

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ONCOLOGY NURSING MONTH

HON. LOIS CAPPs

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mrs. CAPPs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care and to recognize May as “Oncology Nursing Month.” Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and managing the associated side-effects patients may experience. As anyone who has ever been treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial, and supportive care to patients and their families. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment. In short, they are integral to our Nation’s cancer care delivery system.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease. People with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specializing in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. One in three women and one in two men will receive a diagnosis of cancer at some point in their lives, and one out of every four deaths in the United States results from cancer. Today, more than two-thirds of cancer cases strike people over the age of 65, and the number of Medicare beneficiaries is projected to double in the coming years. Last year approximately 138,680 people in California were diagnosed with cancer and another 55,960 lost their battles with this terrible disease.

Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration, and education in the field of oncology. ONS is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 35,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. The Society’s mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. I am pleased that ONS has 19 chapters in California which support oncology nurses in their efforts to provide high quality cancer care to patients and their families throughout our state. I commend ONS and its members for their steadfast commitment to improving and ensuring access to quality cancer care for all people with cancer.

I am proud to support the goals and ideals ONS and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing oncology nurses for their communities not only in May, but year-round.

THE JOHN R. JUSTICE PROSECUTORS AND DEFENDERS INCENTIVE ACT OF 2007

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act, a bill that will help local governments to recruit and retain talented young people to their district attorney and public defender offices.

Tuition has been rising steeply at law schools across the country, increasing more than 130 percent at private law schools since 1990. Unfortunately, scholarships and pay at part-time jobs have simply not kept up. As a result, students have been forced to take on additional debt in order to afford a legal education. By 2006, the average law student graduated with nearly \$80,000 of debt. Eighty thousand dollars would have bought a nice big house in Los Angeles in my parents’ day!

But this debt load affects more than just the credit scores and disposable incomes of recent graduates. It affects their career choices. Young people bearing the burden of eighty and hundred thousand dollar debts must seek jobs that will provide enough income to allow them to make their loan payments as well as pay for transportation, rent, food, clothing, healthcare, and other necessities.

However, many government and public service jobs do not provide this level of pay to starting lawyers. Some locales can only afford to pay starting attorneys \$36,000 a year (even while the top New York law firms pay their starting attorneys \$140,000 or more). It’s no surprise, then, that an entire generation of bright young people can’t afford to consider the possibility of becoming a district attorney or a public defender.

That is why I am pleased to join the American Bar Association, the National District Attorneys Association, and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association in support of this important bill, which will provide student loan repayment assistance to borrowers who remain employed for at least 3 years as state or local criminal prosecutors or state, local, or federal public defenders.

We want and need the best and brightest to join these professions. Indeed, public trust in the justice system requires trust in the attorneys tasked with prosecuting and defending the accused. I am proud to support local and state attorneys in enforcing their laws and proud to support this bill.

CONGRATULATING THE WE THE PEOPLE TEAM FROM FINDLAY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to highlight the outstanding achievements of a group of young scholars from my congressional district.

Last month, Findlay High School students Christina Back, Anthony Baratta, Kyle Collette, Meghan Gannon, Jessica Gephart, Bryant Hendriksen, Emily Janowiecki, Stephen Kostyo, Jaime Malloy, Debra McCaffrey, Jade Mumert, Will Olthouse, Nicholas Rackley, Michael Sears, Caroline Solis, Stephen Strigle, Rebecca Walter, and Matthew Wiseman represented the State of Ohio in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program. They joined more than 1,200 students from across the country at this three-day competition in Washington.

Authorized by act of Congress, the We the People program allows high school students to develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our republic. Students testify at mock congressional hearings before a panel of experts, answering questions that test their understanding of the Constitution and their ability to apply that knowledge. Columnist David Broder has described the national competition as “the place to have your faith in the younger generation restored.”

These 18 students continue a long tradition of success for Findlay High School in this competition. I commend them for their hard work—along with the efforts of their teacher Mark Dickman, who helped them prepare for the local, state, and national competitions. In addition, I salute the tireless work of Jared Reitz, the state coordinator for We the People, and district coordinator Libby Cupp.

Madam Speaker, all of Ohio can take great pride in the performance of these scholars, who are excellent role models for their peers. They are perfect examples of all that is right in our education system today, and are to be commended for a job well done.

TRADE AND LABOR

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in addressing the House and the American people regarding our trade policy and its effect on working families.

I’d like to thank my colleague, PHIL HARE, who organized this special order debate and

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

who is an active member of the Congressional Labor and Working Families Caucus and the House Trade Working Group.

On May 10, the Administration and Members of this House announced a “New Policy on Trade.”

It’s about time. Democrats have been calling for a new direction in trade for years. Finally, the Administration appears to be listening to these calls for improved provisions to protect workers, their families, and the environment. I applaud the baby steps the Administration has taken. But the Administration needs to take giant leaps to improve on its current, failing approach to trade.

This new “deal” on trade covers changes to certain provisions of the Bush-negotiated Free Trade Agreements, FTAs, with Peru and Panama. Though we have seen outlines and summaries of this new “deal” on trade, we have not seen the final, legal text. Yet we have been asked to trust the Administration’s promises and support this new “deal.”

To those of us in Congress who have been working to champion the rights of American working families and begin a new approach to trade, the Administration’s promises sound awfully familiar.

And when I say awful, I mean awful.

Each time this Administration has presented one of its trade schemes to Congress, it has promised us that the agreement includes all sorts of so-called “innovative” worker protections. We heard this over and over again during the debate on the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

But the fact is, no matter what label you use to describe them, the so-called labor protections in CAFTA were disappointingly weak. For example, under CAFTA, countries can down-grade their own labor laws, without facing any trade penalties or sanctions.

Allowing our partners in free trade deals to erode their own labor standards is unfair to our workers here at home, who can’t possibly compete with workers who are denied basic workplace rights, who are paid two dollars a day, or who face forced labor—as our own State Department reported was the case in Oman.

CAFTA passed the House by the narrowest of margins at a time when it was Republican controlled. You would think that the Administration would have gotten the message that it needed to do better.

You would think the Administration would have realized that from then on, it should include more of us in the process and work out a different type of trade deal.

But unfortunately no one was listening. Since CAFTA, we’ve seen the same weak labor provisions in the Oman FTA.

And now we are asked to have faith that the Administration has really turned over a new leaf? That enforceable labor and environmental standards will be included in the text of the Peru and Panama agreements?

I have faith in many things, but not in these promises.

This Administration has lost my faith. It has lied too many times, about too many things: that Iraq posed an imminent danger, that the mission in Iraq was accomplished, that at least nine U.S. attorneys were fired because they were incompetent, that the air around ground zero was safe to breathe, that we have not been experiencing any change in our climate.

Perhaps more importantly, even if these agreements are the best written, fairest trade

agreements possible, so long as they rely on this Administration to enforce the labor and environmental standards they contain, they are not worth the paper they are written on.

This Administration has failed to protect workers here in the United States. The BP Texas City explosion, the Sago Mine Disaster, and the 9/11 first responders and clean-up workers who have developed serious breathing ailments—these are just the most notorious examples of this Administration’s relinquishment of its responsibilities to provide even the most basic protection to workers: the right to work in a safe environment.

And that’s not even mentioning the Administration’s opposition to increasing the minimum wage, to protecting pensions and Social Security, and to ensuring that workers have the right to organize.

The Bush trade deal would give private corporations the ability to take action on their own to protect their rights. It would not, however, extend that same power to workers, who would have to rely on the Bush Administration to do that for them.

Trust this Administration to protect working American families? I don’t think so. This new trade deal—like the previous bad deals—is a one-sided raw deal for workers.

We’re continually told that NAFTA-style free trade will create more wealth in all the countries involved. Yet NAFTA-style free trade has meant the loss of jobs as those jobs have been shipped overseas.

Just as trickle-down economics proved to be a failure at lifting people out of poverty, the current free trade model has also proved to be a failure. Since NAFTA, the real income of working families has been on the decline or stagnant at best.

The middle class is getting squeezed from all directions. Downward pressure on wages is being accompanied by higher health care costs, higher gas prices, and higher education costs.

It’s high time to develop a new trade policy that works for working families. American workers came out in droves in the last election, and they voted for a new majority. As part of the new majority, we owe it to them to stand with them for fair trade. To stand with them in creating a new America.

This is possible.

Fair trade is an option.

If we stand united for working Americans, we can deliver a real new deal on trade, not warmed over hash masquerading as caviar. You know the old saying about putting lipstick on a pig? Well, I smell bacon. I don’t have to read the complete text of the deal to read between the lines.

The bottom line is this: minor adjustments to NAFTA-style deals are not good enough.

No more agreements based on the failed NAFTA model.

No more “Fast Track” trade negotiation authority.

We cannot give this Administration or future ones a blank check on trade deals that devastate our communities.

Trade can benefit our economy and the economies of our trading partners. We can negotiate deals that create new markets, bringing new jobs and new prosperity. We can achieve significant new foreign market access and reduce our trade deficit.

But to do so, we must embark on a new path. Not a slight detour from our current direction.

I challenge Republicans and Democrats, employers and employees, all those who care about shared prosperity in this country, and not just the rich getting richer, to work together to embark on this entirely new journey to fair trade.

COMMEMORATING AZERBAIJAN’S REPUBLIC DAY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise as a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and member of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan—a strong strategic partner and ally not only to the United States but also among the democratic nations of our world—as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28.

Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire in 1918—becoming the first ever Muslim democratic republic. Although the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic only lasted 2 short years, succumbing to Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan made great strides in areas such as state building, education, and economic growth. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was even ahead of the United States in terms of granting suffrage to women; which didn’t happen here in the U.S. until 1920.

Azerbaijan’s second opportunity for freedom and independence began in 1990 when Azerbaijanis began openly gathering in protest against Soviet rule. Tragically, January 1990 will forever be known to all Azerbaijanis as Black January, as these peaceful demonstrations were crushed by Soviet intervention at a cost of over a hundred and thirty civilians’ lives.

Yet even in the face of such brutality Azerbaijanis never gave up their dream of freedom and independence and following the final collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan quickly declared its re-independence.

By August 30, 1991, a free Azerbaijan’s Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitution was approved.

Having lived under Soviet rule, the people of Azerbaijan have a great appreciation of living in a democratic civil society and since its re-independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan has been an invaluable ally in the Global War on Terror; committing both their human resources and their leadership to the fight. Azerbaijan was among the first nations—Muslim and non-Muslim—to offer unconditional support to the United States in the war against terrorism; providing airspace and the use of its airports for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Today, Azerbaijan peacekeeping troops continue to serve with distinction in Kabul under the leadership of the International Security Assistance Force.

Azerbaijanis have also fought shoulder-to-shoulder with our troops in the second front in the war against terrorism, Iraq. In fact, Azerbaijan—in another first—was the first Muslim nation to join the Coalition and send troops to Iraq.