us and improve nutrition. These safety net programs, including SNAP, the Child Nutrition Programs, and WIC are vitally important to helping those in need put food on the table during economic hard times and helping make sure no one especially seniors and children—goes hungry in America. These Nutrition Programs including the National School Lunch Program are among the most important and successful anti-hunger and nutrition programs in the country. Thanks to diligent oversight by USDA, and significant reforms in the program, SNAP finds itself on the most effective and efficient federal programs. It is a testament to USDA’s longstanding commitment to the highest standards and oversight of its programs.

globally, the impact of USDA is just as great. I have long promoted an integrated government-wide approach to addressing global hunger and food insecurity. Beginning with the Bush Administration and expanding under the leadership of President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack and USDA Administrator Raj Shah, I am proud to say that global food security programs are stronger than ever. In particular, I am proud to say that global food security programs are stronger than ever. In particular, I am proud to support USDA’s signature role in global agricultural development, emergency food aid, and international school feeding programs.

Agriculture is not just a nostalgic reflection of the past, it is a critical part of contemporary American life and the U.S. economy. I would like to take this opportunity to salute the thousands of Massachusetts small farmers who contribute so much not only to the economy, but to the nutrition and health of the people of Massachusetts, New England and the nation. It has been such a privilege for me to visit their farms, dairies and gardens and witness first-hand the great work they are doing. I am pleased to extend my heartfelt birthday wishes to USDA on this landmark anniversary, and I wish them the very best success in supporting agricultural development here at home and around the world in the next 150 years.

REMEMBERING ORLANDO ZAPATA TAMAYO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Orlando Zapata Tamayo who would have turned 45 years old today, had his life not been cut short by the murderous Castro dictatorship.

Orlando Zapata Tamayo was a member of the pro-democracy Movimiento Alternativa Republicana and the Consejo Nacional de Resistencia Cívica. He was arrested several times, including on March 20th, 2003 during Cuba’s notorious “Black Spring.” During his many years in prison, he suffered beatings, humiliation, and long periods of solitary confinement. Zapata Tamayo began a hunger strike on December 3rd, 2009 to protest inhumane prison conditions and arbitrary extensions of his sentences. His hunger strike lasted more than 80 days. During that time, he was deprived of water, suffered abhorrent prison conditions, and ultimately died at the hands of the Castro regime on February 23rd, 2010. Sadly, the two years since his death have seen the Castro regime increase repression and more
compete successfully for Fulbright Awards, Goldwater Scholarships and other prestigious national fellowships and scholarships funded by this body.

Included among its graduates are public servants at every level, including most notably former Vice President of the United States James E. B. Morse, former Secretary of the Treasury, former Secretary of State, Secretary of War, U.S. Senator and recipient of the 1912 Nobel Peace Prize Elihu Root; current Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; and former U.S. Ambassadors Arnold Raphel, William Luers, Sol Linowitz, Michael dun and Edward Walker. Hamilton College also counts among its alumni prominent physicians, ministers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, educators, entertainers, writers, and journalists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing and congratulating the students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees of Hamilton College on the occasion of their institution’s two hundredth anniversary on May 26, 2012.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to federal office, I have been a champion for women’s equality and have introduced the Equal Rights Amendment, ERA, for the last 40 years. I am particularly grateful for this legislation because until women are included in the Constitution.

Despite determined efforts by many dedicated activists, the ERA has never become part of our Constitution. On the 40th anniversary of the Congress passing the Equal Rights Amendment, I was joined by a number of speakers who spoke about the importance of equality for women. I submit their comments below to demonstrate the wide support for this Constitutional amendment. It is my great hope that we will soon realize a time when my view does not need to be reintroduced and speeches and events to raise awareness of the ERA are not needed; simply put, a time when the ERA has been adopted and true equality has finally been achieved.

REMARKS AT THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

BIRCH BAYH

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

To Bobbie Francis and Members of the NCWO-EERA Task Force, Mr. Speaker: I am sorry I can’t be there to share interesting conversations with all of you. I particularly appreciate the invitation from Bobbie Francis to join her and all of the friends of the NCWO-EERA Task Force in discussing an issue that has been close to my heart for more than 40 years.

Recent events have seen an assault on those who provide health care services to women and we have even seen questions raised anew about issues like contraception. It may have been 40 years since we passed the ERA, but I believe that many of us tried to write women’s rights into the Constitution are still with us today. As the chief floor leader of the Equal Rights Amendment, I remember well the intensity of the battle we fought in the early 1970s. America’s history has a long tradition of individual rights beginning with the expansion of the franchise in our early years. From the rights of former slaves after the Civil War to the expansion of rights for women and then for 18 year olds, we have codified in our Constitution an ongoing commitment to individual rights. It seemed fitting then, and seems fitting now, for our Constitution to speak loudly and clearly that the law allow no discrimination on the basis of gender.

While the principles involved in this battle remain, the country has evolved quite a bit since 1972. In 1972 there were 2 women in the US Senate and 13 in the House of Representatives. Now there are 17 women Senators and 73 Congresswomen. There were no female macro speakers in 1972 and had been only 3 in all our history before that, there are 6 now. We have had a female Speaker of the House and have scores of women leaders in all walks of life who are female. The number of women elected to state legislatures across the country is larger than ever before, and women in the military cannot be compared to the numbers 40 years ago. And in a recent issue of Newsweek, long-time Supreme Court reporter Nina Totenberg spoke about taking the job at NPR in the 70s because the pay was too low for men to want the job.

There has indeed been progress, but the principles remain the same.

To open the sports pages in the morning is to see female athletes in a number of sports. To watch the television news in the evening has us watching many female anchor persons, weather ladies, and sports announcers. Even the major sports telecasts regularly in-include female announcers. Is there equal pay for equal work today? Are there still obstacles on the professional path to boardrooms for women? Is sexual harassment still a prominent issue in offices around America and in our military?

It is still fitting in the 21st century for our nation to include in its basic law the principle that discrimination based on sex has no place in American life. It is fitting for our daughters and granddaughters to be reminded that their parents and grandparents stood and fought, and to ensure that they have an equal place in modern America.

As I close, let me stress that the ERA is still the right thing to do, not only in principle but in every day practice. Thank you for your continued, dedicated efforts.

REMARKS AT 3/22 PRESS CONFERENCE

JANET KOPENHAVER, F E W
JANET KOPENHAVER, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN (FEW), REMARKS AT 3/22 PRESS CONFERENCE

I want to thank Rep. Carolyn Maloney and all the co-sponsors on the ERA for their continuing support of women’s issues. I am so happy to be here representing Federally Employed Women. The enactment of an Equal Rights Amendment is one of our number one legislative priorities and our members have been busy sending letters to their Representatives urging them to co-sponsor this critical bill.

On my way in today on the metro, I was carrying one of those green ERA signs, a woman came up to me and said “Wow—that’s a really cool sign.” I said, “It is, isn’t it?” She said, “What’s this about? It doesn’t look like a sign to be carrying one of those green ERA signs, a piece of political artifacts no longer needed for lobbying!”

I said, “No kidding! Too old in my opinion. Hopefully we can soon put all these signs in the Sewall Belmont House as historical artifacts no longer needed for lobbying!”

But really, in a nutshell, no one in this country would say that women are not equal to men. No one! So let’s end the hypocrisy and pass the ERA this year. The time has come and the time is now.

SARAH BEAR
REMARKS AT SARAH BEAR, EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 22, 2022

I cannot begin to tell you how many people I’ve encountered that believe the Equal Rights Amendment has been passed. They are shocked when I break the unfortunate news to them that it has not, in fact, been passed. Shouldn’t this, in and of itself, be proof that the ERA should not have been written into the Constitution in the first place?

It is such a simple statement: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.” Is it so difficult to ratify this amendment and permanently add it to the Constitution? What makes men, women, or transgendered individuals so different that we don’t deserve equal protection under the Constitution? We’re all people. We all feel, cry, smile, laugh. We’re just as much human as the person next to us, whether or not we share similar characteristics.

As a distant relative of the inspirational suffragist and author of the ERA, Alice Paul, it is in my blood to fight for this basic right. I promise to her, the National Women’s Party, and all the amazing women and men who have fought and continue to fight for equal