

being named "Driver of the Year." It is terrific to see someone who both enjoys his job and excels at it. I wish him success in the future, and I am very proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING VICKI SILKWOOD  
PRESIDENT OF THE MISSOURI  
FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND  
PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Vicki Silkwood, a constituent of the 6th district of Missouri who recently was installed as President of the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women for 2007–2008. As President, she will preside over the Missouri Board of Directors and will serve on the Chillicothe Business and Professional Women's/USA Board of Directors.

The Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women has approximately 1,000 members statewide and works on achieving equality for women in the workplace through education, advocacy and research.

Ms. Silkwood has been very active over the years with the Chillicothe Business and Professional Women's organization. She has held numerous leadership positions, beginning with two consecutive terms as President of the Chillicothe local and as District Director for the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women's Board. Ms. Silkwood has also served as Membership Retention Chair for the State Board, State Treasurer, and State First and Second Vice President and President Elect.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Vicki Silkwood for her accomplishment of being selected as President of the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women for 2007–2008. It is an honor to represent Ms. Silkwood in the United States Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH  
FREEDOM PROTECTION ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Health Freedom Protection Act. This bill restores the First Amendment rights of consumers to receive truthful information regarding the benefits of foods and dietary supplements by codifying the First Amendment standards used by Federal courts to strike down the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) efforts to censor truthful health claims. The Health Freedom Protection Act also stops the Federal Trade Commissions (FTC) from censoring truthful health care claims.

The American people have made it clear they do not want the Federal government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA and the FTC continue to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict

such access. The FDA continues to frustrate consumers' efforts to learn how they can improve their health even after Congress, responding to a record number of constituents' comments, passed the Dietary Supplement and Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). FDA bureaucrats are so determined to frustrate consumers' access to truthful information that they are even evading their duty to comply with four Federal court decisions vindicating consumers' First Amendment rights to discover the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

FDA bureaucrats have even refused to abide by the DSHEA section allowing the public to have access to scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against diseases by claiming that every article concerning this topic is evidence of intent to sell a drug.

Because of the FDA's censorship of truthful health claims, millions of Americans may suffer with diseases and other health care problems they may have avoided by using dietary supplements. For example, the FDA prohibited consumers from learning how folic acid reduces the risk of neural tube defects for 4 years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended every woman of childbearing age take folic acid supplements to reduce neural tube defects. This FDA action contributed to an estimated 10,000 cases of preventable neural tube defects!

The FDA also continues to prohibit consumers from learning about the scientific evidence that glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are effective in the treatment of osteoarthritis; that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of sudden death heart attack; and that calcium may reduce the risk of bone fractures.

The Health Freedom Protection Act will force the FDA to at last comply with the commands of Congress, the First Amendment, and the American people by codifying the First Amendment standards adopted by the Federal courts. Specifically, the Health Freedom Protection Act stops the FDA from censoring truthful claims about the curative, mitigative, or preventative effects of dietary supplements, and adopts the Federal court's suggested use of disclaimers as an alternative to censorship. The Health Freedom Protection Act also stops the FDA from prohibiting the distribution of scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against disease.

This legislation also addresses the FTC's violations of the First Amendment. Under traditional First Amendment jurisprudence, the Federal government bears the burden of proving an advertising statement false before censoring that statement. However, the FTC has reversed the standard in the case of dietary supplements by requiring supplement manufacturers to satisfy an unobtainable standard of proof that their statement is true. The FTC's standards are blocking innovation in the marketplace.

The Health Freedom Protection Act requires the government bear the burden of proving that speech could be censored. This is how it should be in a free, dynamic society. The bill also requires that the FTC warn parties that their advertising is false and give them a chance to correct their mistakes.

Madam Speaker, if we are serious about putting people in charge of their health care, then shouldn't we stop federal bureaucrats from preventing Americans from learning

about simple ways to improve their health. I therefore call on my colleagues to stand up for good health care and the First Amendment by cosponsoring the Health Freedom Protection Act.

GENETIC INFORMATION  
NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

I am a cosponsor of this important legislation, which bans discrimination in the workplace and in health insurance on the basis of predictive genetic information. It prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage or increasing premiums because of genetic factors. Also, under this bill, employers cannot consider genetic factors in the process of hiring, firing, or promoting workers. H.R. 493 is much like a Minnesota law, which I voted for when I was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Genetic discrimination has the potential to affect every person in the United States. Despite advances in modern medical technology, it is impossible to predict with certainty whether a given individual will actually develop a disease. Patients recognize that few laws exist to prevent health insurers or employers from using their predictive genetic information to deny them coverage or jobs. As a result, they may avoid taking an important genetic test or participating in genetic research.

Federal employees are already protected from genetic discrimination by an executive order signed by President Clinton and retained by President Bush. It is time to extend this protection to the rest of our country.

H.R. 493 will give Americans the security they need to take care of their health needs without worrying that they will face discrimination. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my full support for commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade as called for by H. Res. 272, which was introduced by Representative BARBARA LEE.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade is a very important part of world history that should never be forgotten. Millions of men, women, and children were forcibly removed from their homeland, packed into ships under inhumane conditions, and then after being lucky enough to survive the treacherous high seas, sold like

pieces of disposable property to slave owners. Further, to add insult to injury, they were treated horribly by their masters throughout their lives. For those that survived the voyage, their strength is still unbelievable and nothing short of a miracle. For these and other reasons, Americans and people all over the world should be reminded of their immeasurable suffering and how the abolishment of the Transatlantic Slave Trade impacted the end of that atrocity.

The abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade was a pivotal step to the full abolishment of slavery in Great Britain and the United States. Since this action was monumental, it needs to be commemorated. A commemoration offers an opportunity to educate youth and remind others of the importance of ending the Transatlantic Slave Trade. There simply is not enough attention given to educating people on the history of slavery. Although it represents a dark part of history, it needs to be highlighted and explained.

It has been said and it is true, that America is a melting pot. Since our great country is so diverse and will continue to grow, every opportunity to commemorate and share history should be seized. I encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution.

#### ADDRESS GUN CONTROL NOW

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, two weeks ago, our Nation suffered an unspeakable tragedy when a deranged gunman indiscriminately killed 32 students and teachers at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Our prayers and thoughts are with the surviving victims, families, and the entire Virginia Tech community who are determined to not allow one crazed individual to ruin the school's Hokie spirit and strength. This horrific, senseless act was committed because a mentally ill individual could easily buy two handguns and as many rounds of ammunition clips as he desired. I cannot stress to you how important it is that we reauthorize the federal assault weapons ban, close the existing loopholes, and strengthen the background checks requirements.

I want to submit for the record a Letter to the Editor that was posted in the Washington Post on April 21, 2007. This letter was written by Jay Wind of Arlington, VA, and Robert Weiner of Accokeek, VA. I agree with their contention that now is the time for Congress to address gun control and get these semi-automatic weapons off the streets.

[From the Washington Post, April 21, 2007]

#### REFLECTIONS AFTER THE KILLINGS

(By Robert S. Weiner and Jay Jacob Wind)

As a national political public affairs consultant and the father of a Virginia Tech student who knows five of the dead and was best friends with one of the first two shot, we are outraged and dismayed that congressional leaders of both parties are running for cover from handgun control after the worst gun violence in American history. Instead of using this sad opportunity to stop such shootings by barring handguns, as other civilized countries do, Congress and the White House are pandering to the politics of the

National Rifle Association because of potential votes in swing states.

Why are our political leaders not speaking out against handguns instead of asserting that this is not the right time for such a debate? In unarmed Britain, fewer than 100 die a year from handguns. America is still the Wild West, with an average of 30,000 gunned down annually.

In September, the youngest Wind daughter will enter Virginia Tech. She thought she would be safe, near her older sister. It's time for Virginia's leaders—and the nation's—to act to prevent future massacres.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES ARMY CORPORAL MICHAEL MATTHEW ROJAS

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of CPL Michael Matthew Rojas, who lost his life defending the freedom of our Nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A native of Fresno, California, Michael was born on March 1, 1986. As early as his freshman year in high school, he made joining the military a goal in his life. He played 4 years of football at Clovis East and helped his team win the Central Section Division 1 Championship, a highlight of his high school career. Shortly upon his high school graduation in 2004, Michael attained his goal by enlisting in the Army. When asked why he decided to join knowing that our Nation was at war, he would reply, "Because it's the men and women before me that made it possible to live in freedom."

With that passion and drive Michael completed basic training at Fort Sill, OK as a cannon crewmember. In November of 2004, he reported to Fort Lewis where he was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. Unfortunately, Michael's tour in Iraq ended when an improvised device detonated near his military vehicle during combat operations on April 18, 2007.

Michael is survived by his mother, Debbie Apodaca; his father, David Esquivil; his wife, Katrina; five sisters, Michelle, Melissa, Marissa, Samantha, Mariah; and one brother, David. Also surviving are his grandparents, William Rojas, Victoria Valenzuela, and Art and Gloria Esquivil; and his nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and numerous friends.

It is my belief that Michael's life symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His valor, strength, courage and pride in our nation will forever live in the thoughts and hearts of his family and Americans across the nation. CPL Michael Matthew Rojas' dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us, for generations to come.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

#### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, today I am once again introducing legislation that I sponsored in the previous two Congresses to provide for a Chief Financial Officer for the Virgin Islands. Having witnessed the example and record of what having such a position has meant to the financial management and fiscal health of the District of Columbia, I continue to believe that my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, would also benefit from having a CFO.

When I first introduced the idea of a CFO for the Virgin Islands in 2005, I did so in response to the uncertainties and distrust of government voiced by my constituents and as a measure to prevent the territory, which was experiencing a serious financial crisis, from falling into the abyss of fiscal insolvency.

I believed then, as I do now, that having someone in our government free of political pressures and with the statutory responsibility and authority to certify revenue projections and prevent deficit spending could assist our government to establish sound financial practices which would put the Islands on the path to improved financial management going forward. Because of our long history of poor financial management and practices, an office such as this would also help to immediately restore the confidence of the Federal Government and others in our ability to be fiscally transparent and accountable.

There are those, Madam Speaker, who will ask why I am doing this at this time, particularly because the islands just inaugurated a new governor whose background is in financial management and who has been a good friend and political ally.

They will suggest that my introduction of this bill signals a lack of confidence in the governor to effectively steer the Virgin Islands' fiscal ship into calm financial waters. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have every confidence in Governor John de Jongh and his administration and believe that they will do a first rate job of managing the territory's finances. He has already begun to do so, but I also believe that every good manager, no matter how talented or committed he or she might be, can always do a better job if they had better tools with which to work.

When I first introduced this bill the territory's long-term debt totaled \$1 billion. Recently the Governor in an address before the League of Women Voters stated that "the government's financial structure is 'a house of cards' that has left the territory about \$3 billion in debt."

As has frequently been the case, the legislature questioned the governor's numbers. A CFO would take the uncertainty out of the equation and allow a legislature and governor to work better together because they would both get their numbers from the same independent source. Further, the departments of government, semi-autonomous agencies and labor unions would be better able to plan, and the people of the Virgin Islands in general would have reliable information on how the