

homeland security. The Senate version short-shriffs these intelligence reviews and requires the DNI to complete his work within 20 days. It fails to consider more complicated cases that may require additional scrutiny.

In addition, the bill passed by the House both last year and this year would have elevated the Secretary of Homeland Security to a position as Vice-Chair of CFIUS and required both the Departments of Treasury and Homeland Security to approve all CFIUS findings. This was a sensible approach that balanced foreign investment with national security. In the post-9/11 world, homeland security considerations must be our first consideration, not our last. Elevating the Secretary of Homeland Security to the Vice-Chair position would have ensured that while we encourage foreign investment, we would never again side-step the security of our homeland. The legislation we are considering today does not include this important provision.

The Senate's revision would allow a simple majority to overrule the Secretary of Homeland Security or Defense with respect to whether or not a transaction should receive a more thorough vetting through a National Security Investigation. The House bill had required an investigation if any Committee member thought it necessary to protect our national security. Further, the mechanism for approving the Committee's findings is conspicuously absent from the Senate language, whereas the House allowed for any dissenting Committee member to push the transaction to the President for his consideration.

Each of these provisions was included to prevent a future Dubai Ports scenario. Elevating the Secretary of Homeland Security as Vice-Chair would have ensured that the DHS's concerns were seriously addressed by the Department of Treasury. Giving the DNI adequate time to conduct a thorough review would have guaranteed that Members would get more than a shrug of the shoulders when asking pointed questions about Dubai's reported ties to the Taliban. Rollcall votes would have demanded accountability for what was an ill-informed decision.

I cannot in good faith support this legislation because it fails to make the vital changes noted above to improve the current CFIUS process. We are missing an opportunity to enact reforms that will ensure that a debacle like the Dubai Ports World transaction does not happen again.

I will therefore vote against H.R. 556.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide tax incentives to encourage greater diversity of ownership in telecommunications businesses. My bill is a response to the increasing ownership of television and radio properties by large media companies.

I strongly believe that promoting diverse viewpoints on the airwaves is an important public policy goal. The only way to accomplish that goal is to broaden the ownership of

broadcast stations. The television and radio spectrum is a limited resource. The trend in recent years has been toward a greater concentration of ownership in the hands of large media companies. We need to reverse that trend.

Madam Speaker, small businesses that wish to enter telecommunications businesses face significant barriers. To enter a broadcast industry, a small business must purchase an existing property. Owners of those properties find it much easier to sell to large businesses than to small businesses. Therefore, small businesses quite often do not have a seat at the table when there are negotiations over the sale of broadcast properties.

My bill would reduce those barriers by providing limited deferral of capital gain taxes when a telecommunications property is sold to a small business. This would provide the sellers of those properties a positive incentive to consider a small business purchaser.

Large segments of our society historically have been underrepresented in the ownership of radio and television properties. I believe that it is vital that those groups have access to the television and radio spectrum so that their views are represented on our airwaves. As a result, my bill increases the capital gain tax deferral when the sale is to a small business owned and controlled by individuals from these historically underrepresented groups.

Madam Speaker, I understand that some may attack my bill as being the re-enactment of a flawed prior program. The provisions in my bill are quite similar to the tax certificate program that was repealed by the Congress in 1995. I do not quarrel with those who assert that there were abuses in that program. However, it is unfortunate that the Congress chose repeal and not reform because that program had been effective in accomplishing its goal of expanding ownership of radio and television businesses. In 1978, before the implementation of that program, only .05 percent of all broadcast stations in this country were owned by minority groups. By 1994, the year before the program was repealed, the program had succeeded in increasing minority ownership 60-fold to 3 percent. Since that program was repealed, the number of minority-owned broadcast properties has declined.

The bill that I am introducing today is designed to prevent any potential abuses. It is limited to small business purchasers, it contains restrictions on the number of purchases that can be made by anyone business, it contains recapture provisions to prevent the use of the small business as a front for another party, and it contains provisions designed to prevent avoidance of the ownership requirements through options or other sophisticated transactions.

All small businesses, regardless of their ownership, would be eligible for the benefits of my bill. I believe this incentive is appropriate so that the views of many different groups are heard on our Nation's airwaves. The bill simply attempts to ensure that small businesses, including minority-owned small businesses, have a seat at the table when a broadcast property is being sold.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful that we will be able to deal with this issue on a bipartisan basis. We should all support the goal of expanding diversity in ownership of broadcast properties. I am pleased that in the past Senator MCCAIN introduced a similar proposal in

the Senate. I am hopeful that we can find bipartisan support in the House.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEDICAID REIM- BURSEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the District of Columbia Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2007 today to raise the Federal medical assistance percentage, FMAP, the Federal contribution from the Federal Government from 70 percent to 75 percent, and to reduce the District's unique role as the only city that pays the full local cost of Medicaid, a program that is carried by States and counties in our country. New York City, the jurisdiction that powers the economy of New York State, contributes a 25 percent local share to Medicaid while the State pays 25 percent, less than the District's statutorily mandated 30 percent contribution. I introduce this bill because the District's continuing responsibility for most Medicaid costs that are typically borne by entire states is a major component of the District's structural deficit and threatens the stability of the city itself, according to the District's Chief Financial Officer, CFO.

The District's CFO reports that rapidly increasing Medicaid costs put the city at risk. In FY2005, these costs accounted for \$1.4 billion, or 22 percent, of the city's gross funds budget. Total program costs have risen 42 percent since 1999, and are projected to increase by another \$39 million this year. Yet the District, unlike other cities which have lost significant populations, has no State economy to share this burden. More than 25 percent of District children and adults are enrolled in Medicaid, compared to 12 percent in Maryland and just 9 percent in Virginia. On average, the District spends over \$7,000 per enrollee, while Maryland and Virginia spend \$5,509 and \$5,177, respectively, reflecting serious health conditions that are concentrated among big city residents in this majority African-American city.

The D.C. Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2007 is the seventh in the "Free and Equal D.C." series. This series of bills addresses inappropriate and often unequal restrictions placed only on the District and no other U.S. jurisdiction. Although today's bill cannot address the entire structural problem that the District faces because the city is not part of a state, the bill would eliminate the greater percentage the District pays by allowing a 25 percent city contribution, rather than the current contribution that is even greater than New York City's.

In 1997, as part of the Balanced Budget Act, Congress recognized that State costs were too costly for any one city to shoulder. To alleviate the resulting financial crisis, Congress increased the Federal Medicaid contribution to the District from 50 to 70 percent, and took responsibility for a few State costs—prisons and courts—relieving the immediate burden, but the city continues to carry most State costs.

In 1997, a formulaic error in the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital, DSH, allotment reduced the 70 percent FMAP share,

and as a result, the District received only \$23 million instead of the \$49 million due. I was able to secure a technical correction to the Balanced Budget Act of 1999, partially increasing the annual allotment to \$32 million from FY2000 forward. I appreciate that in 2005, Congress responded to my effort to get an additional annual increase of \$20 million in the budget reconciliation bill, bringing D.C.'s Medicaid reimbursement payments to \$57 million as intended by the Balanced Budget Act. However, this amount did not reimburse the District for the years a Federal error denied the city part of its Federal contribution, and in any case, of course, was not intended to meet the structural problem this bill partially addresses.

The District has taken important steps on its own to reduce Medicaid costs through greater efficiency, and to treat and prevent conditions that prove costly when hospitalization or expensive treatments become necessary. The District Medicaid agency won Federal recognition as one of only two Medicaid programs nationwide to exceed the Federal Government's child immunization goal for school-age children at 95 percent, and improved its fraud surveillance, recovering \$15 million in fraudulently billed funds. The city's novel D.C. Health Care Alliance, for which Federal approval is pending, would allow coverage of residents and provide more early and preventative care, avoiding huge Medicaid costs when health conditions become severe and Medicaid becomes the only option.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this increase that will help my city's most needy residents.

NEW MEXICO WATER PLANNING ASSISTANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act, H.R. 1904.

The New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act would assist the State of New Mexico with the development of comprehensive State water plans that will help the State more effectively manage our most precious natural resource—water.

I introduced the New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act on April 17, 2007, and Senator DOMENICI and Senator BINGAMAN introduced companion legislation in the Senate on January 10, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to: provide to New Mexico technical assistance and grants for the development of comprehensive State water plans; conduct water resources mapping in New Mexico; and conduct comprehensive studies of groundwater resources in New Mexico to assess the quantity, quality, and interaction of groundwater and surface water resources.

The legislation also directs the Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, to allocate: \$5 million to develop hydrologic models of eight New Mexico river systems; \$2.5 million to complete the hydrologic models for the San Juan River and other Southwest New

Mexico river systems; and \$4.5 million for statewide digital orthophotography mapping. The Federal cost share shall be on a 50-50 match basis, and all Federal funds are to be non-reimbursable.

Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico was the home to many indigenous southwestern peoples from A.D. 850 to 1250. Unfortunately, the Chacoans ingenuity in storing and channeling water was not enough to save them from a 50-year drought that began in 1130. The Chacoan pueblo people left Chaco Canyon in stages and established a string of pueblos along the Rio Grande and a few other desert rivers.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and State conservancy and irrigation districts flood control and reclamation projects along New Mexico's river systems that store water during wet years for use during dry years help ensure that New Mexico's current population will not have to relocate during extended periods of drought—like the Chacoans were forced to do more than eight centuries ago.

However, like much of the West, the demands on New Mexico's ground and fresh water resources are immense and growing. For example, the First Congressional District of New Mexico is bisected by the Rio Grande. The flows of the Middle Rio Grande serve the biggest city in New Mexico, Albuquerque, many smaller cities, six Indian pueblos, and a network of agriculture users. Many of these farmers irrigate the same land as their Spanish ancestors did over 4 centuries ago. In addition there is the endangered silvery minnow, which, under a 2003 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion, requires 180 miles of continuous minimum river flow in the Middle Rio Grande.

New Mexico has an average allotment of 393,000 acre-feet of Rio Grande water under the 1938 interstate compact that apportions the Rio Grande between Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico. These demands have stretched this allotment to the limit. Further complicating the picture is the fact that Article VII of the Rio Grande Compact severely restricts New Mexico's ability to store native water upstream at Heron, Abiquiu, El Vado, or Cochiti Reservoir.

Thus far, New Mexico's water managers have been able to stretch New Mexico limited water supplies to meet the expanding demands of New Mexico cities, industries, Indian pueblos, and endangered species, without widespread displacement of its historical agriculture users. By providing Federal water planning assistance to New Mexico's water managers this important legislation will help stretch New Mexico's limited water resources; and, as a result, will help prevent waters conflict in New Mexico well into the future.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1904.

RECOGNITION OF THE 2007 SANTA ROSA COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. MILLER. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratu-

lations to the Rufus Hayes family for being selected the 2007 Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family. Since 1969, the Hayes family has been actively involved in farming in Northwest Florida.

Both Rufus and his wife Sandy have been involved with Santa Rosa County in my district for over several decades. Rufus started the family ranch in 1969 with just a barn and a few horses, and Sandy worked with the county school system in addition to keeping the books for the family ranch. Cutting horses was Rufus's specialty, and over the years many more services were added that helped others in the community. Not only were there riding lessons, boarding services, and tack sales, the Hayes Ranch also had cattle and even buffalo for horse training.

Of their four children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild, many also participate in the operation of and activity on the ranch. Their son Phil raises bucking bulls, produces bull riding events, and breaks horses just like his father did when he first started the ranch. The ranch also has week-long riding camps offered by Phil's wife Becky, and their daughter Jill helps with these camps as well as taking care of the horses boarded there. The rest of the family are regular visitors to the ranch, helping Rufus and Sandy with day-to-day operations as well as enjoying the recreation on the Hayes Ranch such as family picnics and fishing in the many ponds.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family that is a role model for all of us. A deep sense of civic contribution and values has been instilled through all the generations of the Rufus Hayes family. It is my hope that this family tradition continues for many more generations.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF GOYO AND CONSUELO LOPEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Goyo and Consuelo Lopez. This is a monumental event.

Mr. and Mrs. Lopez met as students playing in the Longhorn Band at University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Lopez had a successful career working for the weekly newspaper, "The South Texas Citizen." Mrs. Lopez began work as a music teacher in 1966 due to her love of music, and is now currently retired from teaching after a 41-year career. They have five children: Armando, Steven, Michael, Goyo, and Cynthia.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication and great love that Goyo and Consuelo have shown for each other in their 50 years of marriage. I ask you to join me in honoring them on the celebration of their wedding anniversary and wish them health and happiness for years to come.