

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN SULLIVAN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record that I missed rollcall vote 533 to H.R. 2764 taken on June 21, 2007. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "nay."

As an ardent supporter of the rights of the unborn, I am strongly opposed to H. Amdt. 367, which would allow international non-governmental organizations—NGOs—who do not comply with the Mexico City Policy to receive family planning assistance from the United States.

## FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 28, 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. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I represent a minority-majority district with a large Spanish-speaking population. These constituents work and pay taxes just like every Member of Congress. And, even if they are undocumented and work, they still pay taxes.

The IRS National Taxpayer Advocate has found that 6 percent of taxpayers do not speak English at home. For many of my hard-working constituents, having tax material in their native tongue greatly simplifies their ability to comply with the requirements of the IRS. This is the essence of good government and good citizenship. Isn't that what we want to encourage?

I commend the chairman for his foresightedness in directing the IRS to expand the availability of Internal Revenue Service forms and information in Spanish, the second most common language spoken at home by 28 million people. Let's face it—our very complex tax code takes an accountant to figure out. We could all use a little help.

Please oppose the Stearns amendment.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, next weekend Grand Junction is celebrating its 125th birthday. U.S. Rep. JOHN SALAZAR (CO-3) made the following statement:

"On Grand Junction's 125th birthday, I would like to express my appreciation of this unique and vibrant city and all its citizens.

"Since 'Governor' Crawford founded Grand Junction in the 1880's, the city's history has been remarkable. Though located in the arid Grand Valley, an innovative system of canals and water transfers were built in the late 19th century that allowed Grand Junction's farmers to begin growing fruit, and today Grand Junction is the 'wine country' of the state. As a farmer, I appreciate the importance of teaching younger generations the significance of agriculture and the tremendous value it imparts to a community.

"Grand Junction is also a national leader in all industries and fields. The Preferential Voting System was developed and first used in Grand Junction. Grand Junction citizens helped develop the New Deal, worked on the Manhattan Project and served in Congress.

"The area is also blessed with a variety of natural resources, including uranium and oil shale. In the 1980's the shale-dependent economy crashed after the withdrawal of Exxon Mobile, but with its typical determination, Grand Junction is now a thriving economic power. In 2000 this city was named the 12th strongest economy in the country, a tribute to the resiliency and strength of the citizens of the Grand Valley.

"On the 125th birthday of this city, we pay tribute to a special community that embodies the best of Colorado. Its blend of rural and urban life has enhanced this community and the life of its citizens. The past and traditions of this special place on the Western Slope are worth celebrating. It is an honor and a privilege to represent Grand Junction as it commemorates its 125th birthday."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Thursday, June 28, 2007.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 606 and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 605.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE EVERY STUDENT COUNTS ACT

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Every Student Counts Act. In 2001, Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act with broad bipartisan support. The purpose of No Child Left Behind was to ensure that every student in America could receive a quality education, and over the past 6 years, NCLB has helped shed light on many issues facing our education system today.

However, NCLB has not been without flaw. Certain aspects of the law are difficult to implement or are not having the results that we had hoped for. One of the major shortcomings

of NCLB is the law's failure to hold schools accountable for dropouts. Although we believed we addressed this issue in the original NCLB legislation, this portion of the law has not been implemented as we had hoped. Instead, under current law, the only meaningful accountability standard for high schools is students' scores on assessments, not how many students graduate or drop out of school. Unfortunately, this myopic accountability standard has created an incentive for high schools to push out students who are struggling academically, so that their tests scores are not counted in the assessments. Furthermore, the current accountability system also has allowed states to report graduation rates inconsistently and in misleading ways. Finally, NCLB does not require the disaggregation of graduation rates by subgroup, leading to incomplete data on how our schools are doing with all students.

This current high school accountability system is failing both our students and our Nation. Almost one-third of all high school students in the United States fail to graduate with their peers—about 1.2 million every year. In Virginia alone, each year nearly 24,000 students do not graduate with their peers. But the numbers are worse for minorities—only about 50 percent of African American students and 60 percent of Hispanic students graduate on time with a regular diploma, compared to 75 percent of whites.

These numbers only show the tip of the iceberg. Research shows that each dropout, over his or her lifetime, costs the Nation approximately \$260,000. At the current rate, more than 12 million students will drop out over the next decade resulting in a loss to the nation of \$3 trillion. Statistics also show that high school dropouts are more likely to be on public assistance programs—such as welfare—than students who complete high school. If high school dropouts do find employment, they are much more likely to work at unskilled jobs that offer little opportunity for upward mobility or promotions. Indeed, the median earnings of high school dropouts remain between \$20,000 and \$30,000 throughout their lives with little increase as they get older. Unfortunately, there is also a relationship between high school dropouts and prison; one estimate states that approximately two-thirds of all prisoners are high school dropouts. In one study in my home state of Virginia, 75 percent of the inmates serving life sentences were found to have reading achievement levels of 4th grade or worse.

Madam Speaker, the large number of dropouts in America's school system is also troubling in terms of America's position in the global economy. The globalization of the marketplace has altered the way the United States and other countries have to compete for business. With the rapid development of the global marketplace, the United States is no longer the single dominant country in the world economy. And in this economy, one of the major competitive advantages we have in America is our advantage in education. We certainly can't compete with other countries with lower wages when many around the world may work for a few dollars or even pennies a day. Nor can we compete in terms of location. Products can be made anywhere and shipped to customers anywhere else overnight. The technology of today—fax machines, cell phones, blackberries and wireless Internet—allows any

worker who can work across the hall to work across the globe. One of the main reasons businesses still want to locate in America is because we have well-educated workers. Because of this need for well-educated workers to keep our country competitive, we can't allow—or afford—people to drop out and not reach their full potential.

I am therefore introducing the Every Student Counts Act to bring meaningful accountability to high schools for America's dropout crisis. The legislation builds on the National Governors Association's Graduation Rate Compact, which was signed by all 50 of the Nation's governors in 2005. It would ensure that schools are held accountable for graduating students by creating a single, accurate, and consistent measurement for reporting and accountability of high school graduation rates. The Every Student Counts Act would require high schools to increase their graduation rates by meeting annual, research-based benchmarks with the long-term goal of reaching a 90 percent graduation rate. The bill would also require the disaggregation of graduation data by subgroup to ensure that schools are held accountable for increasing the graduation rate for all of our students. Finally, the bill would give schools credit for graduating students who need extra time by allowing students who graduate in 5 years to count toward a school's successful graduation rates.

It is my hope that with this bill, we can make great strides toward graduating more of America's students and preparing them to succeed in college and in life. I would like to thank RUBÉN HINOJOSA, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness and an original cosponsor of this bill, for his support. I encourage my colleagues to become cosponsors of this critical legislation and hope that we will see it become law during the 110th Congress.

HONORING O.L. RAULERSON

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the life achievements of O.L. Raulerson, the first Floridian to be elected sheriff in two Florida counties. Mr. Raulerson, who passed this Sunday at the age of 65, devoted his life to serving central Florida communities.

His law enforcement career began with the Florida Highway Patrol, where he served as a State trooper. He later moved to the Highlands County Sheriff's Office, where he first served as sheriff from 1970 to 1977.

Mr. Raulerson transferred to the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office and after 6 years of service was appointed sheriff of Okeechobee County in 1986. In 1988 he was officially elected sheriff and faithfully served the community for over 10 years.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Raulerson's family and to the Florida communities which have lost a much loved and respected leader.

THE PLUG-IN HYBRID  
OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2007

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, the goals of achieving energy independence and reducing our global warming pollution cannot be adequately addressed without a transformation in our transportation sector. This sector lies at the nexus of the twin problems of our energy dependence and global warming. Two-thirds of the oil we consume every day goes into the transportation sector. After Congress mandated a doubling of fuel economy standards from 13.5 to 27.5 miles per gallon, our dependence on foreign oil went from 46.5% in 1977 to 27% in 1985. But since then our fuel economy standards have been stuck in neutral or even reverse and our dependence on imported oil has climbed to 60%.

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) have the potential. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles represent a technology that can significantly address these problems. While the transportation sector is powered mostly by oil, the nation-wide electricity grid is only 3% petroleum-fueled according to the Energy Information Administration. Wide use of PHEVs can help transfer petroleum-intensive driving miles to nearly petroleum-free electricity. According to the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, if the cars, trucks and SUVs on the road were replaced by PHEVs, 84% could be powered using existing electrical generation infrastructure. This same paper found that replacing our Light-Duty Fleet with plug-in hybrids could reduce our oil consumption by 6.5 million barrels per day and our emission of heat-trapping gasses by 27%.

PHEV technology is beginning to become available and some automakers have produced prototypes and are beginning to announce long-term plans to manufacture plug-in hybrids. However, technology already exists making it possible to convert the roughly 1 million hybrid vehicles that will be on the road this year into plug-in hybrids, capable of getting 150 miles per gallon. This conversion would allow existing hybrids to begin traveling between 20 and 60 miles on a single charge, while using very little gasoline.

With initial conversion costs ranging from \$6,000 to \$9,500 depending on the size of the battery, the "Plug-in Hybrid Opportunity Act of 2007" would provide consumers with a vital tax incentive of 35% of the cost of conversion, cap the potential credit at \$4,000 and expire after 3 years. It is essential that these conversions be included under the plug-in hybrid tax credit, after meeting all the appropriate safety and environmental testing certifications, so that we can begin reducing our dependence on foreign oil and global warming pollution by realizing the benefits of plug-in hybrids now.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF  
SERVICE BY THE ELDON INN

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an establishment that has provided excellent service to the community of Roaring Spring for a century. Built during the early 20th century, the Eldon Inn embodied the visions of industrial pioneers D.M. Bare, A.L. Garver, William Eldon, and Edwin Bobb. Now serving the community as a public library, the Eldon Inn maintains its distinguished reputation as a center of the community.

In 1907, the paper industry of Roaring Spring began to thrive and a few businessmen began the construction of a modern hotel aimed at accommodating people from all walks of life, needing a place to stay in the budding community. Shortly thereafter the Inn established itself as a provider of safe and comfortable lodgings for everyone from the traveling businessmen and overnight guests, to long-term tenants awaiting opportunities as permanent residents.

The Eldon Inn possessed a unique quality that infused the building into the hearts of the community. The Inn's spacious interior was well suited for Rotary Club gatherings, sales meetings, Scout troops, wedding receptions, school reunions, and even as the town social and business center.

For 59 years, the Eldon Inn upheld its fine reputation as a first-rate establishment. In 1966, the Inn served the community in a new way as the Roaring Spring Public Library. The Public Library sought to expand its holdings and felt that the Eldon Inn would be an ideal location to further its mission of providing centers for learning to the community.

I would like to take this moment to recognize The Eldon Inn for its 100 years of service to the community, its renowned reputation, and future achievements to come. May the community of Roaring Spring always have such a force of good in its backyard.

IN MEMORY OF AUSTIN WHETSELL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, during the past week the Midlands of South Carolina was in mourning due to the tragic drowning of Austin Whetsell. On Sunday, July 8, the following tribute was placed in the service program at Lexington Presbyterian Church with the service conducted by Dr. David Sinclair:

Austin Pierce Whetsell, born April 1, 1992 died while on a missions trip with his church in Zihuatanejo, Mexico on Sunday, July 1, 2007. Austin was the beloved son of Walter G. Jr. and Kimberly Taylor Whetsell, and the devoted elder brother of Taylor, Trace and Emma Whetsell of Lexington. He was a loving son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend. Austin was an alumnus of Heritage Christian Academy and had just finished his