

barrier to a consistent food supply, and the development of expensive genetically engineered foods may only exacerbate this trend. Almost all research funding for the development of genetically engineered food target the developed nation's agriculture and consumers. However, agroecological interventions have had significantly more success in helping developing nations feed themselves with higher yields and improved environmental practices, all within reasonable costs for developing countries. This bill offers several new initiatives and protections to help developing nations resolve their hunger concerns:

To protect developing nations, genetically engineered exports are restricted to those already approved in the U.S. and approved by the importing nation.

The bill creates an international research fund for sustainable agriculture research paid for the Sustainable Agriculture Trust Fund, a small tax on biotechnology company profits.

THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED PHARMACEUTICAL AND INDUSTRIAL CROP SAFETY ACT

A pharmaceutical crop or industrial crop is a plant that has been genetically engineered to produce a medical or industrial product, including human and veterinary drugs. Many of the novel substances produced in pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops are for particular medical or industrial purposes only. These substances are not intended to be incorporated in food or to be spread into the environment. That would be equivalent to allowing a prescription drug in the food supply. Experts acknowledge that contamination of human food and animal feed is inevitable due to the inherent imprecision of biological and agricultural systems. This contamination by pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops pose substantial liability and other economic risks to farmers, grain handlers, and food companies. This bill attempts to prevent contamination of our food supply by pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops.

The bill places a temporary moratorium on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops until all regulations required in this bill are in effect.

The bill places a permanent moratorium on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops grown in an open-air environment and on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops grown in a commonly used food source.

The United States Department of Agriculture shall establish a tracking system to regulate the growing, handling, transportation, and disposal of all pharmaceutical and industrial crops and their byproducts to prevent contamination.

The National Academy of Sciences shall submit to Congress a report that explores alternatives methods to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals that have the advantage of being conducted in controlled production facilities and do not present the risk of contamination.

STATEMENT ON COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of "Cover the Uninsured Week," which runs from May 1–7, 2006. This annual nationwide campaign asks Americans from all walks of life to demand that health coverage

for Americans be a top priority. I look forward to the day when we will no longer need such a week because all Americans would have the coverage they need.

Mr. Speaker, as it stands, nearly 46 million Americans—8 million of whom are children—have no health care coverage. The health insurance and health care crisis in this country is worsening each year. As health care costs continue to rise, every family's health care coverage is at risk. Job-based health insurance continues to decline, and for millions of low-income workers, health care coverage is not even an option.

I am particularly dismayed about the high rates of uninsurance for certain populations. Californians have among the highest rates of uninsurance in the Nation. More than one in five Californians—nearly 6.6 million children and adults under age 65—were uninsured for all or part of the year. Racial and ethnic minorities also have high rates of uninsurance. Racial and ethnic minorities comprise about one-third of the U.S. population but disproportionately comprise 52 percent of the uninsured. One in five African Americans are uninsured, one in three Latino Americans is uninsured, and nearly one in three Native Americans and Alaska Natives are uninsured.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), I want to highlight the fact that one out of every five Asian Pacific Islander Americans does not have health insurance. Overall, Asian Pacific Islander Americans are far more likely to be uninsured than non-Latino Whites (21 percent vs. 14 percent). Uninsurance rates vary significantly by subgroup. For example, 34 percent of Korean Americans, 27 percent of Southeast Asian Americans, and about 20 percent of Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, and South Asian Americans do not have health insurance.

The health of our Nation is dependent upon the health of our citizens. We need a healthy society if we are to remain globally competitive in education, technology, business, and other areas. Our top priority in Congress should be to find solutions to transform our healthcare system into one that is comprehensive, universal, and sustainable.

Our Federal investment must reflect this priority to provide coverage for the 46 million Americans across the country who deserve a guaranteed health insurance system. We must expand our Federal safety net, stop slashing Medicare and Medicaid, and work to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. We owe it to our parents, children, and future generations to solve this problem.

HONORING GOVERNOR JOHN ANDERSON

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the work of Governor John Anderson, a man who chose a life of public service. His service to Kansas and the United States was spread across the middle part of this century and spread across the three branches of our government.

After being educated by both Kansas State University and the University of Kansas he

began his career as a public servant by joining the staff of U.S. District Court Judge Walter Huxman. Continuing with the judicial branch, Governor Anderson was elected as Johnson County Attorney in 1947. His election to Kansas State Senate in 1953 gave him the opportunity to serve as one of Kansas' state legislators for three years. Governor Anderson was appointed as Kansas Attorney General in 1956 and was then elected Governor in 1960.

During his two years in the state's top position, Governor Anderson used his diverse government experiences to help reform and restructure several institutions, including: the state's pardon and parole systems; the public welfare system; and the state's public school system.

I would encourage my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring this public servant by passing H.R. 4674, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 North Chestnut Street in Olathe, Kansas, as the "Governor John Anderson, Jr. Post Office Building."

HONORING NOTRE DAME SCHOOL IN MICHIGAN CITY, IN

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege of honoring an academic institution that should stand as an example of what is good and right about our education system in America. All too often we rush to give a speech about what we feel is wrong in this country, but I believe that it is much more admirable to have that same intensity with what is right about our great country.

Notre Dame School has provided an excellent education for preschoolers all the way through 8th graders for 50 years. They have built and strengthened the characters of thousands of students instilling in them an appreciation of service and the discipline of excellence.

Notre Dame School students have consistently scored in the 95th percentile on Indiana's statewide standardized tests, and have continually produced leaders for this country, most notably our current Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John Roberts.

Mr. Speaker, words cannot convey how privileged I feel to have such a school within the 2nd Congressional District. I congratulate Principal Karen Breen, all of the teachers, administrators, staff and students of Notre Dame School on 50 years of excellence, and I look forward to 50 more years of great achievements.

A TAX CUT FOR THE REST OF US

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, the "Tax Cut for the Rest of Us" Act of 2006 (H.R. 5257) transforms the standard income tax deduction into a "refundable" standard tax credit. Doing so will not only simplify the tax code, but put

more money into the pockets of poor Americans.

For 25 years, refundable tax credits—such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the “additional child tax credit”—have proven to be simple, effective ways to help the poor.

The logical next step is to transform the standard deduction and personal exemptions into a refundable standard tax credit (STC) of \$2,000 for each adult and \$1,000 for each child. The STC will provide all the poor with a small but badly needed tax credit, and give a tax cut to virtually everyone who chooses not to itemize their deductions.

Transforming the standard deduction into a refundable tax credit will not eliminate poverty, but it will be an enormous benefit to the poor who were completely overlooked by the Bush tax cuts. The poor pay sales taxes, property taxes, and many other taxes, but because they do not pay very much in income tax, they have little to gain from tax simplification unless it includes something like the STC.

Transforming the standard deduction into a standard tax credit will give a tax cut to those who need it most. Now is the time to pass a “Tax Cut for the Rest of Us.”

RECOGNIZING MEADOW HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKET- BALL TEAM

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the Meadow Heights High School boys basketball team in Patton, Missouri. They broke the state and national record for three point goals in a single game. On February 11, 2006, the Panthers made 36 three point goals in a 131–66 win against visiting Marquand.

The Panthers, who average about 21 three point goal attempts a game, made 16 in the first half. They broke the state record of 24 three point goals with 1:26 left in the third quarter. The basketball team scored one more three point goal in the quarter and 10 additional three point goals in the fourth quarter.

The feat surpassed the national record of 34 three point goals set by Juniata Valley High School of Alexandria, PA, according to the National Federation of High Schools, NFHS. NFHS certified the new school record on February 25, 2006.

This accomplishment was made possible by the hard work and cooperative effort of the Meadow Heights High School boys basketball team. These young men are a great example of teamwork and sportsmanship for the youth of Southern Missouri.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Head Coach Tom Brown, as well as the members of the Meadow Heights High School boys basketball team.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMTRAK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amtrak on its 35th Anniversary. Yesterday, Amtrak celebrated 35 years of committed service to America by providing reliable and safe transportation.

Rail service has integrated small communities with large cities across the country providing opportunity for economic expansion, increased mobility, and environmentally sound transit. With the creation of Amtrak in 1971, our country has benefited from organized, reliable and safe service to individuals commuting to and from work and individuals using rail service for extended travel. With the rising cost of airline flights, exceptionally high gas prices and bus stations being closed across the country, individuals are relying more and more on rail service.

In New Jersey, employers rely on an integrated rail operation to enable many of their employees to get to and from work. As a regular Amtrak rider, I appreciate the professionalism and service that customers enjoy every day. The continued operation of Amtrak is an essential component of easing traffic congestion, reducing wear and tear on roads, protecting our environment and preserving open space in New Jersey and across the country.

Amtrak needs the support of Congress. Funding cuts for Amtrak would have crippling effects on transit in New Jersey and many other states along the Northeast Corridor. In 2005, ridership reached a record level of more than 25 million riders, a 29 percent increase since 1996. We must meet the needs of millions of Amtrak riders through continued funding for this essential American service. We must help Amtrak maintain key infrastructure on the 650 route miles that Amtrak owns (out of 22,000 miles on which Amtrak operates), repair or replace old equipment, and encourage local and state investment.

I have always been a strong advocate for increased Amtrak funding and greater federal support for passenger rail service in New Jersey and throughout the country. I am a co-sponsor of the Amtrak Reauthorization Act, which would authorize funding through Fiscal Year 2008 for Amtrak operations and capital investment. We must show our commitment to Amtrak by reauthorizing funding instead of fighting every year to keep funding at a steady level.

Again, I congratulate Amtrak for its 35 years of service to our nation. Rail service is a fundamental component of our nation's continually growing transportation system, and Amtrak has demonstrated the capacity of integrated rail service to expand economic opportunity, commuter options, and make vital contributions to the fabric of our communities.

HONORING DANIEL AND CHRISTINA FINN OF THE PATRIOTIC PILLOW PROJECT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel and Christina Finn, founders of the Patriotic Pillow Project, also known as Operation Comfort.

Daniel T. Finn is a Vietnam veteran who proudly served his country during the years of 1966 and 1967. Upon return to the United States, Mr. Finn received a teaching degree and currently teaches at Carver, the Nation's largest public military academy in Chicago.

Christina Finn serves as a medical health professional. In this career, she has observed that the healing process includes both emotional and psychological healing, as well as physical repair. For this reason, when Dan and Christina's oldest son was deployed to Iraq, the Finn's founded the Patriotic Pillow Project. This project lovingly and respectfully collects pillows to send to wounded GIs to lift their spirits and honor the recipient.

United Airlines and an organization called C.A.R.C. in Chicago have provided the pillows. Then, anyone who can stitch a straight line and follow the pattern provided is encouraged to handcraft a pillow cover. The pillow covers are quilted replicas of our Nation's Flag.

Since September 2004, the Patriotic Pillow Project has received 4,350 pillows and delivered more than 2,350 finished gifts of gratitude. This is quite an accomplishment for a project that started out as a single page document distributed to friends and various organizations.

It is my honor to recognize Dan and Christina Finn, founders of the Patriotic Pillow Project for their many achievements in supporting our heroic American GIs.

RECOGNIZING FRESNO COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the county of Fresno upon the celebration of its 150th birthday which was on April 19, 2006. Since 1856, 6 years after California became a State, Fresno County has created a rich history mired in agricultural ingenuity, pride and immigrant perseverance. I was pleased to recently help Fresno County celebrate its storied journey with a gathering at its historic Santa Fe depot.

As we celebrate this occasion, it is only fitting that we go back to one of our county's beginning points, the Santa Fe depot. As a major hub for the valley's newly arrived, the depot marks the commencement of agricultural prosperity, serving as the location where many of the county's goods were transported to vast markets. Whether their arrival was by covered wagon, stagecoach or train, we celebrate the westward journey of the early settlers with the example set by our valley's student pioneers.