

We have failed to protect workers from abuses by managed care companies. We are impoverishing families who have exhausted their unemployment benefits by failing to provide extended benefits. In short, Mr. Speaker, we are not taking the steps we need to in order to protect working Americans.

While we should be doing much more, I have no objections to this very modest bill. I urge the adoption of H.R. 5542.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART), the sponsor of this bill.

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be the sponsor of H.R. 5542, the Black Lung Consolidation of Administrative Responsibilities Act, on behalf of the administration and on behalf of the Department of Labor. Initially outlined in the President's 2003 budget for the Department of Labor, this legislation will consolidate, as was said earlier, all of the responsibility for the administration of black lung benefits under one agency.

The black lung benefits program was enacted as part of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, the first comprehensive Federal legislation to regulate health and safety in the coal industry. The law created a temporary system to compensate victims of dust exposure in the mines with public funds administered by the Social Security Administration.

In 1972, the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act was amended to require the use of simplified interim eligibility for all claims filed with the Social Security Administration and to transfer new claims to the Department of Labor in 1973. The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs in the Department of Labor assumed responsibility for the processing and the paying of these new claims on July 1, 1973. Most of the claims filed prior to that date remained in the jurisdiction of the Social Security Administration until 1997.

On September 26, 1997, officials from the Social Security Administration and the Department of Labor signed a memorandum of understanding transferring the responsibility for managing all active Social Security Administration black lung claims to the Department of Labor. This change was aimed at eliminating any confusion about which Federal agency should handle the claims and also enhancing customer service to all black lung beneficiaries.

At present, the Department of Labor manages all Federal black lung claims, while formal appeals on Part B claims are referred to the Social Security Administration.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of people who are beneficiaries of this program, a number in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and States surrounding

mine. In fact, I am a descendant of coal miners, as are many of my constituents in Western Pennsylvania. The goal for us is to make sure that this program continues to be administered in a very efficient way.

The Black Lung Consolidation of Administrative Responsibilities Act would simply transfer all of the responsibilities for the administration of claims under Part B of the Act to the Department of Labor, while retaining all regulations currently applicable to the beneficiaries' entitlements.

Besides improving administrative efficiency, this transfer of responsibilities will ensure the continuation of a high level of customer service to beneficiaries. Joint audits by the Office of the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration and the Department of Labor, as the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) stated, have confirmed the high quality of claims-related services provided by the Department of Labor. It only makes sense to consolidate these services under the Department of Labor.

Last year, in fact, the University of Michigan released the results of a customer satisfaction survey of beneficiaries receiving the services under the DOL and found the highest level of customer satisfaction of any Federal benefits program surveyed.

Finally, the legislation implements a long-standing recommendation by the Inspectors General of the Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration that the administrative responsibility for the Black Lung Benefits Act should be consolidated within the Department of Labor. This change would ensure the continuation of this high level of service to program beneficiaries, many of whom are elderly and unwell.

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While eliminating confusion and duplication of administration functions, it will also make sure that these beneficiaries continue to receive a high level of service. The Black Lung Consolidation of Administrative Responsibility Act is simply common sense and good government. In times like these when we find our budget is tight and we need to be very careful about our spending, this measure will continue to help us achieve that. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleagues that although this is a good thing we are doing for Pennsylvania and co-workers that there are steps we are not taking to protect American workers. First of all, we have an inadequate minimum wage. We also have failed to reform managed care, and we have exhausted unemployment benefits for many, many of our workers who are part of this horrific economy that we are faced with. We must deal with the big picture also.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would like again to commend my colleague and sponsor of this bill, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART), for her work on the legislation and to thank the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. And I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5542, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PATSY T. MINK

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 113) recognizing the contributions of Patsy T. Mink, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 113

Whereas Patsy Takemoto Mink was one of the country's leading voices for women's rights, civil rights, and working families and was devoted to raising living standards and providing economic and educational opportunity to all Americans;

Whereas Patsy Takemoto Mink was a passionate and persistent fighter against economic and social injustices in Hawaii and across America;

Whereas Patsy Takemoto Mink was one of the first women of color to win national office in 1964 and opened doors of opportunity to millions of women and people of color across America;

Whereas Patsy Takemoto Mink won unprecedented legislative accomplishments on issues affecting women's health, children, students, and working families; and

Whereas Patsy Takemoto Mink's heroic, visionary, and tireless leadership to win the landmark passage of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 opened doors to women's academic and athletic achievements and redefined what is possible for a generation of women and for future generations our Nation's daughters: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.; P.L. 92-318) may be cited as the "Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 113.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 113 to recognize the many contributions of Patsy Mink. Patsy Mink provided a great service to Congress and the Nation as a whole; and she always represented her constituents with grace, commitment, and absolutely with determination. Patsy Mink was a trailblazer as the first woman of color to win national office. She was truly a person of honor. Patsy Mink stood by her word and did not step away from controversial or difficult issues. She never made decisions based on what was politically easy; she made decisions based on what was right. I am honored to have worked with her and to have had the opportunity to know the drive, dedication, and devotion to her home State and to her constituents. A tribute to our former colleague and the legacy she leaves behind is most appropriate. Patsy Mink's passing is a significant loss to all of us, and I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family and to her constituents.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, I first met Patsy Mink 4 years ago when I was elected to the Congress of the United States. She had served many years before I came and her career before my election was far more important than any election of me. She had broken the glass ceiling for women in Hawaii. She had been an outspoken leader. Patsy and I were of a different sex, a different ethnicity, a different generation, and a different political party. But as goes so often unreported in this body but is so often reality, those of us regardless of our differences come together for what is right and what is best for the American people. It should not go unnoted on this evening that it was Patsy Mink as a member of the working group of H.R. 1, No Child Left Behind, who articulated and fought for her beliefs, found common ground, and allowed this Congress and this country to address the needs of America's most needy and deserving students.

While it is easy for all of us to find fault from time to time about what we in this House have not done, we must always recognize that which on countless, thankless hours has been accomplished by dedicated leaders of commitment and perseverance. Patsy Mink was a lady. She was a friend, she was a Member of this Congress, and she will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.J. Res. 113, which recognizes the many contributions that Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink from Hawaii made to the people of this country, particularly to girls and women. That is why it is fitting that this resolution renames title IX of the Higher Education Act amendments of 1972 the Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.

In the early 1970's, Patsy played the key role in the enactment of title IX, which prohibits gender discrimination by federally funded institutions. When most people think of title IX, they think of women's sports, and the impact of title IX on women's sports can clearly be seen. In fact in 1972 scholarships for women's sports nationally added up to \$100,000 and in 1987 the scholarships equaled over \$200 million. Did she make a difference? Yes, she did. We can see the impact of title IX in the impressive accomplishments of American female athletes at the Olympics and when we turn on the TV to watch professional women's basketball or soccer, but we should not forget that title IX has also been a major tool for increasing women's participation in other aspects of education as well.

As we stand here on the floor today, title IX ensures that girls have equal access to classes that lead to high-wage jobs so that women can support themselves and their families as well as their male counterparts. But title IX was only one of Patsy's contributions to girls and women of America. She also authored the Women's Educational Equity Act, known as WEEA, in 1974. WEEA remains the primary resource for teachers and parents seeking information on proven methods to ensure gender equity in schools and communities. WEEA represents the Federal commitment to ensuring that girls' future choices and successes are determined not by their gender but by their own interests, aspirations, and abilities.

Mr. Speaker, there has been no stronger voice in Congress for girls and women and minorities than Patsy Takemoto Mink, and it will do Congress proud to remember her and honor her by passing H.J. Res. 113 and renaming title IX The Patsy Takemoto Mink Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I would just close by acknowledging all of the accomplishments as were cited by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), and on behalf of all the colleagues in the Congress of the United States, our deep sympathy to the family of Patsy Mink and to the people of Hawaii, but the great joy all of us should have in recognizing her accomplishments on behalf of her State, on behalf of all women in America, and on behalf of this Congress. I urge all my colleagues to vote unanimously for this

resolution commending a great woman and a great Member of Congress.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 113 to recognize the many contributions of Congresswoman Patsy Mink.

As the Ranking Member of the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, Patsy Mink provided a great service to not only our subcommittee, but the Nation as a whole. Her commitment to our Nation's students and to her constituents never wavered and she always represented them with grace and determination.

While I could talk about a great number of instances where my friend, Patsy Mink, and I worked hand and hand to improve academic achievement for our students, I want to take this moment to highlight an issue that we recently worked on that we both believed in—making postsecondary education better and more accessible for students and families. Last year, Patsy and I began the Fed Up initiative in an effort to streamline a number of burdensome regulations within the Higher Education Act. She worked with me from its earliest stages, stood firm in her commitment to me about how the process would move forward, and during a difficult vote, she kept her word and voted in a way that forced her to step away from her own party's politics. She did this because she was a person of honor and did what was right, even when it was not easy.

Patsy was a trailblazer as the first woman of color to win national office, taking on one of many challenges she would face. She never stepped away from controversial issues if she believed what she was doing was right.

I am honored to have worked with Patsy on our subcommittee and to have had the opportunity to know her drive, dedication and devotion to her home State and her constituency.

This tribute to our former colleague and the legacy she leaves behind is more than appropriate. Patsy's passing is a significant loss for all of us and I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family and her constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues in support of this resolution and appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts and gratitude for Patsy Mink.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 113 to honor and recognize the many contributions of Patsy Mink. I want to thank my friend and colleague from California, GEORGE MILLER, for introducing this most appropriate resolution.

We were all stunned and saddened by the news last week of the passing of our friend and colleague, Patsy Mink. As I have stated before, not only did we lose a passionate and committed member of this body; the State of Hawaii and the country as a whole lost a compelling and persuasive representative voice.

Patsy Mink placed a great emphasis on service to her constituents and always stood firm in her beliefs. Patsy did this even when it wasn't the easy or politically popular thing to do. She had strong convictions by which she lived and worked. While we did not always agree, I know I, and the rest of us, are all better for having had the experience of working with her during her tenure in this House.

In her role as ranking member on the subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, Patsy Mink played an important role in passing the No Child Left Behind Act, and worked

closely with Chairman MCKEON on legislation reducing red tape and burdensome regulations in postsecondary education. With her passing, we will miss the opportunity to continue that partnership in working on these and other critical issues facing our nation.

I will miss Patsy and her commitment to her State, her constituents and to the ideals of this body. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with her over these many years.

This resolution is an appropriate tribute to our former colleague and the legacy she leaves behind. Patsy Mink's passing is a significant loss for all of us and I offer my sincere condolences to her family and her constituents.

I know my colleagues will join me in support of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, as a means of collectively saying thank you and good-bye to a distinguished colleague and friend.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 113 in honor of our late colleague, Patsy Mink.

I had the honor to serve with her on the House Government Reform Committee after she returned to Congress in 1990. I was particularly struck by her passionate defense of progressive democratic policies. For example, Patsy's commitment to such policies led her to actively oppose the '95 Welfare Reform Act because of its implications for many poor women and their children. Her opposition helped to limit some of the more draconian provisions in the final version of the bill that was enacted into law. Patsy could always be counted on to defend the interests of all poor and disadvantaged Americans. But she will always be remembered for her leadership in guaranteeing equal opportunities for women in education and athletics. One of the first women of color elected to the House of Representatives, Patsy was a trailblazer who will be sorely missed not only here in Congress but also in her home State of Hawaii. I am proud to have known and served with her.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for this resolution and to thank the leadership of the House for moving so expeditiously to bring it to the floor.

I have had the honor to share the responsibility of representing Hawaii in the U.S. House of Representatives with Patsy Mink for the last 12 years. However, my first memories of her go back 40 years when I was a student at the University of Hawaii involved in one of her early campaigns. I admired her then and I hope through this resolution to secure for her an honored place in the history of this institution and this country.

Throughout nearly 50 years of public service, Patsy Mink championed America's most deeply held values: equality, fairness, and above all honesty. Her courage, her willingness to speak out and champion causes that others might shun resulted in tremendous contributions in the fields of civil rights and education. Every single woman in this Nation who today has been given an equal opportunity in education, and by extension in virtually every other field of endeavor, owes the impetus to that in modern times to Patsy Mink. She was one of the pioneers who transformed Hawaii and transformed this Nation. Her legacy will live on in every campus in America and in the heart of every American woman who aspires to greatness. Most profoundly, it lives on in my estimation in hope; hope for the millions of lives that she touched.

Someone will take Patsy Mink's place here in the House, that is the way of it in our democracy, but no one will replace her in the hearts of the people of Hawaii. No one will replace her in the role that she played in this House of Representatives. With the renaming of title IX as the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, Congress secures her memory as a heroic, visionary, and tireless leader of this great Nation.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we have seen many Members of Congress pass through these halls. Many have done some great things but, in my opinion, very few have left this place being defined as one of the "great ones." We have just lost one of the "great ones" with the passing of Patsy Mink.

Legislating and getting things done here can be very frustrating. But I would advise that whenever we think frustration is getting the best of us, we need only remember what, in spite of adversity, Congresswoman Mink accomplished during her tenure because of her dedication, perseverance, and never ending fight for what she believed in.

From her earliest days, she advocated for noble causes. When she was segregated into International Housing at the University of Nebraska, she sought to change discriminatory policies and succeeded.

After receiving her law degree from the University of Chicago, she was in disbelief over the simple fact that her gender disqualified her from positions she applied for. Instead of accepting defeat, she opened her own practice and became the first Asian-American woman lawyer in Hawaii.

In her first run for the U.S. Congress in 1959, her defeat to DANIEL INOUE didn't deter her from running again. In 1964 she ran for U.S. Congress again and won, making her the first woman of color to be elected to Congress.

Most significantly over 2.7 million young women participate in high school athletics compared to just under 300,000 in 1971. This is because of the key role Congresswoman Mink played in the enactment of title IX. Title IX bans gender discrimination in schools that receive federal funding. Young women can now look to the memory of Patsy Mink to thank for the chance to participate in school athletics.

The passing of one of the "greats" leaves a major void in not only Congress itself but also in each one of us. We need move on from this day forward with as much heart and devotion as Congresswoman Mink did every day of her life.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 113, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further

proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### JOE SKEEN FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5427) to designate the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, as the "Joe Skeen Federal Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5427

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, shall be known and designated as the "Joe Skeen Federal Building".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Joe Skeen Federal Building".

#### SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5427 designates the Federal building in Roswell, New Mexico, as the Joe Skeen Federal Building. After 22 years of distinguished service in this body, our colleague from New Mexico, JOE SKEEN, is retiring.

I want to recognize the hard work of the bill's sponsor, the gentlewoman from New Mexico's first district (Mrs. WILSON), in bringing this measure to the floor with the support of over 200 co-sponsors.

Congressman SKEEN was born in Roswell, New Mexico. We will spare him from saying the year of his birth since he is still with us in this body. He served in the United States Navy for a 1-year enlistment and later in the United States Air Force Reserves from 1949 until 1952. Congressman SKEEN graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in agricultural engineering. After graduation, he worked as a soil and water engineer for the Zuni and Ramah Navajo Indians. He later purchased the family sheep ranch.

Congressman SKEEN was first elected to public office in 1960 when he served in the New Mexico State Senate until 1970. For the last 6 years of his time in the State Senate he served as a minority leader. In 1980 Congressman SKEEN was elected to serve New Mexico's second district in the United States House of Representatives. He was first elected as a write-in candidate and served for 11 succeeding Congresses.

While serving in the House, JOE was known and is known for his commitment to property rights, balancing the