

advocacy services to young Native American women in collaboration with the Ain Dah Yung Center.

Breaking Free in St. Paul: A transitional housing program for women of color escaping prostitution.

St. Paul-based Minnesota Coalition of Battered Women, which links battered women's programs across the state to help fulfill the goals of VAWA, including legal assistance; training for police, prosecutors, and court officers; and protection for battered women and their children.

Other projects in Minnesota include:

The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth—a comprehensive review of the criminal justice and civil court response to battered women.

The Women's Rural Advocacy Program in Southwest Minnesota, which purchases and implementation of digital cameras and printers for improved prosecution of domestic violence cases.

Migrant Health Services in Crookston, which provides domestic violence and sexual assault services to Hispanic migrant farm workers in the Red River Valley.

In addition to the lives saved by improved responses to violence against women, VAWA has saved our country nearly \$15 billion in social costs, such as savings in the judicial and health care systems.

The month of October also marks the anniversary of a great loss to the domestic violence community—the untimely deaths of Paul and Sheila Wellstone. Not only were Paul and Sheila tireless advocates for abused women and children, they were also instrumental framers of VAWA. The Wellstones are greatly missed by Minnesotans and people throughout our Nation.

It is in recognition of those who continue the legacy of a commitment to ending domestic violence in homes and communities across our Nation, and in honor of survivors of domestic violence, that I stand today in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2123, SCHOOL READINESS
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to oppose the Boustany amendment and all the explicit discrimination it represents.

Mr. BOUSTANY's proposal fundamentally changes Head Start hiring and firing protections provided for Head Start teachers and staff by Federal Equal Employment Opportunity laws. If this amendment passes, this would be the first time Congress has acted on the House Floor to specifically repeal civil rights protections established to combat discrimination.

The amendment is a blatant attack on civil rights. And, it is offensive to Americans who value equal rights and justice, and to the many of us who are strong people of faith.

This amendment would allow faith-based organizations that receive Federal Head Start

dollars to discriminate in the hiring and firing of Head Start employees simply based on religion. These changes could also affect Head Start parents who might serve as volunteers or advisory board members for their children's Head Start program.

And these acts of discrimination would be paid for with U.S. taxpayer dollars!

In addition, this amendment changes Federal Equal Employment Opportunity laws in the Head Start Act. The effects of these changes on the rights of women and people with disabilities are unclear. Certainly the questions surrounding this possible reduction in rights should be answered before we undo hard-fought civil rights protections.

Let us be clear. Faith-based organizations currently are providing Head Start services. I support faith-based organizations. Their missions and their work are valued by all of us. This amendment provides no additional opportunities to faith-based Head Start providers. It simply provides them the explicit right to discriminate based on religion using taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, Head Start is a program intended to reduce barriers and to provide increased opportunities and equality for low-income children and their families. It is shameful that some of my colleagues are acting today to reduce opportunities and increase barriers for Head Start families.

I urge my colleagues—don't give discrimination a Head Start. Oppose this dangerous amendment.

MAUDELLE SHIREK POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that on September 27, 2005, I voted "yea" on H.R. 438 (rollcall No. 495), which designates the United States Postal Service facility located at 2000 Allston Way in Berkeley, California, as the "Maudelle Shirek Post Office Building."

Ms. Maudelle Shirek was the former vice-mayor of the City of Berkeley and Member of Berkeley City Council from 1984 to 2004, between the ages of 73 and 93. She was one of California's longest serving elected officials.

For 60 years, Ms. Shirek has been campaigning for fair housing and civil rights for all Americans, especially the poor. Ms. Shirek helped found two Berkeley seniors centers. Until her health started slowing her down, Ms. Shirek helped deliver meals to shut-in seniors and did all the grocery shopping for lunches at the New Light Senior Center. In addition, Ms. Shirek received a Special Recognition Award in 1997 from the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union for 55 years of tireless work in the credit union movement.

Before voting on H.R. 438, I was fully aware of the aforementioned efforts and achievements during Ms. Shirek's life. I found them reason to name a Post Office after her.

However, after I voted "yea" on H.R. 438, I was informed of Ms. Shirek's active support for the release of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a man convicted of killing a Philadelphia police offi-

cer. Upon learning this, I could not, in good faith, support H.R. 438. Had I known this prior to voting on H.R. 438, I would have voted "nay."

CINDY SHEEHAN: PEACE MOM AND
PATRIOT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cindy Sheehan the "Peace Mom" from Vacaville, California, whose 24 year-old son Casey was killed in Sadr City, Iraq on April 4, 2004. Referred to by some as, the "Rosa Parks" of the peace and justice movement, she was arrested today in front of the White House while calling on President Bush to end the War in Iraq.

Cindy had traveled to Washington from Crawford, Texas where, intent on a face-to-face meeting with President Bush, she gained national attention by camping outside the Texas White House during the President's summer vacation. The site was called Camp Casey in honor of her son.

Cindy Sheehan wanted to ask President Bush: What is the "noble cause" that my son Casey died for?

Like millions of people in this country, Cindy Sheehan knew there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the citizens in the United States had never been in "imminent danger" from Saddam Hussein and Iraq had no connection to 9/11 as the President had claimed. As a mother she felt she had the right to ask the President to meet with her to explain why her son had been sent on a fraudulent mission. After all, he had the time for a bicycle ride with Lance Armstrong. She felt he should make the time to meet with her.

The President refused to meet with Cindy, but sent two high level White House officials in his place. Explaining this substitution, President Bush stated that he had to go on with his "normal life" and that the American people wanted him to do that. Cindy announced she would not leave Crawford until Mr. Bush met with her or left for Washington DC.

As Cindy Sheehan waited in the broiling Texas sun, people began to come to Crawford to be with her. They wanted to support her and to send a message to the President that they, too, wanted an explanation for the war. Thousands came from across the country; some stayed a few hours, others, a few days.

When authorities ordered her to move Camp Casey, a local landowner gave her space on his ranch for an even larger encampment. White crosses with the names of the soldiers killed were planted in the ground. The boots Casey was wearing when he died were placed with his cross as were the boots of other soldiers whose crosses were at Camp Casey.

After President Bush finally left his ranch a few days short of his planned five week vacation, four groups of Cindy's supporters—Gold Star Families for Peace, Military Families Speak Out, Iraq Vets Against the War and Veterans for Peace—left Camp Casey on a "Bring Them Home Tour" from Crawford, TX to Washington, DC.

The Veterans for Peace sent a bus to Covington, KY, to deliver supplies to victims of

Hurricane Katrina. Three other buses filled with representatives of each group toured the central, southern and northern States and met in Washington on September 22nd to prepare for the peace march on September 24, 2005.

An estimated 300,000 people participated in the demonstration. Cindy spoke to the crowd who welcomed her as a hero. I called Cindy the "Rosa Parks" of this peace movement. Like the woman who sparked the civil rights movement, Cindy is the one person who has come forth to inspire others to do more than they believed themselves capable of doing. On that day when our grandchildren ask what we were doing during the Iraq War, we will be able to say: We spoke out and stood up in support of Cindy Sheehan.

HIGHER EDUCATION EXTENSION
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF
HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madame Speaker, I rise today in support of the temporary 3-month extension of the Higher Education Act.

I would prefer to rise today to express my support for a bill that expands access for students to college and fulfills the Federal government's promises to make college more affordable for the millions of students attending our nation's colleges and universities.

Unfortunately, that is not the bill before us today. It is my hope, however, that the Republican leadership will use this time provided by the extension to improve their plan to reauthorize the Higher Education Act—H.R. 609.

The Republican bill that passed out of the House Education and the Workforce Committee on a strictly partisan vote balances the massive deficit created by enormous tax breaks to America's most fortunate and the war in Iraq on the backs of students—who continue to face increased tuition costs across the nation. H.R. 609 cuts nearly \$9 billion from the Federal student loan program, with Republican plans to cut an additional \$2 billion in order to balance their misguided budget. This cut is the largest cut to student financial aid in the history of Federal student financial aid.

The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act should be an opportunity to enhance access for our nation's low and moderate income students and first generation students to a higher education. Instead of finding ways to increase college affordability and fund student financial aid during this reauthorization, Republicans have been focused on finding ways to open up more Federal dollars for for-profit education institutions, while finding ways to usurp college campus autonomy. Instead of increasing access, millions of students will see the cost of a college education increase significantly because of provisions found in H.R. 609.

In committee, I voted to support the Democratic amendment to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, which would have increased access and enhance affordability for all students—all without raising taxes. The Democratic plan would have increased Pell Grants and would have maintained the promise Con-

gress made in 2002 to cap the interest rate on student loans at 6.8 percent.

The tax cuts proposed by President George W. Bush and the House Republican budget, forces college students to bear the weight of irresponsible fiscal policies.

Today, this temporary extension is necessary, but I will continue to work to ensure that students will not be forced to pay for this enormous deficit now through financial aid cuts and in the future as taxpayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that on September 27, 2005, I voted "yea" on H.R. 438 (rollcall 495), which designates the United States Postal Service facility located at 2000 Allston Way in Berkeley, California, as the "Maudelle Shirek Post Office Building."

Before voting on H.R. 438, many of my colleagues discussed Ms. Shirek's efforts on behalf of her community. At the time, I found them reason to support H.R. 438. However, after I voted "yea" on H.R. 438, I was informed of Ms. Shirek's active support for the release of Mumia Abu-Jamal—the same man who killed Daniel Faulkner, a Philadelphia police officer.

Had I known of Ms. Shirek's statements regarding Mumia Abu-Jamal prior to voting on H.R. 438, please let the RECORD reflect that I would not only have voted "nay" on passage of this bill, but I also would have urged my colleagues to join me in opposition.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF "LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!"

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Resolution 66, supporting the goals and ideals of 'Lights On Afterschool!', a national celebration of after-school programs. Passage of this bill will not only recognize this celebration, but also reaffirm the United States Congress' continuing commitment to providing our children after-school programs.

The "Lights On Afterschool!" celebration was started in October of 2000 and was hosted in over 1,000 communities across the nation. The goal of the program at its inception was to call attention to the importance of after-school programs for America's communities. Last year, 7,500 communities celebrated Lights On Afterschool! events. This October, the Afterschool Alliance, the founding organization, expects 1 million Americans to participate in "Lights On Afterschool!"

In this time of political pressure for budget cuts, "Lights On Afterschool!" seeks to celebrate the importance of after-school programs to American Society, and assert the need for

even more programs. The worth of after-school programming is not lost on the American public. Nine in ten Americans think children need organized activities or a program to go to after school where they have learning opportunities. Nine in ten also support funding for after-school programs in low-income neighborhoods.

The "Lights On Afterschool!" program calls for expanding after-school opportunities so that every child who needs a program has access to one. This is not only a good idea on paper, but a good idea in practice. Teens who participate in after-school programs are three times less likely to try drugs, and less likely to smoke or drink. Teens who do not attend after-school programs are three times more likely to skip class. Students who participate in after-school programs have better grades, are more likely to attend college, and reach higher levels of achievement. The benefit of these programs also extends to the tens of millions of parents of school aged children, who, with the help of these programs, were better able to balance family and work life.

It seems like a simple decision to support the "Lights On" program, but budget-tightening is forcing many programs to cut back or even close. There is a tremendous unmet demand for after-school programs. Today, millions of children have no adult supervision after school. Mayors surveyed in 86 cities reported that only one-third of the children needing after school care were receiving it. Over two-thirds of principals whose children lack after-school programs claim a lack of funding as the reason for not having sufficient programming.

The "Lights On Afterschool!" program is scheduled next month on the 20th of October. Supporting this program—and after-school programs in general—should be a high priority for this country and this congress.

I support H.J. Res. 66 for the foregoing reasons, and I urge my colleagues to follow suit.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2123, SCHOOL READINESS
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my sincere disappointment in the Committee on Rules decision to report a restrictive rule for consideration of the bill before us today, the reauthorization of Head Start, the future of our children.

Several common-sense amendments that were offered to strengthen this bill were not ruled in order. Not surprising, most of them were Democratic amendments. Instead, several amendments that were ruled in order will weaken Head Start and the opportunity for our children to succeed.

In committee, there was bipartisan support for adding "faith-based" language into the Head Start Act, even though faith-based institutions currently participate in providing Head Start programs. We were happy to do this in committee; I was happy to do so, along with my colleagues, because the Federal Equal