Education has always been one of my top priorities, and I will continue to fight for our teachers, our students, our school districts, and for parents who want their children to have the best education possible.

HONORING DR. F.X. JAMES
KENEALY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dr. F.X. James Kenealy for his successful tenure as Chair of the Massachusetts Medical Society Committee on Legislation. Dr. Kenealy is a practicing otolaryngologist and a partner at Metro West ENT Associates, with locations in Framingham and Milford, Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Medical Society Committee on Legislation is comprised of physicians responsible for advising the Society on its legislative positions at both the federal and state levels. Dr. Kenealy led the committee through its negotiations on some of the most pivotal legislative issues of this decade, including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

He masterfully led the Committee and helped establish the Massachusetts Medical Society as a leading voice on health care reform initiatives in Massachusetts, many of which have served as the model for national legislation. Under his tutelage, physicians in Massachusetts have become better informed and more engaged in the grassroots legislative process.

Dr. Kenealy's commitment to his family, patients, local community, and the legislative process are exemplary. He brings his expertise as a physician to public policy discussions and reminds us how essential civic engagement is to the democratic process. I wish Dr. Kenealy continued success and happiness in his future pursuits and with his family, Vanessa and Aidan.

HONORING SOPHIA GREENWALT
OF MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sophia Greenwalt, a truly outstanding young Missourian.

Sophia is a seventh grade student at Reeds Spring Middle School in Reeds Spring, Missouri. She was recently honored by the American Red Cross with their Everyday Hero Award for her charitable activities.

While in sixth grade, Sophia came up with a plan to help others. In consultation with her mother, Nettie Greenwalt, teachers and school district administrators, she received approval to create the Helping Hats program for students in the Reeds Spring school district. The Helping Hats program grants students the privilege to wear hats to school once a month for a one-dollar fee. The fees collected from the Helping Hats program are distributed to local charities monthly. Currently, the program has collected over \$13,000 for local charitable organizations. Sophia's endeavors are a truly exemplary investment in our community.

On May 22, 2011, an EF-5 tornado struck Joplin, Missouri, devastating the once quiet Missouri town. Based on Sophia's efforts, the

Helping Hats program was able to raise more than \$8,000 to donate to the Joplin school district to help with recovery and rebuilding.

Sophia has also been honored for her outstanding charitable activities by the Missouri House of Representatives and the Reeds Spring Board of Education. I would like to add my voice to the growing choir praising the accomplishments of this truly exceptional young woman.

I am proud and humbled by the accomplishments of Sophia Greenwalt and look forward to following her future in the 7th Congressional District of Missouri.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, Aloha. I rise today in support of the Lee-Pascrell-Pierluisi-Welch-Sherman-Hirono-DeLauro-Israel-Himes amendment, which reverses the \$126 million cut to the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program in H.R. 5326, the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013. While I am a proud cosponsor of this amendment, last night I voted for the Grimm amendment to restore this important funding to keep our neighborhoods safe, which passed by two votes.

COPS grants provide funding to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to hire, preserve and/or rehire career law enforcement officers to increase their community policing capacity. COPS has been an unqualified success. Since this program was established, back when President Clinton was in office, violent crimes have declined throughout the country.

Our state and local law enforcement agencies in Hawaii and across the country have had to make tough choices and tough cuts to weather this economy. To date, COPS grants have funded over 500 additional law enforcement officers in the State of Hawaii, contributing to additional community patrols and other crime prevention efforts to protect lives and property. The restoration of COPS Program funding is critical to ensuring the safety of all our communities, while also protecting and creating jobs for the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, during the evening of Tuesday, May 8, and during the