

of the 15th district's most distinguished community and business leaders. Peter has dedicated the last six years of his life to creating a world without limits for people with diabetes both in California and all over the world.

Peter joined LifeScan Inc., a Johnson & Johnson company headquartered in Milpitas, CA, in 2000 to oversee U.S. sales and marketing. Peter's responsibilities soon expanded to global sales and marketing, eventually leading to his current position as president of LifeScan. Peter's commitment to people with diabetes and their families has positioned LifeScan as the leading global diabetes management company that partners with patients and healthcare professionals around the world to offer innovation that improves the quality of life. Over 21 million people in the U.S. alone have diabetes, and tens of millions more are at risk to develop this chronic condition in the near future. Peter has worked tirelessly to provide the most advanced, accurate, and clinically-based quality diabetes management products and services available today.

Peter's professional accomplishments have consistently reflected the Johnson & Johnson credo that guides all company employees to put patients first. Peter recently developed an industry-patient advocacy partnership called the Diabetes Care Coalition that created the "Know Your A1C" campaign. The media campaign carries the message of awareness about sound diabetes management and tight glycemic control to people with diabetes through public media outlets. The American Diabetes Association named Peter "Father of the Year 2004" and inducted him into their honorary Pinnacle Society.

However, of all the professional accolades Peter has received during his impressive career, I believe he is most proud of his devotion to his family as a committed husband and father. While Peter's wife Dina and their three children remain his nonnegotiable priority, he has been able to surpass business goals and at the same time strike a workfamily balance with humility, grace, and strength.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Peter well in his personal and professional endeavors as he departs LifeScan and California for a major corporate promotion that will relocate him and his family to New Jersey, and I thank him for his exceptional service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO THE ELIZABETH RIVER/ARTHUR KILL WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize a valued institution within my Congressional district. For the past 8 years, the Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill (ER/AK) Watershed Association has been dedicated to the education and empowerment of its diverse, multilingual residents by proactively addressing clean water issues. Through services such as water-quality testing, research and advocacy, the ER/AK Watershed Association, which is certified through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, stands apart from many environmental organizations because of its emphasis on educating under-

served communities about the environmental issues that affect their daily lives.

Responding to resident requests for community-generated graphics and maps of the watershed, the ER/AK Watershed Association worked closely with New Jersey's Rutgers University Center of Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis and the prestigious international Green Map organization to create a dynamic Green Map that will document the natural and cultural resources of our Watershed community. It is important to share with you that two other watershed universities, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Kean University, have generously provided formative and foundational resources to the ongoing development of the ER/AK Watershed Association.

I salute the ER/AK Watershed Association and its partners as they utilize their Green Map to enhance the quality of life in and around the watershed for its natural and human residents. I am proud to have this organization in my district and I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL TRADE REQUIRES UNMITIGATED TRUTH IN HEALTH (TRUTH) ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, in November 2005, President Bush announced a "National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza", which contained plans "to prepare our nation, and our world to fight this potentially devastating outbreak of infectious disease." Clearly, our government must develop and implement thorough plans to detect, respond to and recover from an avian flu pandemic in the event that an outbreak occurs in the United States. However, our country cannot effectively combat avian flu unilaterally. That is why today I am introducing the Global Trade Requires Unmitigated Truth in Health, TRUTH, Act, a bill that seeks to address global health risks in an era of unprecedented international commerce that has created enormous opportunities while also speeding the spread of communicable diseases.

As global trade increases the number of products crossing international borders at faster rates, we also see an increase in harmful and dangerous diseases flying across our borders. With mounting concerns surrounding avian flu and recent experience with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, SARS, governments have not only the right but the responsibility to protect their countries from the threat of disease.

Because avian flu cases have been confirmed in Asia, Europe and the Middle East and the ease of international travel increases the chances that avian flu could emerge in our country, our health officials need the latest epidemiological data as soon as cases are confirmed abroad. The Global TRUTH Act will ensure that all countries that participate in global trade are also good citizens when it comes to protecting the global public health.

The SARS outbreak in Asia in 2002 and 2003 highlighted the inherent dangers in de-

layed reporting of public health risks for the supposed benefit of international trade. When a country is reluctant to publicize early cases of disease for fear of such an announcement's economic effects, that disease is allowed to spread. In order to maintain a system of global public health preparedness, we should enshrine fundamental public health preparedness principles in the international trading system, including the World Trade Organization, WTO.

Unfortunately, press reports have indicated that Indonesian officials covered up and then neglected the spreading bird flu in Indonesia for 2 years until it began to infect humans. According to an Indonesian microbiologist, the Indonesian government could have eradicated its emerging avian flu outbreak if it had acted sooner. Moreover, Indonesia's national director of animal health admitted that Indonesian government officials did not set aside money to vaccinate poultry against the disease this year, despite assurances that such vaccination would be a principal component of the government's avian flu containment plan. Vietnam and China also reportedly failed to take steps that could have contained the virus in Asia.

As noted by the Indonesian microbiologist who first identified the flu virus in the country's bird population, failure of the Indonesian government to take prompt action to stamp out avian flu inside the country's borders has deadly consequences far beyond them. Two years ago when it was revealed that Chinese officials had covered up the existence of SARS inside their country, I urged President Bush to link international trade benefits to international cooperation on public health issues that transcend national boundaries. China eventually responded to international pressure by permitting World Health Organization, WHO, officials to investigate in the affected provinces, but, according to then-Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, "If Chinese authorities had reported cases in the beginning of the epidemic, the impact of SARS on the international health and economy would likely have been substantially more limited."

The avian flu outbreak spreading through Asia and Europe presents serious public health challenges for our government and nations around the world. Prevention and containment of infectious diseases are only possible if governments report outbreaks immediately, permit medical researchers to investigate cases, and take protective measures such as vaccinations and quarantines, where appropriate.

In order to both achieve vital public health goals and continue the spread of international trade, the Global TRUTH Act directs the U.S. Trade Representative to submit a proposal to the World Trade Organization, WTO, that states that the WTO take into account whether countries are undermining the international trading system through a failure to comply with the WHO's International Health Regulations. The Global TRUTH Act directs the U.S. Trade Representative to propose that the WTO should enforce strong public health considerations by imposing sanctions or other punitive measures on members who are found to violate the International Health Regulations as well as requiring all member countries to abide by rules of other international organizations with regard to public health. By requiring countries to follow the regulations of the WHO in order to be a member of the WTO, we will link

the related goals of improved global public health and increased global trade.

The Global TRUTH Act also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare an annual "Global Public Health Assessment", modeled on the State Department's country-by-country human rights reports. The purpose of the assessment is to report to Congress on the status of compliance with and observance of the International Health Regulations in each country that is a member of the World Health Organization.

The Global TRUTH Act is an important tool in the improvement of global public health standards and the ever-growing international marketplace. Louis Pasteur famously said, "Chance favors the prepared mind." Early detection is critical to the success of our Nation's avian flu preparedness plans. By working simultaneously to decrease global public health risks and remove a potential roadblock from international trade, the Act will ensure that international trade decisions are not made at the expense of public health, thus allowing for safer trade and a safer, healthier global community.

INTRODUCTION OF INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE NSA EAVESDROPPING

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 4 months since this Congress became aware of the NSA's secret surveillance activities, yet no Committee has held thorough and independent investigations into the program.

Before we legislate on this issue and give the Executive unprecedented and sweeping new authorities to conduct surveillance on Americans not suspected of terrorist activity, we must understand the true nature of the program, how effective it is, and whether it is even constitutional.

To that end, I am introducing the attached bill that will create an independent commission, evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate, to answer such questions.

I hope that my colleagues will put politics aside and do what we did in the 1970s when we found out that the Nixon administration was wiretapping Americans without warrants: conduct a thorough and independent investigation of all the relevant facts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month because of official business in Colorado I was not able to be present for three votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 82, H.J. Res. 81—Providing for the appointment of Phillip Frost as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 83, H. Res. 703—Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and supporting continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 84, H. Res. 744—Expressing support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland and support for continued police reform in Northern Ireland as a critical element in the peace process—I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCTION OF MATTHEW LYON POST OFFICE NAMING BILL

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill that would name the United States Post Office in Fair Haven, Vermont, in honor of Matthew Lyon, one of our nation's early defenders of the First Amendment, a former member of the Vermont House of Representatives, and Vermont's fourth Representative to the United States Congress. Matthew Lyon is also recognized as the founder of Fair Haven, Vermont.

Matthew Lyon plays an important role in the history of our country. He was the first person to be tried and convicted under the repressive 1798 Sedition Act. The Sedition Act was sweeping legislation passed during a period when America was engaged in hostilities with France. The purpose of the legislation was to punish Americans who opposed President John Adams' foreign policy toward France. This legislation was unquestionably a direct attack on rights explicitly protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Matthew Lyon's only crime was writing a letter to the editor critical of President Adams' foreign policy towards France and submitting another person's similar writings to a local newspaper that published them. Solely for expressing his views and exercising his First Amendment rights, Matthew Lyon was sentenced to four months in jail, required to pay the cost of his prosecution, and fined \$1,000. He was, however, subsequently pardoned by President Thomas Jefferson.

At a time when we find ourselves struggling to balance the security of our nation with the liberties we cherish, I can think of no better time to honor one of our nation's champions of the First Amendment's right of free speech. Naming the Fair Haven Post Office in honor of Matthew Lyon would be a fitting tribute to him and his fight for liberty, and would serve as a reminder of Fair Haven's connection to this great American patriot. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Government Reform Committee to move this bill through committee and onto the House Floor.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2006

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens. Financial literacy has been linked to lower delinquency rates for mortgage borrowers, higher participation and contribution rates in retirement plans, improved spending and saving habits, higher net worth, and positive knowledge, attitude, and behavior changes. Expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth.

A March 2005 GAG report entitled Credit Reporting Literacy found that educational efforts could potentially increase consumers' understanding of the credit reporting process and those efforts should target those areas in which consumers' knowledge was weakest and those subpopulations that did not score as well on GAG's survey, including those with less education, lower incomes, and less experience obtaining credit. Public, consumer, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates for Americans of all ages and walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, websites, and one-on-one counseling for individuals. In February 2005, Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT (R-IL) and I co-founded, and currently co-chair, the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, FELC, to (1) provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to work in collaboration with the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, (2) highlight public and private sector best practices, and (3) organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars, and events, such as Financial Literacy Month in April 2006 and the annual Financial Literacy Day fair on April 25, 2006. The Caucus has been a success.

I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters in support of a bill Congresswoman BIGGERT and I co-sponsored and that passed the House: H. Res. 737, a bill Recognizing the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month that falls in April of each year. The bill was reported to the House favorably by the Committee on Government Reform and passed the House on April 6, 2006 by a recorded vote of 423-1. The documents I am submitting today include letters of support for H. Res. 737 from the Federal Trade Commission and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. I am also submitting for the RECORD three letters in support of Financial Literacy Month. They include a letter from the President, George W. Bush, Rick Perry, Governor of the State of Texas, and the Southeast Regional Financial Education Center.