

and we are responsible to them and our communities to be involved in these critical choices, teaching them responsibility and good decision making.

The Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act upholds the safety laws of individual states and protects parents' rights to be involved in decisions regarding their children. I thank my colleagues who voted for this legislation and urge the Senate to quickly pass this legislation to ensure the safety of our children.

INTRODUCING THE WATER FOR  
THE POOR ACT OF 2005

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Water for the Poor Act of 2005, with Representatives CLAY SHAW, TOM LANTOS, JIM LEACH, GEORGE MILLER, and TOM TANCREDO as original cosponsors. The Water for the Poor Act complements legislation introduced by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, S. 492, the "Safe Water: Currency for Peace Act."

This bill highlights a pressing issue: up to 5 million people die each year from lack of access to clean water and sanitation, including 1 child every 15 seconds. One in six people in the world—over 1.1 billion people—lack access to clean water and one in three people—over 2.3 billion people—don't have access to adequate sanitation. As half of the people in the developing world are sick at any given time from a water-related disease, water and sanitation access is a major barrier to fighting poverty and increasing economic productivity.

The Water for the Poor Act focuses American efforts to meet President Bush's commitment to cut in half the percentage of people without access to water and sanitation by 2015. This bill makes expanding access to clean water and sanitation a major objective for U.S. development efforts. It highlights innovative funding methods to increase the amount of public and private resources available and requires USAID to develop a strategy and measurable goals for increasing water access in an affordable and equitable way.

A TRIBUTE TO MADAME FAUSTA  
DELBEAU ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fausta Delbeau in honor of her 100th birthday which she will celebrate on April 30.

Fausta was born in Jacmel, Haiti on April 30, 1905. She was married to Jeannel Delbeau. They had seven children: Nirva, Paulette, Yves, Marie-Theresa, Jean Claude, Claudette and Adeline. She moved to Cuba in the 1940's before Fidel Castro's rise to power. Fausta left in the 1960's, just a little while after Castro took over, migrating to the United States of America where she has permanently resided since then.

Mrs. Fausta Delbeau has been a U.S. citizen for more than 20 years. She has worked very hard, through difficult and trying times and circumstances, to educate and provide for her immediate and extended family members.

A devout Christian believer in the Seventh-Day Adventist message, Mrs. Delbeau has been an active and fervent member of the Hebron S.D.A. Church in Brooklyn, NY. She is now a member of Maranatha! French & Creole Speaking S.D.A. Church in Queens, NY. She has always devoted her heart to the work of charity and community service both with the church and in her personal life.

Mr. Speaker, Madame Fausta Delbeau has lived a long and fruitful life in three different countries. She has remained true to her Christian beliefs throughout her 100 years and as such is worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING PINE FORGE ATHLETIC  
ASSOCIATION

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pine Forge Athletic Association on the occasion of its 35th anniversary.

In 1970, the Pine Forge Athletic Association was founded by Merle Harner and Robert "Skip" Trainer. Both men had young children who wanted to be involved in youth sports, but the neighboring area sports programs were overcrowded. Mr. Harner and Mr. Trainer took it upon themselves to create the Pine Forge Athletic Association in order to give the youth of the community an opportunity to play baseball and softball with their friends and neighbors.

The Association started with a philosophy and a mission to provide insightful instruction on the basic fundamentals of baseball and softball, while at the same time instilling the players with moral values and good sportsmanship. The Association also emphasized giving each team member an opportunity to play in each game.

The first team in 1970 had approximately 12–15 players and played at a small field at the Pine Forge Elementary School. Since the early 1970s, the Pine Forge Athletic Association has grown tremendously in size. Today, there are nine different divisions in the Association that accommodate players from the ages of five to nineteen. To accommodate the large number of participants, the Association utilizes at least fifteen different locations that host Little League, t-ball, softball, and a rookie league.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring not only the Pine Forge Athletic Association for the positive contributions it has made to the citizens of Berks County, Pennsylvania, but also Merle Harner and Robert "Skip" Trainer for helping with the positive development of the moral, physical, and emotional well-being of the young men and women who have participated in the Pine Forge Athletic Association over the past 35 years.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF CONNIE HEADRICK, RAHE  
BULVERDE ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Connie Headrick, Rahe Bulverde Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Connie Headrick holds a Bachelor's degree from Dakota State College in Madison, South Dakota, and a Master's degree from the National Louis University, European Region. She has 30 years of experience as an educator. Today, she is a Resource Special Education teacher at Rahe Bulverde Elementary School, in the Comal Independent School District.

Ms. Headrick believes that the best results are achieved by treating each child as an individual. She summarizes her teaching philosophy by saying, "each student has needs, and addressing these needs with respect gives the child value." Once children learn to value themselves, Ms. Headrick says, they can begin to accomplish their goals.

Connie Headrick is a valuable and dedicated educator. Her 30 years of experience have made her an effective teacher and a tremendous resource for her students, and for the families of the Comal Independent School District. By teaching her students how to value themselves and see their own potential, she opens up a brighter future for them. She is truly a credit to her profession, and I am proud to have the chance to recognize her here.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy:

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, our country needs to reduce its dependence on foreign oil and increase its national energy independence. Increasing our energy independence will stabilize future energy prices, benefit American consumers and businesses, and enhance both our energy security and our national security.

As a member of the House Renewable Energy Caucus, I have supported measures to encourage and increase the use of renewable and alternative energy sources. H.R. 6 included tax incentives for energy efficiency programs and renewable energy sources such as wind and solar production that I would like to vote for. As a co-chair of the Biofuels Fuels Caucus, I also support the renewable fuels standard which I have promoted to decrease our dependency on foreign oil, help U.S. farmers and protect the environment.

There are several issues, however, that concern me about H.R. 6, and these issues have continually blocked congressional passage of comprehensive energy legislation over

the last few years. It has become clear that removing these provisions would ensure that the Senate will pass, and the President will sign, this measure.

Section 22 of H.R. 6, provides for drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). While some consider this area to be one of the most promising U.S. onshore oil and gas prospects, studies indicate that this area could only provide six month's supply of oil, 10 years from now, and consequently have no significant effect on our nation's dependence on foreign oil. This 1.5 million acre coastal plain, however, is an area often referred to as "America's Serengeti" because of the presence of caribou, polar bears, grizzly bears, wolves, migratory birds, and many other species living in a nearly undisturbed state. In fact, the Refuge and two neighboring parks in Canada have been proposed for an international park, and several species in the area are protected by international treaties or agreements. In the 108th Congress, I supported a conference agreement on H.R. 6 that eliminated the provisions opening up ANWR for drilling. A future conference agreement needs to eliminate this controversial section from this bill to ensure its passage.

Title 15, Section 1502 of H.R. 6, contains a safe-harbor provision protecting producers of methyl tertiary butyl ether [MTBE] and other fuel oxygenates from product liability claims. This provision includes language applying the safe-harbor retroactively, potentially barring several pending suits against some of the worst environmental polluters in our country.

Under this provision, cities and towns would be prevented from bringing against potential offenders "defective product" lawsuits, which some cities have employed to recapture the cost of MTBE clean ups. Approximately 130 lawsuits have been filed by states, cities, water districts, and businesses over MTBE contamination. The trade association for the MTBE industry conservatively estimates that a nationwide cleanup of MTBE will cost between \$500 million and \$1 billion. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, however, maintains that those costs could run higher than \$29 billion. Our states and localities, which are struggling with budget deficits, should not be forced to pay the tab for these clean ups. If our states and localities are forced to pay these costs, the real costs will be borne by taxpayers, who should not be responsible for the actions of a few MTBE producers.

I also cannot support provisions in this legislation that do nothing to safeguard electricity consumers from unscrupulous utility companies that abuse market power and manipulate electricity prices. Rather than holding these electricity companies accountable, this bill would weaken consumer protections regarding electricity. I supported Representative JOHN DINGELL's amendment that would have protected electricity consumers by increasing penalties for violations of the Federal Power Act and would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to refund electricity overcharges. Unfortunately, the House defeated this amendment that would have helped safeguard electricity consumers.

I urge my colleagues to work together to pass a true comprehensive energy legislation that is fiscally responsible and that protects consumers, our communities, and environmentally sensitive areas. Our national energy situation should not be a partisan issue, and

I hope that both parties can come together to do the right thing for America.

CONGRATULATING THE TRINITY VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CARDINAL CHEERLEADERS

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to congratulate the Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC) Cardinal Cheerleaders for their recent victory in the National Cheerleaders Association Junior College Division Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida. The Cardinal Cheerleaders posted an impressive score of 9.04 in the final round, earning TVCC their eighth national cheerleading title, the team's third since 2001.

On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the members of the TVCC Cheerleading team including: Kolan Lynch, Amber Trahan, Dreekus Burton, Eric Mahame, Loren Taylor, Kynan Downs, Jacqueline Vogel, Andy Cessac, Erica Weems, Charles Gilbert, Kyle McCall, Courtney Pike, Danny Ogura, Jennifer Tacker, Adam Yeatts, Lindsey Gonzales, Jesse Salas, Drew Clements, Megan Centeno, Dion Bagby, Wendy Hall, Kyle Fowler, Roxann Wylie, and Greg Smalley. I would also like to congratulate their coach, Lucy Strom, on their tremendous victory.

The Cardinal Cheerleaders exemplify the hard work and team spirit of TVCC's student body and the institution's continuing commitment to excellence.

TRI-CAUCUS MINORITY HEALTH BILL

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the Tri-Caucus commemorates and closes Minority Health Month by offering the "The Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2005".

I join my colleagues in calling for bipartisan support and immediate consideration of the Tri-Caucus minority health disparities bill which will provide long-needed resources to combat the growing racial and ethnic health disparities in minority communities across the country.

The tri-caucus bill re-prioritizes and funds efforts for prevention, education and data-collection; all essentials to reduce the overall cost of treatment and reduce disproportionately high rates of emergency health services in minority communities.

Equality in health service is still a distant and difficult goal. Until the United States makes health care a basic human and civil right we will never close the disparities gap.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is criminal that in the United States the color of your skin and the languages that you speak can make you more likely to die of HIV/AIDS, heart disease or diabetes, as a result of our broken and culturally insensitive health care system.

The numbers are staggering: Cancer: African Americans are 23 percent more likely to die from all types of cancer than Whites. African American men die twice as often from prostate cancer than Whites.

Cancer: Breast cancer is diagnosed 13 percent less frequently in African American women than White women; however African American women die more often.

Heart Disease: African Americans suffer the most from the disease. Around 40 percent of African American men and women have some form of heart disease, compared to 30 percent of White men and 24 percent of White women. African Americans are also 29 percent more likely to die from the disease than Whites.

Diabetes: African Americans are twice as likely to have diabetes as Whites. African Americans with diabetes are more likely to experience complications of diabetes.

Diabetes: Diabetes related eye disease, is 40 to 50 percent more common in African Americans than Whites. Kidney failure is about 4 times more common in African Americans with diabetes than in Whites with diabetes. Amputations of lower extremities (legs and feet) are also more common in African Americans with diabetes.

Diabetes: As of 2002, two million Hispanic adults, about 8.2 percent of the population, have diabetes. About one-third of Hispanics with diabetes are undiagnosed. Hispanics are 1.5 times as likely to have diabetes as Whites. And, in 2001 the death rate from diabetes in Hispanics was 40 percent higher than the death rate of Whites.

I could go on and on, but I'll just end this list of statistics by giving you a quick overview of HIV/AIDS in our communities. HIV/AIDS has had a devastating impact on minorities in the United States.

HIV/AIDS: Racial and ethnic minorities accounted for almost 70 percent of the newly diagnosed cases of HIV and AIDS in 2002. More than 90 percent of babies born with HIV belong to minority groups.

HIV/AIDS: More than 54 percent (14,398) of HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2002 were in African Americans. African Americans are ten times more likely to die of AIDS than Whites.

HIV/AIDS: AIDS is the leading cause of death in African American women aged 25-34 and the third leading cause of death in African American men in the same age group. More than 64 percent of HIV positive infants are African American.

HIV/AIDS: HIV/AIDS is spreading at a rapid rate in the Hispanic community. Hispanics accounted for around 20 percent of AIDS cases in 2002, despite making up only 14 percent of the U.S. population. Hispanics are 60 percent more likely to be diagnosed with AIDS than Whites. Hispanics were also almost three times more likely to die of AIDS than their White counterparts in 2001.

The Congressional Black Caucus, Hispanic Caucus and Asian Pacific Islander Caucuses have come together because we see the need to offer solutions for the inclusion and the prioritizing of minorities in the health care system which today is sorely inadequate.

Our goal, like that of the American public, is the complete elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities.

I believe that with this bill we have provided a good first step toward that goal.

In this bill, we have diagnosed the major health care shortfalls and provided sound and culturally-conscious solutions.