I am proud to honor Judge Matthew J. Jasen today—an outstanding member of the bar and of the Western New York community—and I am certain that the whole of our community would join with me in offering my congratulations to Judge Jasen upon his receipt of this most recent honor in his long and distinguished career. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for offering me an opportunity to share with the House Judge Jasen's accomplishments and for allowing me this chance to join in honoring him.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ANDREW CABLE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished public service of Andrew Cable.

Andrew Cable graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1992, and received his Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice. Upon graduation, he decided to pursue a career in law and real estate. He has had an extremely varied and successful professional life: he currently holds a real estate license, a license as a community corrections officer, and a certification in commercial banking.

He and his wife, Rebecca, have been tireless volunteers in their community. Mr. Cable is a member of many organizations, including the Texas Justice Court Judges Association, the Texas Community Justice Task Force, the Wimberly High School Mentor Program, and the Community Emergency Response Team Advisory Board.

Mr. Cable was elected Justice of the Peace in 1998. He represents Precinct 3 of Hays County, which includes, among several other towns, Mr. Cable's home of Wimberly. His extensive education and experience make him an excellent public servant, and an important resource for his friends and neighbors.

Mr. Cable is the sort of energetic, knowledgeable leader who holds our communities together. The people of Hays County are lucky to have him as a Justice of the Peace, and I am happy to have the chance to acknowledge him here today.

IN HONOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Santa Cruz High School Boys Basketball Team. The Cardinals won the title of Boys Basketball Division III California State Champions 2004–05. Led by Coach Pete Newell Jr., the exciting victory of 67–56 against St. Augustine took place on March 19, 2005.

The Boys Basketball team has enjoyed a winning season with their record standing at 36–1. Their only loss was by one point to Santa Margarita in a suspenseful overtime. The team set a Central Coast record with 36 season victories, the most by any team, boys or girls, in the state this season. Their accomplishments brought unprecedented firsts for the Central Coast community.

All nineteen Cardinal players were able to contribute to the successful season. After thirty years of coaching the Santa Cruz High School's Boys Basketball team and with the 2005 State Championship under his belt, Mr. Newell has opted to retire with a winning record. Throughout his career, he has led the team to victory 554 out of 880 games. Mr. Newell's diligent efforts will surely be missed by the Cardinals and the Santa Cruz community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Santa Cruz High School Boys Basketball Team on their Division III State Championship. They have demonstrated hard work, perseverance, and relentless dedication to the sport of basketball. I extend my congratulations to the Cardinals and wish the team many successful seasons to come.

MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE A NATIONAL PRIORITY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it was barely 20 years ago when the nation first became concerned with minority communities and the disproportionate impact from polluting facilities. At that time, we referred to this problem as environmental racism. This was a term which strongly depicted the harsh reality and the disparities of environmental policy or practices affecting individuals, groups, or communities based on race or color. In the last decade, the pursuit against environmental racism has been transformed into an effort to achieve environmental justice in all socio-economic communities, suggesting that we are making wiser environmental policy decisions and engaging in a proactive approach.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. EO 12898 required that all appropriate federal agencies collect data on the health and environmental impact of their programs and activities on ''minority populations'' and ''low-income populations'' and to develop policies to achieve environmental justice. EO 12898 also requires federal agencies and their funding recipients to fully comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by conducting their programs and implementing policies in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Despite EO 12898, federal efforts to achieve environmental justice have been minimal at best. In fact, in 2002, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held hearings on the issue and concluded that due to organizational and financial limitations, ''there is inconsistency and unevenness in the degree to which agencies achieved integration of environmental justice into their core mission.'' It also noted that ''current funding and staffing levels [at federal agencies] undermine meaningful Title VI enforcement at a time when there are increasing judicial barriers to enforcing Title VI.''

I come to the floor today to introduce legislation that expands the definition of environmental justice, directs each Federal Agency to establish an office of environmental justice, reestablishes the interagency Federal Working Group on Environmental Justice, and requires that EO 12898 remain in force until changed by law. My legislation represents a significant step in ensuring that current and future federal policies reflect the intentions and goals of EO 12898 and protect minority and low-income communities from poor environmental and energy decisions and policies.

I ask for my colleagues support, and urge the House Leadership to expeditiously bring this critical legislation to the House floor for consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUDGET AUTONOMY ACT OF 2005

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, Senate Government Affairs Chair SUSAN COLLINS, Ranking Member Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, Senator DANIEL AKAKA, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, House Government Reform Committee Chair TOM DAVIS, Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN and I introduce H.R. 1629, the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2005, which passed the Senate in the last Congress, but did not pass the House. It marked the most significant change in self-government since the Home Rule Act was passed in 1973. Instead, Congress continues to essentially use the same oversight process it has used since the District was created as a functioning city more than 200 years ago. The partial budget autonomy in this bill would be a major step to improve the efficiency of the congressional appropriations process and a historic step toward full self-government for the District of Columbia.

Our bill starts as a compromise that is less than what the District and every local jurisdiction is entitled to in the management of its local funds. As important as this bill is, it is not the self-contained and more efficient procedure used by every state and locality in our country. The District's budget would still come to the Congress, but it would be discharged after 30 calendar days. This step would take the city a great distance toward functional budget autonomy and away from a congressional process that adds large dollar costs to running the city, and incalculable waste and inefficiency directly traceable to the congressional appropriations process.

Our bill would significantly streamline and untangle the process. It also would eliminate the most inefficient and demeaning impediment to the local control every other jurisdiction enjoys, in requiring that the budget of the local jurisdiction be enacted by the District and the Congress as Congress enacts the budgets of federal agencies, such as the Interior Department and the Labor Department.

For most of my service in Congress, the enactment requirement has usually kept the District from having a local annual budget with which to operate and manage the city for months at a time. The requirement of our bill

that the D.C. budget become operative after 30 calendar days would have large effects on everything from the District's bond rating to its ability to more efficiently manage every function of the D.C. government.

The irony is that the Congress almost never changes the District's locally raised core budget in any case. Even at its most intrusive, Congress has realized that when it comes to the complexities of budget decisions for city agencies, Congress is in foreign territory. This is only one of the reasons that I think members of the House and Senate have been open to the change we propose. I appreciate the support this approach already has received in the Senate.

For years Congress saw the D.C. budget wreck the larger appropriation process for the country. Too often the District appropriation, by far the smallest of all of the appropriations, has been the largest impediment to the entire appropriation process and a major cause of delay. I am especially grateful for the way that Chairman BILL YOUNG worked with me to remove obstacles and often to rescue the D.C. budget altogether. I expect that my good friend, JERRY LEWIS, our new appropriations chair who has often been helpful to me and the city, will want to see the District come smoothly through the process as well. Speaker DENNIS HASTERT and former Speaker Newt Gingrich both have become involved as a last resort, when only they could rescue the locally raised budget from lengthy delays. I very much appreciate that they have always responded when I have asked for their help.

However, the local balanced budget of a great city should not need extraordinary action by House speakers or full appropriation chairs. Despite a national economy that has left states and local jurisdictions on their knees, in recent years the District has balanced its budget without raising taxes and without using its cash reserve funds. Because the Mayor and the City Council have been cautious and conservative in their management of city finances and operations, the District has avoided the budget problems that plague many jurisdictions today.

After more than 200 years of unchanged procedures here in the Congress, the city's record today and the bill we are considering today should be the beginning of improvement of congressional processes in aid of greater efficiency for the D.C. government. Even full city autonomy over its local budget would not deprive the Congress of the right to make changes by legislation.

Congressional enactment of the Home Rule Act after a century of struggle was a major breakthrough. However, Congress has made no major step toward self-government since 1973. Surely the place to begin is with the city's own budget. Today must mark a long awaited step toward equal citizenship and equal treatment by the Congress. At the very least, the District is owed a Congressional response in kind to the very substantial improvements the city has made in its finances and operations for six years. The way to begin is by matching the District's greater efficiency in managing its finances and operations with the same in our own processes. The way to begin is with budget autonomy.

THE AMERICAN JUSTICE FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the American Justice for American Citizens Act, which exercises Congress's Constitutional authority to regulate the federal judiciary to ensure that federal judges base their decisions solely on American Constitutional, statutory, and traditional common law. Federal judges increasing practice of ''transjudicialism'' makes this act necessary. Transjudicialism is a new legal theory that encourages judges to disregard American law, including the United States Constitution, and base their decisions on foreign law. For example, Supreme Court justices have used international law to justify upholding race-based college admissions, overturning all state sodomy laws, and, most recently, to usurp state authority to decide the age at which criminals becomes subject to the death penalty.

In an October 28, 2003 speech before the Southern Center for International Studies in Atlanta, Georgia, Justice O'Connor stated: ''[i]n ruling that consensual homosexual activity in one's home is constitutionally protected, the Supreme Court relied in part on a series of decisions from the European Court of Human Rights. I suspect that with time, we will rely increasingly on international and foreign law in resolving what now appear to be domestic issues, as we both appreciate more fully the ways in which domestic issues have an international dimension, and recognize the rich resources available to us in the decisions of foreign courts.''

This statement should send chills down the back of every supporter of Constitutional government. After all, the legal systems of many of the foreign countries that provide Justice O'Connor with ''rich resources'' for her decisions do not respect the same concepts of due process, federalism, and even the presumption of innocence that are fundamental to the American legal system. Thus, harmonizing American law with foreign law could undermine individual rights and limited, decentralized government.

There has also been speculation that transjudicialism could be used to conform American law to treaties, such as the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, that the Senate has not ratified. Mr. Speaker, some of these treaties have not been ratified because of concerns regarding their effects on traditional American legal, political, and social institutions. Judges should not be allowed to implement what could be major changes in American society, short-circuit the democratic process, and usurp the Constitutional role of the Senate to approve treaties, by using unratifed treaties as the bases of their decisions.

All federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, take an oath to obey and uphold the Constitution. The Constitution was ordained and ratified by the people of the United States to provide a charter of governance in accord with fixed and enduring principles, not to empower federal judges to impose the transnational legal elites' latest theories on the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the drafters of the Constitution gave Congress the power to regulate the jurisdiction of federal courts precisely so we could intervene when the federal judiciary betrays its responsibility to uphold the Constitution and American law. Congress has a duty to use this power to ensure that judges base their decisions solely on American law.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do their Constitutional duty to ensure that American citizens have American justice by cosponsoring the American Justice for American Citizens Act.