

is as bright as an early summer morning sunrise over the Appalachian hills.

Today, and every day, West Virginians thank the Lord for our bountiful blessings. We are kindred spirits, bound together in loyalty and love for our fine state. And everyday, wherever we may roam, we think of "happy home" and that place among the hills that truly is "Almost Heaven."

SBA ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007. I am a strong supporter of Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs). These centers continue to do a lot of good work to promote job creation and small business development throughout our nation. There are three SBDCs that serve constituents in the 16th District of Illinois and they do phenomenal work in oftentimes a difficult local economic climate with limited resources. But I fear that the various SBDC bills we debate this week may kill the program with kindness.

The bills all taken together proposes to create nine new grant initiatives within the SBDC program. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the bills would add \$122 million in additional spending in Fiscal Year 2008 alone and \$365 million over the next five fiscal years. When you consider that the Democrat-controlled House Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee recently provided a generous increase of \$11 million for the regular SBDC program to reach \$100 million for Fiscal Year 2008, these bills taken together proposes to more than double the size of the SBDC program. In an era of tight budgets, I don't think any program deserves a 122 percent increase.

I am sympathetic to many of these initiatives. I am particularly supportive of making sure that Small Business Administration (SBA) employees do not interfere in hiring decisions of local SBDCs. I also support provisions in Section 207 to require more information, primarily through Internet Web-based technologies, about regulatory compliance to small business owners.

But there are still significant outstanding budgetary issues. Throughout my tenure as the former Chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I tried numerous times to see the National Regulatory Assistance and the Native American Entrepreneurial Assistance SBDC initiatives, among others, become law. Last year, we reached a common-sense consensus that in order to get these new initiatives into law, the high \$135 million authorization level for the overall SBDC program should be proportionally reduced. However, that consensus is not in these bills that we are debating this week. I find it odd that the "pay-go" fiscal conservative rhetoric of the Democrats is not met by reality. There are no spending offsets in these bills.

Some of these initiatives also are duplicative of existing Federal programs. For example,

the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program administered by the Department of Commerce through local centers across the nation offers the very same services that are outlined in Section 203 of H.R. 2359. The National Veterans Business Development Corporation (or Vets Corp) offers the same services as those being proposed in H.R. 2366.

I also have concern that some of the provisions in H.R. 2359 go beyond the mission of SBDCs, which historically has been primarily targeted at helping new or struggling small businesses. For example, Section 206 requires that SBDC grant recipients "shall also attempt to negotiate lower health insurance premiums for small business concerns that seek the assistance of the recipient." In my view, it is not the role of SBDCs to get involved in the pricing health insurance premiums. Section 204 of H.R. 2359 establishes a new program to help transition so-called "mature" small businesses even though there is no definition of what the authors of this legislation mean by "transition" or "mature" small business. Again, I don't think it is the role of SBDCs to be involved in initiatives that could result in the closure of small businesses.

I also fear that creating these nine new initiatives all at once will give false hope to SBDCs seeking to receive these grants. These initiatives will not start until a specific amount separate from the regular SBDC appropriation is allocated from the Appropriations Committee. In principle, this is a good policy to help insure that the money to run the regular SBDC program is not raided to fund these new initiatives. However, noting that the Democrat-controlled House Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee just provided a long-overdue increase for the regular SBDC program, I seriously doubt that any of these specific SBDC initiatives will be funded at a significant level in the near future, further diminishing the expectations behind this legislation.

Finally, these nine new initiatives create many hoops for local SBDCs to jump through in order to qualify for these grants. These bills will create a paperwork and accounting nightmare for SBDCs to keep track of various grants, particularly if they apply and receive multiple awards under different initiatives, for the programs they administer. In retrospect, it is probably best that Congress provides an overall increase in the appropriation for the regular SBDC program and then require that all SBDCs provide some services (even if it is to network with another specialized SBDC or another Federal partner such as a local MEP center or the Vets Corp) in the nine issue areas outlined in H.R. 2359, H.R. 2366, and H.R. 2284 as opposed to the micro-management approach as contained in these bills.

Mr. Speaker, last year, I predicted that if Democrats took over control of Congress, spending on the Small Business Administration (SBA) would dramatically increase. Never in my wildest dreams did I think they would be so brazen. Elections do matter. Thus far this year, the CBO estimates that the Democrat-controlled House Small Business Committee has authorized \$5.4 billion in new spending over the next 5 years—\$1.379 billion in fiscal year 2008 alone. With these bills on the suspension calendar this week, proposed spending on the SBA will grow once again. All totaled, the CBO estimates that spending on the

SBA will increase by nearly \$5.8 billion over 4 years and \$1.525 billion in fiscal year 2008 alone. To put this massive spending increase in perspective, the House Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee recommends providing \$582 million in total spending on the SBA in fiscal year 2008. I urge my colleagues to stand up for fiscal responsibility and to prevent mission-creep within the SBDC network by voting against these bills.

CALLING ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO CHARGE IRANIAN PRESIDENT WITH CERTAIN VIOLATIONS BECAUSE OF HIS CALLS FOR DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted "present" on H. Con. Res. 21 because I believe it dilutes the definition of genocide and would ratchet up tensions with Iran without any likelihood of actually doing anything about Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's dangerous anti-Semitism and Iran's ability to inflict harm on Israel. Instead, we need a new framework for relations with Iran that advances our interests and values through engagement and support for the Iranian people. At a time when we haven't dealt meaningfully with the serious and ongoing genocide in Darfur, I am not convinced it advances our long-term interest in strengthening the international legal regime against mass killing by defining another Muslim leader's call for Israel's destruction as genocide.

A TRIBUTE TO ANGEL ROSARIO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Angel Rosario. Angel was born in 1960 in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from John Jay High School in 1979, where he earned All-City Honors in baseball in 1978 and 1979. After high school, Angel played baseball at Long Island University where he was named a collegiate all-star in 1982.

In 1997, Angel graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Community Health from Empire State College. While working towards his degree, Angel became heavily involved with the New York City Department of Health HIV Bureau. He worked with the Bureau for 9 years, from 1990 through 1999; he spent 7 of those years in the Managed Care field.

Currently, Angel serves as a Marketing Director for Healthfirst which operates in hospitals that are under the direction of the Health Hospital Corporation. Angel has kept himself busy by working closely with his community for the past 25 years. He oversees Summer Day Programs, Beacon Programs and After School Programs. He works with both senior citizens as a Social Service Worker, and with

children in a group home for teens. Angel says this is the type of work that makes him happy and encourages him to continue to involve himself with communities in need.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Angel Rosario, as his passion for helping people in need has significantly impacted those in his community.

Madam Speaker, Angel Rosario's work service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my district on Monday and Tuesday of this week and missed rollcall vote No. 119 through vote No. 126. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 499, 500, and 501. On Tuesday, June 19, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510 and 511.

HONORING THE NORTH TEXAS FOOD BANK ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize a landmark that was achieved by an organization that addresses critical issues of hunger in the north Texas area by securing wholesome foods and grocery products for distribution through a network of charitable organizations. This year the North Texas Food Bank will celebrate the completion of its Oak Cliff warehouse project in time for its 25th anniversary.

The North Texas Food Bank was founded in 1982 and in the first year of operation the food bank distributed 400,000 pounds of food. The food bank is committed to serving the community and has continuously done so by reaching out to all of Texas and the entire Nation.

Recently, the food bank completed an extraordinary renovation and will now be able to store and distribute more food within its 72,000 square foot facility. The food bank is now equipped with an entirely new shelving system, two large freezers and a refrigerator that can hold 400 pallets of food.

Even during all of the reconstruction, which took more than a year, the food bank continued its commitment to food distribution. With the new renovation, the food bank has the capacity to move 50–55 million pounds of food through the warehouse and bring the community into the warehouse.

I am delighted to congratulate the North Texas Food Bank on its 25th anniversary and expansion. The North Texas Food Bank is an important asset to the Dallas area, and their dedication and hard work is seen throughout our community. I would like to thank Jan Pru-

itt, the Chief Executive Officer, the volunteers and members of the North Texas Food Bank on their dedicated service to the Dallas community and I wish them many more years of success.

HONORING GENEVA HAYDEN AND THE COMMUNITIES UNITED TO REBUILD NEIGHBORHOODS (CURN)

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mrs. Geneva Hayden for her creation and development of the Communities United to Rebuild Neighborhoods (CURN) organization. Over the last thirteen years, Mrs. Hayden has reached out to more than five hundred inner city youths, making a significant impact on their lives.

An organization that began in Mrs. Hayden's living room as a makeshift library and homework help center, CURN has grown into an afternoon and summer program, and has positively impacted children from some of Syracuse's most challenged neighborhoods. Mrs. Hayden has organized literacy parades, picnics, and field trips to Boston, Toronto, and Washington D.C., helping to enhance the sense of cultural diversity among the children in her community and increase their exposure to a world of opportunity.

Mrs. Hayden is not only the driving force behind the organization, but is also the heart and soul of CURN. She took it upon herself to rally neighbors to pick up trash, drove drug dealers from the area, provided transportation for neighborhood kids to and from school, and inspired pride in young men and women in her community. Mrs. Hayden's organization instills positive values within today's youth and offers hope for a brighter tomorrow.

A wife, mother, and retired educator, Mrs. Hayden's devotion to the welfare of her community's children is most honorable, and sets an example in which all of us can aspire. I congratulate Ms. Hayden on her achievements and the positive impact she has made on her community and its youth.

HONORING CHARLES KANE

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I recognize Charles Kane, a man who dedicated his life to serving seniors, children and anyone in need. Earlier this month, Mr. Kane passed away after a fight with cancer. With his passing, Bucks County lost a great community leader and a committed advocate for senior citizens.

Mr. Kane was well known for his work in Bucks County, where he led numerous services agencies, including the Area Agency on Aging. By those who had the pleasure of working with him, Charlie will surely be missed, not only for his exceptional talent but his unwavering compassion. He truly cared

about the many individuals he helped on a daily basis throughout his impressive career. Madam Speaker, Charlie touched countless lives and his kindness will always be remembered.

Composed and professional, there was never any question about his passion. Charlie Kane had the enthusiasm and creativity to always find a way to get his job done to serve Bucks County. Madam Speaker, there was no challenge too insurmountable and no case too difficult for Mr. Kane. He was a man that the community could rely on.

Mr. Kane will always hold a place in our hearts. Our community must embrace the passion for helping others that Charlie exemplified. Even in this time of sadness and mourning, we must see Charlie and his work as an inspiration. Madam Speaker, Mr. Kane's efforts on behalf of Bucks County residents will have a lasting impact and his legacy will be that of a man who dedicated his life to helping others. Madam Speaker, I thank the other Members of Congress for joining me in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Charles Kane.

CALLING ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO CHARGE IRANIAN PRESIDENT WITH CERTAIN VIOLATIONS BECAUSE OF HIS CALLS FOR DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution. This resolution is an exercise in propaganda that serves one purpose: to move us closer to initiating a war against Iran. Citing various controversial statements by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, this legislation demands that the United Nations Security Council charge Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Having already initiated a disastrous war against Iraq citing U.N. resolutions as justification, this resolution is like *deja-vu*. Have we forgotten 2003 already? Do we really want to go to war again for U.N. resolutions? That is where this resolution, and the many others we have passed over the last several years on Iran, is leading us. I hope my colleagues understand that a vote for this bill is a vote to move us closer to war with Iran.

Clearly, language threatening to wipe a nation or a group of people off the map is to be condemned by all civilized people. And I do condemn any such language. But why does threatening Iran with a pre-emptive nuclear strike, as many here have done, not also deserve the same kind of condemnation? Does anyone believe that dropping nuclear weapons on Iran will not wipe a people off the map? When it is said that nothing, including a nuclear strike, is off the table on Iran, are those who say it not also threatening genocide? And we wonder why the rest of the world accuses us of behaving hypocritically, of telling the rest of the world "do as we say, not as we do."

I strongly urge my colleagues to consider a different approach to Iran, and to foreign policy in general. GEN William Odom, President