

elections. Therefore, I would like to work with the cosponsors of this bill on legislation soon after the elections in Ethiopia that would allow us to be more comprehensive and develop a legislative response that is consistent with the importance of this country in America's overall Africa policy.

Today, a number of colleagues joined me in sending a letter to Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, urging him to rescind the expulsion of three American NGOs helping to build democracy—the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. For the sake of continuing democratic progress in Ethiopia, we hope the Prime Minister will respond positively to our request.

Again, Eritrea and Ethiopia are concentrating on building their military forces, and they are neglecting the very pressing needs of their people. Now their mutual militaries seem poised to renew open warfare due to unresolved issues involving their common border.

Both nations have increased their deployment of troops on the security zone border. Ethiopia recently added 30,000 troops for an estimated total of 90,000 armed men, most said to be within 40 kilometers of the frontier. While it is unclear exactly how many troops the Eritreans have deployed, they feel empowered to threaten military action if the current stalemate concerning the international border commission's ruling is not accepted fully by the Ethiopian government.

As recently as Tuesday of this week, Eritrean President Isaias announced at his ruling party conference that war with Ethiopia is imminent. President Isaias said his upcoming budget would be planned with war in mind. Presumably that budget will include funding for the arms the Eritreans agreed last month to buy from Russia.

If the war resumes, Ethiopia's Tekeze dam and Eritrea's port of Assab will be prime targets, which will only make worse an already precarious state of development in both nations.

It is difficult to understand why these formerly friendly nations would risk further devastation for territory not particularly blessed with natural resources. However, one must keep in mind that this border dispute actually dates back to the somewhat vague borders drawn by Italy, the former colonial power. So long as Eritrea and Ethiopia were united under colonial or dictatorial rule, the border issues were not pressing.

The peace process that eventually ended the war was predicated on an international commission impartially ruling on the demarcation of the 1000 kilometer border between the two countries. However, the decision of the commission has only been accepted "in principle" by the Ethiopians, who stand to lose their access to the Red Sea. The Ethiopian government is publicly complaining about loss of the town of Badme, hardly a strategic center. Meanwhile, the Eritreans refuse to even discuss the matter further.

U.S. policy should be clear on the Eritrea-Ethiopia dispute, but it appears to have depended on the old paradigm. We are supportive of both Eritrea and Ethiopia; however, issues such as the fight against global terrorism and the effort to contain Sudan's hostile government have caused American policy to tread lightly on development, democracy and human rights issues in those countries. We

should not have to choose between security and democracy and human rights. It is not an "either-or" situation but "both-and." We must find a new framework for U.S. policy in the Horn of Africa, and we called this hearing partly to see how the Administration is addressing the full range of our concerns in this region.

Both Eritrea and Ethiopia make themselves more vulnerable to internal turmoil by their inability to address the many other vital issues they face even if there is a stalemate in the border dispute. This is neither in the short term interest of these two nations nor in the long term strategic interest of the United States. Identifying a more effective policy toward resolving the Eritrea-Ethiopia dispute was the focus of today's hearing.

IN HONOR OF MR. GEORGE COUCH

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend George Couch for his tremendous commitment to education in general, and to the Latino youth of my district in particular. This coming Saturday, May 7, 2005, the San Benito County Mexican-American Committee on Education (MACE) will recognize George for his tremendous help in making educational opportunities available to young people in San Benito County.

George graduated from Stanford University and followed that up with an MBA from Harvard. He has used this education and his business smarts to build several successful companies in the Monterey Bay Area. These include Triad Broadcasting Company in Monterey which operates 49 broadcast radio properties nationwide, and Couch Distributing Company in Watsonville which has retail beverage customers throughout the region.

George is a lion of a man who cares deeply about righting wrongs. He does not seek out the limelight, but rather looks for quiet ways to make a big impact. That theme of making an impact and getting results underpins all of his community and philanthropic work. George serves as a Trustee of the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation; trustee of the Leon and Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy; member of the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County; member of the Governing Board of Cabrillo College in Aptos; member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California; and member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz county Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

George Couch's work with MACE certainly follows this pattern of service. As an organization, MACE offers scholarships to Latino youth in San Benito County to further their education beyond high school. Over the years MACE has helped dozens of San Benito County students achieve their goals. The financial and moral support offered by MACE has been instrumental in their success. This achievement is in no small part due to the efforts of George Couch whose steadfast support and guidance of MACE over the last 19 years has played a central role.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House when I congratulate Mr. Couch

on this well deserved recognition. His service stands as a beacon to others. I am pleased to have this opportunity to honor Mr. Couch and express the gratitude of MACE and the broader community for the results that flow from his selfless leadership.

TRIBUTE TO MARLA RUZICKA

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young woman, Marla Ruzicka, who was tragically killed in Iraq on Saturday, April 16, 2005, when a suicide bomber attacked a convoy of U.S. security contractors passing her vehicle on the road to Baghdad airport. Marla was traveling on the road to visit an Iraqi child injured by a bomb, part of her daily work with the humanitarian organization she founded—The Campaign for Innocent Victims of Conflict (CIVIC). Marla, who was only 28 years old, worked tirelessly and fearlessly on behalf of civilian victims of war in some of the most dangerous parts of the world, accomplishing more in the area of human rights during her short life than most people do in a lifetime.

It is Marla Ruzicka's affiliation with Southampton College, an institution which I served as Provost for many years, that has made her tragic death very personal to me. Marla earned her undergraduate degree through Southampton College's Friends World Program, an academic program that stresses the careful consideration of world problems, and encourages a life of committed action in the world community. Many of my colleagues on the faculty and staff can recall Marla's passionate commitment to making a difference in the world, and were moved by her enthusiasm for helping those in need. To those of us who knew of Marla, it was no surprise that she gave up her life to serve the needs of others.

Marla's concern for the victims of world injustice began early in life. A Northern California native, Marla began her work as a human rights activist for the San Francisco office of Global Exchange at the young age of 15. It was at this time that Marla first demonstrated her desire to educate others about global injustice by organizing discussions for her high school classmates about such issues as the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba. During her undergraduate education, Marla traveled to the Middle East, Cuba, Zimbabwe, and Nicaragua where she witnessed firsthand the suffering of those who lived there. After earning her degree, she continued her work with Global Exchange and traveled to Afghanistan after Operation Enduring Freedom, where she recorded the military campaign's effects on Afghan civilians and used the information to garner assistance for the families harmed by the conflict.

In 2003, Marla organized her efforts in assisting the victims of war by founding an organization she named CIVIC—The Campaign for Innocent Victims of Conflict. Marla's assigned mission for CIVIC was both to achieve an accurate accounting of civilian casualties caused by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to secure assistance for their families. In pursuing this mission, she spent weeks at a time

traveling the dangerous roads of Afghanistan and Iraq to personally interview the injured and their families, document their experiences, and work with U.S. military officials to earn them compensation. In organizing a group of 150 Iraqi volunteers who went to hospitals and into towns, Marla helped produce the first comprehensive list of people killed or injured in Iraq by U.S. weapons.

Marla also achieved a great deal of success in recruiting the efforts of military personnel, humanitarian organizations, and the U.S. Congress for her cause. Through her boundless energy and determination, she lobbied the Senate and helped win the insertion of language in an appropriations bill that provided \$2.5 million to help victims in Afghanistan; this money has now grown to \$7.5 million. She also succeeded in securing a \$10 million appropriation for Iraqi victims, which is used to rebuild homes and schools, provide medical assistance, and make loans. While in the Middle East, Marla networked with military commanders, realizing they often had the freedom and resources to assist victims quickly.

In her interactions with Congress, the U.S. military, and others in positions of authority, Marla persuasively argued that achieving an accurate accounting for the loss of life in Iraq and Afghanistan would not only make the recompense of wartime civilian casualties easier, but would also assist U.S. led reconstruction efforts. Through it all, Marla's sunny disposition and ability to make friends easily proved invaluable in recruiting the assistance of journalists, U.N. officials, non-governmental organization staff, and the U.S. military in documenting the plight of civilians and providing relief to war-torn families.

Marla's contributions to the most vulnerable of citizens did not come without making a great deal of personal sacrifice, however. CIVIC operated on a shoe-string budget of about \$100,000 a year, which often left Marla depending on friends and family to secure enough money for airline tickets and living expenses. When returning to the U.S. from overseas, Marla would often stay with friends, sleeping on their sofas, to continue her work when returning to the United States. Her ability to succeed in the most difficult of circumstances is a testament to her natural ability and drive, and serves as an inspiration to many.

Mr. Speaker, few people possess the undying commitment to selflessly and courageously pursue justice on behalf of the less fortunate as did Marla Ruzicka. During her lifetime, Marla viewed it as her personal obligation to fight for the less fortunate in this world and, under the most difficult of circumstances, demanded and achieved justice for so many victims of war and conflict. Her relentless dedication and optimism won over the hearts of the most influential people, making it possible to relieve the suffering of those most in need. Her actions were nothing short of heroic, and should serve as an inspiration to us all. I ask those in this distinguished body to join me in offering my condolences to Marla's parents, Clifford and Nancy Ruzicka. They should be commended on their daughter's extraordinary commitment to improving the world one life at a time.

RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY: THE ROLES OF FDA AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES IN ENSURING THE SAFETY OF APPROVED DRUGS LIKE VIOXX

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak about this critical public health issue that has affected the entire U.S. The Vioxx case presents us with a valuable opportunity to examine an industry in order to help it improve. The problem is not only that the FDA does not have sufficient regulatory authority to protect the public, though that is certainly true. The problem actually lies with the way pharmaceuticals are priced. I'll explain.

In the Vioxx case, Merck displayed a litany of predatory behavior. Vioxx research teams were stacked with people who had financial associations with Merck. Merck manipulated research protocols. They delayed publication of negative findings about Vioxx. They succeeded in getting people to take Vioxx that did not have a medical need by spending \$161 million for direct-to-consumer advertising alone. And direct lobbying to doctors is a well-known practice that has the same result. Lastly, 10 members of a 32-member FDA advisory board in charge of determining whether Vioxx should continue to be allowed on the market, had ties to industry. Had those advisers abstained, the committee would have voted that Vioxx should not return to the market. And these are only the things we know about. More concerns are likely to be uncovered as we dig deeper.

Would Merck be doing all this if Merck was the only maker of Vioxx? Absolutely not. When there is competition in manufacturing, just like there is in most other sectors, the capability to squeeze so much profit from a single drug is gone. But under a monopoly, which is what Merck has with its patented Vioxx, the sky is the limit on profits. Only the patent holder or licensee can sell it, so they control the market. And when a company controls the market, they have considerable leeway to corrupt the process in ways similar to what we have seen with Merck.

The usual justification for patent monopolies is that patents are yielding innovation, which is critical for new pharmaceuticals. But we are not getting that innovation. The number of New Molecular Entities approved by the FDA has been in decline several years running. Copycats or me-too's constitute roughly 70 percent of new FDA approved drugs. In other words, the pipeline is drying up.

If we want to avoid another Vioxx down the road, we need to get to the root of the problem. We need to bring innovation back up, control perverse incentives, and drive drug prices back down to a similar level as other developed nations. We do that by changing the financing of pharmaceuticals.

Put simply, the NIH, which is currently responsible for much of the innovation in pharmaceutical research, should drastically increase its already successful pharmaceutical research program. The innovations that result should be available for any qualified entity to manufacture, which would introduce competi-

tion into the market. It would boost innovation, competition would drive down prices as it does in the generics market, and the incentive to engage in Merck-like behavior would be drastically reduced.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANTHONY BENEDETTI

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to honor a man who has spent 37 years of his life representing the interests of working men and women in Central New Jersey.

Anthony Benedetti, on June 1, 2005, retires as Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the Sheetmetal Workers International Association Local 27.

For the last several decades, Anthony Benedetti has unselfishly represented the Sheetmetal Workers International Association. His outstanding work and leadership have served as a guide to other employees throughout the years. It is doubtful that the Sheetmetal Workers International Association would have functioned the same way without his tireless efforts.

I want to offer Mr. Benedetti my congratulations and thanks for his outstanding career of service. It is with men like Anthony Benedetti that our nation's labor movement is such a huge success. He will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Anthony Benedetti as a determined and exceptional worker who affected the lives of many people.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE ASSERTED BY REPRESENTATIVE NADLER, H. REP. 109-51, CONCERNING H.R. 748, THE CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT OF 2005

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the point raised by the gentleman from New York regarding the malreporting of the Republican Leadership of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act of 2005.

Under Rule IX, paragraph (1) of the House Rules, Mr. NADLER justifiably asserts his point because not only his but my "rights and reputation" have been offended by the conduct of the Chairman in publishing House Report 109-51. To reiterate, the language used in pages 45-49 patently malreport and malign the authors of amendments to H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act of 2005.

Two days ago, on May 3, 2005, the Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary led debate on his resolution of privilege, H. Res. 253 that concerned the ways in which the act