

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FRANK AND RANKING MEMBER BACHUS: We, the Attorneys General of our respective States, have grave concerns about H.R. 2046, the "Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007." We believe that the bill would undermine States' traditional powers to make and enforce their own gambling laws.

On March 21, 2006, 49 NAAG members wrote to the leadership of Congress: We encourage the United States Congress to help combat the skirting of state gambling regulations by enacting legislation which would address Internet gambling, while at the same time ensuring that the authority to set overall gambling regulations and policy remains where it has traditionally been most effective: at the state level.

Congress responded by enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA), which has effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the American marketplace.

But now, less than a year later, H.R. 2046 proposes to do the opposite, by replacing state regulations with a federal licensing program that would permit Internet gambling companies to do business with U.S. customers. The Department of the Treasury would alone decide who would receive federal licenses and whether the licensees were complying with their terms. This would represent the first time in history that the federal government would be responsible for issuing gambling licenses.

A federal license would supersede any state enforcement action, because 5387 in H.R. 2046 would grant an affirmative defense against any prosecution or enforcement action under any Federal or State law to any person who possesses a valid license and complies with the requirements of H.R. 2046. This divestment of state gambling enforcement power is sweeping and unprecedented.

The bill would legalize Internet gambling in each State, unless the Governor clearly specifies existing state restrictions barring Internet gambling in whole or in part. On that basis, a State may "opt out" of legalization for all Internet gambling or certain types of gambling. However, the opt-out for types of gambling does not clearly preserve the right of States to place conditions on legal types of gambling. Thus, for example, if the State permits poker in licensed card rooms, but only between 10 a.m. and midnight, and the amount wagered cannot exceed \$100 per day and the participants must be 21 or older, the federal law might nevertheless allow 18-year-olds in that State to wager much larger amounts on poker around the clock.

Furthermore, the opt-outs may prove illusory. They will likely be challenged before the World Trade Organization. The World Trade Organization has already shown itself to be hostile to U.S. restrictions on Internet gambling. If it strikes down state opt-outs as unduly restrictive of trade, the way will be open to the greatest expansion of legalized gambling in American history and near total preemption of State laws restricting Internet gambling.

H.R. 2046 effectively nationalizes America's gambling laws on the Internet, "harmonizing" the law for the benefit of foreign gambling operations that were defying our laws for years, at least until UIGEA was enacted. We therefore oppose this proposal, and any other proposal that hinders the right of States to prohibit or regulate gambling by their residents.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS GANSLER,
Attorney General of
Maryland.

BILL MCCOLLUM,

Attorney General of
Florida.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL LATINO
AIDS AWARENESS DAY AND 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HIV/AIDS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today we celebrate National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, and the 25th anniversary of HIV/AIDS. Let us mark this day with a renewed spirit and effort to battle against this deadly virus.

HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects Latinos in this country, for while Latinos only represent 14 percent of the population of this country, 19 percent of those with HIV/AIDS are Latinos. 100,000 Latinos have died from this disease. We cannot continue to allow HIV/AIDS to ravage our communities.

Educating and reaching out to our children, family, and friends to address drug use, sexuality, and sexual activity should be our number one priority, because knowledge is the first step in successful prevention. The fact that these are topics that have been deemed unmentionable for generations is one of the reasons the epidemic of HIV/AIDS affects Latinos disproportionately; this is something that we must strive to change.

We must utilize our strengths to defeat this epidemic in our communities; we cannot allow silence and lack of information on this virus to be the cause of such tragic illness and death any longer.

Access to care is also a major issue for many Latinos. This week the House will be voting to override the President's veto of the Children's Health Insurance Program, legislation which will provide 10 million low-income children with health insurance. This access to health care will allow these children to begin and continue to live healthy lives.

For a person with HIV/AIDS, access health care is imperative. Many cannot obtain private insurance, are uninsured, or do not know how to apply for public insurance. This lack of insurance leads to less access to care, which further stymies the possibilities of successfully living with HIV/AIDS. I believe that access to appropriate and affordable health care is a basic human right, and while the passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, will be a good first step, it is by no means the only step we need to take.

This has been a long, frustrating battle, and it is far from over. Today I join in solidarity with those who have suffered or watched a loved one suffer from HIV/AIDS. As I recommit myself to the fight against this virus I ask you to please join me.

TRIBUTE TO JUNIUS W. WILLIAMS,
ESQ.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives

to join me as I rise to recognize and honor a good friend of my Congressional District and dedicated public servant, Junius Williams, Esq., a multi-faceted contributor to the community. Mr. Williams is being honored for his many years as a torch bearer in a variety of disciplines. Fortunately, for all of us in the Greater Newark Community, Mr. Williams has complete mastery of all these disciplines, which include academia, activism, Christianity, legal proficiency and mentorship.

In his role as an advocate for urban revitalization, Junius Williams served as the Director of Community Development and was at the helm of one of Newark's most significant projects, the Model Cities Program in the early 1970s. He also led the University Heights Neighborhood Urban Renewal Development Corporation. As a planner and developer, he had responsibility for the construction of over 1,200 housing units and accompanying amenities in Newark.

In 1978, Mr. Williams was elected as the youngest president of the National Bar Association. During his tenure as president, he presented a critique to the United Nations of the proposed constitution for the African nation of Zimbabwe. As an attorney, Mr. Williams was successful in representing Rev. Jesse Jackson in the historic court decision to bring single-lever voting to New Jersey, making it possible to cast one vote for the Presidential candidate and all of his delegates. He received his law degree from Yale University.

Mr. Williams has held other significant roles over the years including serving on the board of trustees for Essex County College, chairman of the Board of Education Law Center, chairing the board of trustees at Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church and serving as an official observer of the first South African National Elections in 1994. He is an accomplished musician, producer and performer. He currently serves as the director of the Abbott Leadership Institute, where he teaches parent advocacy skills to parents and professional educators at Rutgers University in Newark.

Madam Speaker, I am sure my colleagues agree that Junius Williams deserved to be feted at a celebration in his honor on Friday, October 12, 2007, for his many years of dedicated service to the community. I am proud to have him working in the 10th Congressional District and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING BINATIONAL HEALTH
WEEK COMMITTEE: COUNTIES OF
FRESNO, MERCED, TULARE AND
KERN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Madam, Speaker, I rise today to commend the Binational Health Week Committee for the Counties of Fresno, Merced, Tulare, and Kern upon their diligent work and commitment to bring Binational Health Week to their community.

Binational Health Week, BHW, began in 2001 with seven California cities, 98 agencies, and 115 agencies involved. There were an estimated 18,720 people that were reached. This service has grown tremendously over the last

six years. In 2006 those numbers grew to include: 31 states, 42 California cities, 1,014 activities, with about 3,000 agencies involved and an estimated 300,000 people reached. This year the event will take place throughout 31 states in the United States and three provinces in Canada. BHW has extended its outreach to include participation from 46 Mexican, 11 Guatemalan and 15 Salvadoran consulates.

With the efforts of all participating parties, BHW has become one of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health and well-being of an underserved population, including immigrants and migrants of Mexican and Central American descent. It encompasses an annual week long series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops on health care and health insurance referrals, health education and health promotion by encouraging healthy behaviors and routine health care. They also provide information about local social services and clinics. The success of BHW is due to the thousands of organizations and volunteers dedicated to a common cause.

Madam, Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Binational Health Week Committee for the counties of Fresno, Merced, Tulare and Kern on their success in bringing the Binational Health Week to their counties. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the committee many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, on October 2, I inadvertently voted "no" on rollcall 931, Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. I intended to enter an "aye" vote on this rollcall.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM JOHN NATHEY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of William John Nathey for his contributions to the settlement of Niceville, a City in my district in Northwest Florida.

William Nathey, born in England in 1820, traveled to the United States on a timber ship. After settling in the community of Boggy, he built a large gristmill in 1857. He traveled as far as Mobile, AL, to retrieve gristmill stones, which he brought back by oxen. The stones from the Nathey Gristmill have been preserved and are now located at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida.

The Nathey legacy extends much further than the gristmill stones. When he settled in Northwest Florida, he met and married a woman from North Carolina. Their first child, William John, born in 1846, carried on the

Nathey family legacy and went on to be a key figure in the establishment of the City of Niceville.

William John followed in his father's footsteps and set up his homestead in Northwest Florida. While his father had worked the land to support his family, William John sold carpentry shingles and often traveled to neighboring cities to support his family.

Strong family values and a solid Christian foundation also carried on from generation to generation in the Nathey family. William John and his wife, Mary Jane, were two of the founding members of the First United Methodist Church in Niceville. The Nathey family tree continued to grow with their children and grandchildren and carries on today. Many of William Nathey's descendants still reside in Northwest Florida.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Nathey Gristmill, Governor Charlie Crist recently approved the designation of the William Nathey Bridge, which is to be celebrated with a dedication ceremony on November 12, 2007. Appropriately, the William Nathey Bridge crosses Boggy Bayou, which was the southern border to William John's original homestead.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to a man and a family who have served as an inspiration to us all. Such a unique family history stretching back so many years is something to truly be admired and honored.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of William Nathey, and as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the construction of the Nathey Gristmill, our community reflects upon how this family has helped to create a home for so many. May God continue to bless them.

REGARDING H.J. RES. 52

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker. I rise to oppose the escalating rhetoric in Washington that is dividing our Nation, diverting attention and resources from the needs of Americans, and extending President Bush's failed policy in Iraq. I join the majority of Americans in seeking an end to the Iraq war and allowing U.S. troops to return home safe and soon.

Americans are united in support of our troops. Americans are beginning to unite behind ending the war. Ratcheting up rhetoric only divides Americans and distracts from the stark reality facing our Nation—our Nation is bogged down in President Bush's Iraq war.

My vote to recommit and amend H.J. Res. 52 was a vote to return to substantive debate of policy and priorities. This was a vote against the rising level of incivility in American political discourse. This was a vote to repudiate the MoveOn.org advertisement questioning General David H. Petraeus' loyalty to our Nation.

While members of MoveOn.org have been allies with Democrats and the majority of Americans who are seeking an end to the Iraq war, the decision by the group's National leaders to attack General Petraeus only contributed to the vitriol in Washington and provided

a rally point for those who wish to extend the failed Iraq policies of President Bush and Congressional Republicans.

Just as the Swift Boating of Senators JOHN KERRY and Max Cleland poisoned the political process and disenfranchised the public by questioning the patriotism and character of honorable men, the attempt to discredit General Petraeus is equally damaging. General Petraeus is an honorable person who deserves respect, even as the public deserves to hold him accountable for the policies he implements.

Irresponsible and heated rhetoric has resulted in the current impasse on Federal funding for Government operations. To prevent funding shortfalls that would force a Government shutdown, Congress was forced to pass H.J. Res. 52 as a stopgap bill.

With bipartisan support, the House of Representatives has passed all 12 of the appropriations bills necessary to fund Government operations in Fiscal Year 2008 under pay-as-you-go balanced budget discipline. However, President Bush's combative posturing and veto threats have so thoroughly blocked progress that the Senate has only approved a third of those bills.

During the short 9 months that Democrats have led the House of Representatives, we have taken America in a new direction by developing a fiscally responsible record accomplishment. We are putting the needs of the American people first and making long-delayed investments in our future with no new deficit spending. We are investing in health care for America's children and veterans, strengthening homeland security to better protect the American people and creating American jobs by building safer roads and bridges.

President Bush has responded with vetoes, tough talk of veto threats, including a threatened veto on the bipartisan reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program H.R. 976, which passed the House with 45 Republicans joining the vast majority of Democrats. A veto of this legislation by the President would deny 10 million low-income children the health care they need and deserve.

While President Bush claims that a \$35 billion increase for children's health care is too much, he is seeking \$190 billion in additional funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—the largest single-year amount so far. The President continues to pursue an open-ended and dangerous commitment of American troops in Iraq and an open wallet from the American people to pay for it.

It is time for Americans to stand together—Republicans and Democrats—to end the Iraq war.

CONGRATULATING MRS. DONNA DOHERTY, RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 "SAM AND JANE CALI STAR AWARD" PRESENTED BY THE BROADWAY THEATRE LEAGUE OF NEPA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute