

greenhouse gas emissions. We must rapidly expand the production of clean, alternative fuels and increase energy efficiency. Our country has lost momentum due to the Bush-Cheney White House's inaction on global warming and energy independence. The new Congress will change course today.

A healthy and clean environment and renewable energy solutions are vital to the State of Florida and the Tampa Bay area. In my Tampa Bay area district, we are working to increase energy efficiency through organizations like the Clean Energy Research Center at the University of South Florida. My recent Tampa energy forum "Turning Green for the Red, White and Blue" drew great community interest. Our neighbors now are focusing on commonsense conservation initiatives. Nevertheless, leadership at the Federal level is vital.

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill invests \$3 billion in global climate change science and in renewable energy technologies that both reduce greenhouse gases and help our Nation meet its energy needs. Additionally, this bill will provide a 50 percent increase into research on energy efficiency and renewable energy, including solar, biofuels, hydropower, and geothermal, as well as new vehicle technology and energy efficient buildings and homes. Solar energy holds great promise for Floridians and I strongly support the new investment of \$200 million for research, development and demonstration projects to make solar energy more affordable.

On the first day of the new Congress, the House passed legislation to repeal \$14 billion in taxpayer subsidies given to Big Oil companies that are earning record profits while we pay record profits at the pump. Those monies now will be channeled into clean alternative energy technologies and energy efficiency. Doing so enhances our national security as our country will lessen its foreign entanglements with questionable, petrocentric nations.

Climate change is potentially the greatest threat to our national security and prosperity. Energy independence is vital to our future. I urge the Congress to act swiftly for the sake of my community and all Americans.

INTRODUCING THE FAIR BALANCE PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADVERTISMENT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act. This bill would place long overdue restrictions on direct-to-consumer, DTC, prescription drug advertisements. All too often, these poorly regulated ads provide incomplete and misleading information about new pills, pushing unnecessary prescriptions and promoting drugs before doctors and scientists have time to learn enough about their dangers.

Consumers, at whom these ads are targeted, don't realize that FDA approves drugs without confirming that they are safe for every treatment circumstance. As a result, many new drugs are widely marketed before the FDA discovers serious side effects and takes corrective action. Examples include drugs for

conditions as common as arthritis and high blood sugar.

As scientists have discovered, "DTC (direct to consumer advertising) is a successful method of generating prescriptions." Since ad restrictions were gutted in the U.S., drug advertising has grown at a startling rate, to a whopping \$4.2 billion in 2005. No surprise, drug costs have grown dramatically as well, from 78 billion in 1997 to more than 2 trillion in 2005. Pharmaceutical companies spend billions of dollars trying to convince consumers their drugs will fix everything from bad sex lives to bad moods. These ads lead consumers to demand drugs that may not be medically necessary or appropriate for their condition.

In many instances, DTC ads promote drugs that are later found to harm patients. In 2003, for example, Johnson & Johnson ran ads where Procrit seemed to rescue a cancer victim from disabling lethargy. Then new research came out showing cancer patients did no better on Procrit. In fact, some cancer patients actually did worse.

The FDA has now given Procrit a black box warning cautioning against the use of this drug in certain circumstances. The agency has also warned Johnson & Johnson and Amgen that there is no evidence to support marketing efforts suggesting the drug reduces fatigue for patients in chemotherapy.

By increasing demand for pricey new drugs when cheaper ones will do, DTC advertising also drives up the costs of prescriptions. Sadly when patients find they can't afford these expensive drugs, they skip doses or don't even start the treatment. Unbalanced ads for expensive pills therefore contribute to both higher costs and to poor control of chronic disease.

The Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act will empower the FDA to determine whether pharmaceutical companies present information about their products in a fair manner, balancing risks and benefits. Any advertisements found to violate this standard would be denied currently allowed business expense tax deductions for advertising costs.

Based on recommendations from the Institute of Medicine, the bill goes one step further and eliminates the business exemption for all new medications for the first 2 years that they are in the marketplace. This provision would provide doctors and scientists the opportunity to learn more about drugs' effects on a general population before consumers are bombarded with marketing pitches. Had this regulation been in effect when Procrit was introduced, many people would be better off today.

There are freedom of speech concerns with directly prohibiting advertising, accurate or not. This legislation therefore takes a different approach, hitting drug companies where it hurts them most, their bottom lines. While companies could continue running misleading ads, they would have to pay significantly more to do so. This will discourage drug companies from engaging in dishonest marketing practices.

The Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act sets forth new guidelines that will help the pharmaceutical industry appropriately educate the public, enabling consumers to make informed decisions based on a fair and balanced presentation of risks and benefits. Today's DTC ads simply don't meet that standard. Given rapidly rising health care and

prescription drug costs, we need to take every step we can to make prescription drugs safer and more affordable. We have to make sure advertisements aid consumers in making informed decisions, rather than simply increasing demand for the newest drugs.

Since the pharmaceutical industry already argues that their ads inform consumers, they should have nothing to fear from this bill. We should pass this bill immediately and take a concrete step to improve the safety and efficacy of prescription drugs for America's consumers. I urge all my colleagues to join me in support of the Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act.

TRIBUTE TO THELMA BERTIE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Thelma Bertie of the Bronx, NY, and to recognize her on the celebration of her 90th birthday. Ms. Bertie is an 87-year resident of New York and has exhibited steadfast commitment to American ideals by faithfully voting in every local and national election since reaching voting age. I commend her on this great dedication to her civic duty and I wish her a joyous day with many more happy moments ahead beside her loved ones.

Ms. Bertie has asserted herself as an active and conscientious citizen and has earned appreciation for her contributions to the community. Her life and accomplishments are true inspirations to the lives of all those she touches and I am honored that my district is called home by such an outstanding citizen. Ms. Bertie truly understands the value of being not only a New Yorker but an American as well, and the entire Bronx community is privileged to count her among its residents.

Madam Speaker, I join to congratulate Ms. Bertie on this birthday milestone and I wish her good health and fortune in the future.

CONGRATULATING LANCE CORPORAL WILLIAM BURKE JR.

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, LCpl William Burke Jr.

Lance Corporal Burke recently returned from Haditha, Iraq, where he served a 7-month deployment. He was assigned to Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps.

The city of Haditha saw unprecedented improvements when Lance Corporal Burke's Company E served. Upon arrival, Haditha was considered one of the most dangerous regions in Iraq. By the end of Lance Corporal Burke's deployment, the police force was rapidly growing, attacks on Iraqi Police and Marine patrols were steadily decreasing, and relations with the Iraqi people were improving.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Lance Corporal Burke, whose selfless actions benefit all Americans. Our Nation

owes Lance Corporal Burke and his fellow soldiers a great debt of gratitude for their service.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2641, the Energy and Water and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2008. I would like to thank Chairman VISCLOSKY and the Energy and Water Subcommittee for drafting a bill that clearly defines what our Nation's priorities should be in promoting and developing sustainable energy sources as well as taking a firm approach to dealing with our Nation's nuclear weapons complex.

This Energy and Water Appropriations bill is making two very important statements. The first relates to our Nation's energy path and climate change. I believe this bill starts to direct us to where we should be—which is on a sustainable energy course. By increasing the investment we are making to sustainable energy sources, we are making a commitment to developing an energy plan that promotes renewable energy, promotes efficiency and promotes conservation.

Last year, I criticized the Energy and Water bill for continuing the status quo and for not putting us on a path for a sustainable energy future. Today, the bill we are considering is vastly different. We have increased by 52 percent over the President's budget for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. This funding is used for energy efficiency programs such as technologies to make buildings more efficient and programs like EnergyStar. This bill also provides significant funding for alternative energy sources such as biomass, solar, and hydropower. These are the technologies of the near future and we must make the investment now.

Equally important is the public policy statement that this bill makes about nuclear nonproliferation and how we as a Nation bring rationality to our own nuclear weapons complex. Last year Congress approved a nuclear cooperation agreement with India. That deal, I believe, created a more dangerous and unstable world. We spoke at great length about the details of this cooperative agreement. We spoke at great length about how good a friend India is to us. We talked about the so-called reality of an imperfect ability to control the militarization of nuclear reactions. I said last year during that debate, that if we really believe that nuclear proliferation and loose nukes are the greatest threat to world peace and security, as I do, then we should be holding on to every tool we can find to prevent that threat.

That is why I am pleased that this bill sends a clear message about how we view our nu-

clear weapons complex. I believe that instead of wasting billions of additional dollars on a nuclear weapons program we don't need and that would only undermine our global nonproliferation efforts, our country should be dismantling its excess nuclear weapons and working to get other nuclear powers to join us in the effort to create a world free of nuclear weapons. Equally important, our country should be expanding its effort to secure loose or inadequately safeguarded nuclear materials in the former Soviet states. Securing these materials is our best insurance policy against terrorists getting their hands on such material and using it against us or our allies. For these reasons, I am pleased that the Energy and Water bill cuts the Department of Energy's portion of the RRW program. We must set a global example, and this is a start on moving us towards global nonproliferation.

Also, by way of my background as a scientist and researcher at the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab, I understand how essential it is to fully invest in programs like the Fusion Energy Sciences Program. I applaud the \$427.9 million investment in this program. Never has a national commitment to fusion energy research been more timely or important to our Nation's energy future than it is right now. Fusion energy is the power of the sun and the stars, and holds the promise to become an economical, safe and clean domestic energy source. Fusion is an energy source that has the potential to increase our national energy security, while also decreasing overall world carbon dioxide emissions. I am glad to see that the Committee has decided to honor our Nation's commitment to ITER, which is a seven nation fusion program being developed currently in Cadarache, France, by allocating \$160 million in funding. The remaining \$267.9 million will allow the United States to be competitive in the development and deployment of fusion energy and to train and retrain the next generation of young fusion researchers who will be expected to work on ITER and in the field of fusion energy research beyond ITER.

This is a good start for an energy appropriations bill. I thank the Chairman for his cooperation and leadership on this bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO CONTINUE PURSUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the signing of title IX into law. Title IX was enacted on June 23, 1972, and it marked a major milestone for American women.

Title IX is a deceptively simple piece of legislation, requiring that "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any

education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Who knew that one unpretentious sentence could accomplish so much? But title IX has provided the framework for an America that finally guaranteed a truly equal education for men and women.

The positive effects of this legislation are evident. Women now have the opportunity to participate in any sport they desire. Before title IX, two-time Olympic gold medalist Donna de Varona was effectively forced to retire from amateur swimming at the age of 17 because no American colleges were offering women scholarships in swimming or most other competitive sports. But today, just a generation later, NCAA women's sports and professional female sports leagues such as the WNBA are thriving and giving women everywhere chances to be superstars that they've never had before.

But I think the most telling effect of title IX is the fact that today, more women than men are attending college. Equal education for women was rare before 1972, when many law and medical schools allowed a maximum of 15 women in per year, and when women were often shut out of classes such as criminal justice and auto mechanics. Today, well over half of all undergraduate college students are women—and women outnumber men in graduate school enrollment, including high-paying, high-powered professional programs like law.

Title IX was all about opportunities. Title IX gave women new chances that they had never had before, and today, it is easy to see that women around the country are taking full advantage of them. While you might be able to name only a few famous women making news at the turn of the 20th century, it wouldn't take you more than a minute to name dozens—maybe even hundreds—of female news makers at the turn of the 21st century. It's amazing how many outstanding women have carved out careers in journalism, science, law, politics, sports, and the arts—and disheartening to imagine the amazing women of the past who were never given the chance. I am excited to see what today's little girls will do with the opportunities title IX will provide to them.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution honoring Title IX and the woman who played a key role in its passage, Congresswoman Patsy Mink. I was privileged to serve with Patsy on the Education and Labor Committee from the time I started serving in 1993. She took me under her wing and was a true mentor to me, inspiring me with her example.

There has been no stronger voice in Congress for girls, women, and minorities than Patsy's. Her work here has touched countless women's lives. Women today don't have to face the barriers and discrimination that Patsy faced when applying to graduate school.