

"commence" a rulemaking without the approval of the Regulatory Policy Officer. This means that a political appointee will be in the powerful position of vetoing or indefinitely delaying a rule, even when the rule is needed to carry out Congress' directives. This will slow down agency action even further and invite the politicization of agency decisions.

Executive Order 13422 will make it harder for agencies to issue common sense safeguards to protect health, safety, and the environment. With the Miller-Sanchez amendment, Congress is sending the message that this is not a good way to govern. I urge my colleagues to support the Miller-Sanchez amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OSTEOPOROSIS EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation, the Osteoporosis Early Detection and Prevention Act of 2007, along with my friend and colleague from West Virginia.

This important bill will ensure that individuals at high risk for osteoporosis have access to screening tests for the disease. The Osteoporosis Early Detection and Prevention Act of 2007 will require private insurance plans to cover bone mass (bone density) measurement testing for those at risk for developing the disease.

Approximately 44 million Americans suffer from osteoporosis or are at risk of developing it, and 80 percent of those at risk are women. Every year, there are 1.5 million bone fractures caused by osteoporosis. Half of all women and one-fourth of all men, age 50 or older, will suffer a bone fracture due to osteoporosis.

Since there is no known cure for osteoporosis, the most effective way to reduce the prevalence and cost of the disease is through prevention and early diagnosis. As a result, bone mass measurement tests are crucial to early detection because ordinary x-rays do not detect osteoporosis until the disease is so advanced that 25 to 40 percent of bone mass has been lost.

Osteoporosis is a disease that has no symptoms and usually remains undiagnosed until a fracture occurs. I am pleased to introduce a bill that requires private health insurance plans to cover a bone mass measurement test for qualified men and women who are at risk for developing osteoporosis. Bone mass measurement is a non-invasive, painless and reliable way to diagnose osteoporosis before costly fractures occur. I believe this legislation will make a huge difference in defending men and women from osteoporosis.

HONORING MICHAEL J.
CZOPKIEWICZ, EAGLE SCOUT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding constituent of my district, Michael J. Czopkiewicz, who will achieve the high rank of Eagle Scout on July 7th. Michael, a senior at Brother Rice High School, has demonstrated great dedication and commitment in the pursuit of this admirable goal.

Joining the Boy Scouts in first grade, Michael has met every test and challenge to pass through the six ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency in certain Scoutcraft skills, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Environmental Science, Personal Fitness, Family Life, and many more.

As Michael passed through the ranks, he learned the important life skill of self-evaluation through his participation in Scoutmaster conferences. At these conferences, Michael took time to evaluate his past performances and look to the future to create new goals. He also demonstrated the worthy qualities of responsibility and maturity by holding leadership positions within his troop and participating in service projects.

Michael's hardworking nature also extends outside the Boy Scouts. By working three jobs during the summer and one job during school, Michael has demonstrated his ability to successfully take on a variety of responsibilities. As a hardworking intern in my district office, Michael shows great interest in civic affairs and the betterment of his community.

It is my honor to commend Michael J. Czopkiewicz for his achievement of the high rank of Eagle Scout. As a new Eagle Scout, Michael will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like former President Gerald R. Ford. Michael's devotion to the Boy Scouts for over a decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to the community, and I know we can expect great things from him in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 57th anniversary of the Korean War, also known as the "Forgotten War", which began on June 25, 1950. In honor of this event the Embassy of Korea held a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on June 25, 2007.

As a decorated Korean War veteran I am proud that this ceremony has taken place to honor the brave soldiers that served and gave their lives while fighting this war. A conflict that started as a civil war became a war between 21 nations that served under the United Na-

tions against communist North Korea. As a result of this 3-year war the United States lost about 33,741 casualties. But, this anniversary is not only about recognizing the American soldiers that were lost in this war, it is also a time to recognize the British, Australians, South Africans and the brave soldiers from other nations that served in this war, as well as, the families of these soldiers whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice.

I commend the organizers of this event for their efforts to coordinate this special ceremony. Although this war is known as the "Forgotten War" lets make sure that it is not forgotten. This wreath-laying ceremony and other events commemorating the anniversary of this war helps to ensure that our children and their children will not forget those that fought to protect our freedom and peace.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying respect to the men and women who honorably served our nation in Korea and I urge you to also take a moment to honor the fallen heroes of the Iraq War as we celebrate our Independence Day next week.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
HOUSE REGARDING THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF PRIME MINISTER
TONY BLAIR

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague Mr. PETER KING for introducing this important resolution, which I was proud to cosponsor. I can think of no one more deserving of being honored by this body than Prime Minister Blair. For over a decade, he has proven to be a tremendous friend and ally of the United States, and we simply cannot say anything today that would adequately honor the contribution he has made to his country, to our country and to the cause of freedom throughout the globe.

And we know he has not made this great contribution without significant sacrifice. We have watched him at times endure an enormous amount of criticism and personal attack for the principled positions he has taken. But Tony Blair has steadfastly demonstrated what true leadership is. It does not always entail easy or popular choices. It does not always elicit cheers of support. Leadership in the 21st century, as we have come to realize, will often mean taking a very difficult stand against the enemies of freedom.

I believe that history will regard this principled leadership very highly. And as Mr. KING's resolution highlights, this leadership has been exemplified throughout Tony Blair's entire tenure as Prime Minister. By brokering the Good Friday Agreement, he has ushered in a new, peaceful era in Northern Ireland, bringing together all parties and giving them a critical role in their own government. He has been our close ally in every major conflict that we have faced together—Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

He was the first foreign leader to visit Ground Zero after September 11, 2001, and attended President Bush's address to the joint session of Congress 9 days after those tragic

attacks. And no other ally has contributed more forces to the global war on terror. The United States owes a great debt of gratitude to Prime Minister Blair and to the great people of his nation. We honor their sacrifices and their deep friendship.

NEW THREAT TO FREEDOM OF
SPEECH AND PRESS IN INDIA AS
WARRANT IS ISSUED FOR SIKH
EDITOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently an arrest warrant was issued by the government of Punjab for Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, a practicing physician, International Secretary General of Dal Khalsa USA, and Editor-in-Chief of the Sikh publication *Shamshir-e-Qaum*. Warrants were also issued for two of his associates. This is a blatant violation of the basic rights of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are two of the rights that are basic to democracy, yet they can be suppressed at will in "the world's largest democracy."

Dr. Udhoke's crime was to publish articles in his magazine that criticized the Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, and advocated freedom for the Sikhs. For this, he is under the cloud of an arrest warrant. He has had to go underground to avoid arrest.

Madam Speaker, this is frighteningly familiar. It is reminiscent of the tactics of the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, or any of the other totalitarian police states around the world which America has always opposed. How can any Member of Congress support such a blatantly authoritarian country?

I would strongly advise the Indian government to withdraw the arrest warrant against Dr. Udhoke. If it does not, it will confirm that it is the tyrannical, authoritarian, repressive regime that the minorities charge that it is, rather than the democracy it proclaims itself to be.

This is unfortunately just the latest chapter in a long line of repression against minorities. We have detailed for many years the tens of thousands of Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits, and other minorities who have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government, as well as the tens of thousands of political prisoners who are held in India, according to Amnesty International. Laws have been passed that prohibit anyone from converting from Hinduism to any other religion. Booklets have been published on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases. Sikhs have been arrested for marches and speeches. A Christian priest was forced to drink his own urine. And the arrest warrant for Dr. Udhoke shows that the repression goes on.

Madam Speaker, India's Constitution, like ours, guarantees freedom of speech and the Indian courts have ruled that peacefully advocating independence for Khalistan (or any other minority nation) is not a crime. So what was the basis for Dr. Udhoke's arrest?

I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing the Udhoke case to my attention. The Council of

Khalistan has issued a press release condemning the arrest warrant against Udhoke. I recommend it strongly to my colleagues. It shows the truth about how democracy is really practiced in India. The need for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Christians of Nagaland, the Muslims of Kashmir, and the other minorities within India's artificial borders to claim their God-given right to be free could not be clearer. If they can be arrested for articles they publish, how can they count on the government to protect any of their rights?

It is time for us to speak up and take action. We can help by stopping aid and trade with India until the basic human rights and civil rights of all people are observed. India can start by withdrawing the arrest warrant for Dr. Udhoke and his associates. We should also put the United States Congress on record publicly in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the people seeking freedom in South Asia in the form of a free and fair vote on their status. Isn't that the democratic way?

ARREST WARRANT FOR UDHOKE MUST BE
WITHDRAWN

WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 28, 2007.—The Council of Khalistan today demanded that the arrest warrant for Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, International Secretary General of Dal Khalsa USA and Editor-in-Chief of the periodical *Shamshir-e-Qaum*, and two of his associates be withdrawn. The arrest warrant was issued by the government of Punjab after Dr. Udhoke printed articles about the persecution of the Sikh Nation and how the Sikh religion is being attacked by the RSS and its political arm, the BJP. He criticized Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal in his articles. The Akali Dal government of Badal is in a political alliance with the BJP. Dr. Udhoke and his associates' persecution has been condemned recently by the World Peace Forum.

Dr. Udhoke is a medical doctor who takes care of the sick as well as being an activist for the interests of the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation. Dr. Udhoke, a resident of the Amritsar district, has been forced underground. He is charged with treason and antinational activities. His magazine, which was on the stands for sale, was removed by the Badal government. This action is a threat to freedom of speech, of the press, and of religion, which are basic democratic and civil rights.

Badal is the Chief Minister. As such, he is responsible for law and order. Yet he was quick to put out an arrest warrant for Dr. Udhoke for exercising his freedom of speech, but he had to be pressured into prosecuting Ram Rahim, the fraudulent baba who was impersonating Guru Gobind Singh, and he has not yet arrested him. This shows what the Badal government's priorities and allegiances are. He is more concerned with arresting those who defend the interests of the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion than those who violate it. Ironically, despite Badal's begging and pleading, Ram Rahim supported the Congress Party in the recent elections in Punjab.

"The arrest warrant against Dr. Udhoke shows that there is no freedom of speech in Punjab or in India," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "As the late General Narinder Singh said, 'Punjab is a police state.' Only a free Khalistan will allow Dr. Udhoke and all Sikhs to enjoy freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and all the rights of free people, rights that are the birthright of all people," he said.

"Badal's conduct is shameful for a Sikh leader," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "He is the leader of a government of the Akali Dal, which was organized to protect the interests of the Sikh Nation, yet he is in bed with the Indian government that is oppressing the Sikhs. Badal is under the complete control of the Indian government, rather than working for the Sikhs. We must free ourselves of corrupt, anti-Sikh leaders like Badal and his friends by liberating Khalistan," he said. "As former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh said: 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'"

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners in India.

The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistrate as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

"The Sikh masses and the Akali Dal must rise to the occasion and establish new leadership that works for the interest of the Khalsa Panth and abides by Sikh tradition," said Dr. Aulakh. "Badal and his government have betrayed the Sikh Rehmat Maryada, Sikh principles, and Sikh tradition. Their leadership must be rejected for the interests of the Khalsa Panth," he said. "Remember Guru Gobind Singh's words: 'In grieb Sikhin ko deon patshahi.' It is time to realize Guru Sahib's blessing. Only a free Khalistan will put a stop to occurrences like the arrest of Dr. Udhoke," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. The time is now to launch a Shantmai Morcha to free Khalistan."

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment by the gentleman from Virginia.

The Office of Special Counsel is a little-known agency with an important mission: it protects Federal whistleblowers from retaliation and enforces the Hatch Act, the law that prevents Federal officials from using Federal resources to engage in partisan politics.