

the First Congressional District of New Jersey hereby commends and congratulates United States District Court Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez as he is recognized as the "Gentleman Judge" by Rutgers University School of Law for his outstanding accomplishments, and in honor of his legal achievements, hereby officially proclaims today, Wednesday, June 7, 2000 to be the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez Day throughout the First Congressional District of New Jersey.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would have eliminated funding for a proposed pilot program for non-needs based school breakfast pilot program.

Mr. Speaker, I am a strong supporter of child nutrition programs for needy families. There is undeniable proof that kids who start the day with a good breakfast learn the best. My record shows that I have supported school breakfast and school lunch, not to mention WIC. We must make sure that all appropriate and necessary funds are given to these important programs to help the nutritional needs of needy children and families.

Part of being a fiscal conservative is setting priority for important programs. School breakfast programs for needy children must remain a high priority.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL YEAR 2000 ALL-STAR GAME

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the participants in tonight's Major League Baseball All-Star game. Each summer, the fans of our nation's pastime look forward to this game, which brings together the brightest stars of the sport. True to the American spirit, the starting line-ups for the game are selected by the millions of fans who follow the sport and take the time to choose the most deserving players to start at each position.

I want to note with special pride that seven of the players participating in tonight's game are Puerto Ricans. These players are Roberto

Alomar of the Cleveland Indians, Carlos Delgado of the Toronto Blue Jays, Edgar Martinez of the Seattle Mariners, Jorge Posada and Bernie Williams of the New York Yankees, Jose Vidro of the Montreal Expos, and Ivan Rodriguez of the Texas Rangers, who was the leading vote recipient in the All Star balloting. I know I speak for all the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico in expressing our great pride in the accomplishments of these players. That our island of 3.8 million people could produce such a large proportion of the players on the All-Star teams shows how strongly Puerto Ricans have embraced our national pastime.

In the spirit of the All Star game, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to mention Roberto Clemente, the greatest of all the Puerto Rican All-Stars. Mr. Clemente is one of 20 legendary baseball players being honored in a new series of commemorative postage stamps, which were officially dedicated last week in conjunction with All Star Week.

Mr. Clemente is known in baseball circles as the first Hispanic-American selected to the Hall of Fame. But he will be remembered as much for his great humanitarian spirit as he is for his considerable baseball skills. Many of us will never forget that tragic day 28 years ago when Mr. Clemente lost his life in a plane accident while he was participating in a mission to aid victims of a devastating earthquake in Nicaragua.

Mr. Clemente's legacy has influenced an entire generation of baseball players in Puerto Rico, just as future generations of players will be inspired by the All-Stars participating in tonight's game.

Congratulations to all the players in the 2000 All-Star Game.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today against this amendment which will prohibit the FDA from testing, developing, or approving any drug that could cause an abortion.

I often come to the House floor to note that this would be the 147th vote on choice since the beginning of the 104th Congress. But this vote is about so much more than abortion. It is truly a chilling attack on biomedical research.

We are legislators, we are not scientists. Political mandates have no place in interfering

with the FDA's sound and rigorous scientific drug approval process.

Approval of this amendment would be the beginning of a slippery slope where some Members of Congress hold the health of all Americans hostage. Allowing Congress to dictate which drugs the FDA can and cannot test could halt the process of testing drugs that have nothing to do with abortion.

The target of this amendment, mifepristone or RU-486, has potential uses for the treatment of breast cancer, endometriosis, and even glaucoma. In fact, this kind of drug—an antiprogesterin—was originally being developed for its cancer treatment potential.

I tell you, if RU-486 was only a cancer treatment, this researcher would have won a Nobel prize, and I bet the drug would already have been approved. Instead, because of its pregnancy disruption use, the drug has been held hostage by the right wing.

If this amendment passes, it would prevent further testing of drugs such as mifepristone that have the potential to treat millions of Americans for other medical conditions.

Delaying this drug is not an option. Think of what this will do to women with fibroid tumors. Think of what this will do to seniors with glaucoma. Think of what this will do to people with brain tumors.

And even worse, there is a very dangerous precedent being set today. Even those who disagree about whether RU-486 should or should not be approved, should be highly concerned by the precedent being set by this outrageous amendment.

Congress established the Food and Drug Administration to be an independent agency to test and approve drugs and devices. We should allow them to do their work without interference from the Congress. Science, not abortion politics, should dictate the type of drugs the FDA tests.

I strongly urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I was prepared to offer four amendments to this agriculture appropriations bill to highlight the absurdity of the US sugar program.

On Thursday, this Congress debated an amendment that would have limited the fleecing of taxpayers by the sugar program to \$54 million. However, a point of order technically prevented a vote on that matter.