

challenges. These incidents demonstrate the importance of strengthening the laws and rules protecting personal information held by Federal agencies—and we need to do this quickly.

In order to get a more complete picture of the problem before pursuing legislation, we sent a request to all cabinet agencies seeking information about data breaches involving the loss of sensitive personal information.

The results were troubling. We learned there have been a wide range of incidents involving data loss or theft, privacy breaches, and security incidents. In almost all of these cases, Congress and the public would not have learned of each event unless we had requested the information.

My bill requires timely notice be provided to individuals whose sensitive personal information could be compromised by a breach of data security at a Federal agency. Despite the volume of sensitive information held by agencies, there currently is no requirement people be notified if their information is compromised. Under this legislation, the executive branch must establish practices, procedures and standards for agencies to follow if sensitive personal information is lost or stolen and there is a reasonable risk of harm to an individual. And we provide a clear definition of the type of sensitive information we're trying to protect.

We also give the agency Chief Information Officers the authority, when appropriate and authorized, to ensure agency personnel comply with the information security laws already on the books.

Finally, we ensure costly equipment containing potentially sensitive information is accounted for and secure. Half of the lost Census Bureau computers simply were not returned by departing or terminated employees. The agency did not track computer equipment, nor were employees held accountable for failing to return it. This is taxpayer funded equipment, containing sensitive information, and we must know what we have and who has it—at all times.

Each year, I release Federal agency information security scorecards. Despite some improvement, scores for many departments remain unacceptably low. The Federal Government overall received a C minus, a slight improvement over prior years.

The Federal Government has sensitive personal information on every citizen—health records, tax returns, military records. We need to ensure the public knows when its sensitive personal information has been lost or compromised in some way.

The language in this bill is identical to H.R. 6163, which I introduced last Congress. Last year, with the assistance of then Chairman STEVE BUYER, I incorporated this language into the Veterans Identity and Credit Security Act (H.R. 5835), which passed the House on September 26. That bill, including my language, had strong bipartisan support, with 67 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, including the new chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

This bill is a critical first step toward limiting the loss of our sensitive personal information. I hope we can again move this important legislation through the House.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CAROLYN MAZURE AS SHE RECEIVES THE ELIZABETH BLACKWELL AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join Connecticut NOW and all of those gathered in extending my sincere congratulations to my good friend, Dr. Carolyn Mazure, as she is honored with this year's Elizabeth Blackwell Award. Carolyn is a remarkable woman whose outstanding accomplishments have had significant impacts on women's health research. Each year, Connecticut NOW presents the Elizabeth Blackwell Award to an individual for "outstanding achievements in facilitating women's holistic health: emotional, psychological, physical, and spiritual." I cannot think of a more appropriate or deserving recipient than Dr. Carolyn Mazure. She has dedicated her professional life to the advancement of women's health. Perhaps her most important contribution, to her field and to women everywhere, is the establishment of Women's Health Research at Yale—a program dedicated to advancing the study of women's health and gender differences across all areas of biomedical and psychosocial study.

Carolyn first came to New Haven to complete her postgraduate education at Yale University. Upon completion of her degree she was offered a faculty position at Yale—the University could not have made a wiser investment. Beginning her career as a clinician and researcher, Carolyn has built a distinguished reputation as a recognized scholar, esteemed clinician, teacher, mentor, and accomplished administrator. It was through her unique vision and respected understanding of the value of gender-specific research and data that Women's Health Research at Yale was developed. Carolyn has served as the organization's director from its inception—setting a new standard of practice for medical research.

In under a decade, Women's Health Research at Yale has initiated work and issued invaluable findings on some of the most pressing problems in women's health. The genetics of breast and ovarian cancer; the role of estrogen in memory; cancer screening in HIV-positive women; prevention of domestic violence; and gender differences in cardiovascular disease are just a small example of the more than 50 major projects they have initiated to date. This research, combined with the program's active educational community outreach, has translated new findings into practice as well as influencing public policies on health—making a real difference in the lives of women across the country.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Carolyn for many years and have often found myself in awe of her energy and enthusiasm. I have had the honor to introduce Carolyn on two of three occasions she provided testimony to the U.S. Congress regarding the importance of research on women's health and it was without hesitation that I supported her nomination for the 2005 American Association of University Women Achievement Award. I am grateful to Carolyn for her inspiring vision of what truly comprehensive medicine can be and so proud to have the opportunity to work with her.

Carolyn is a visionary leader who not only possesses the ability to explain the issues that confront us, but to also identify the path that stimulates change and builds alliances that unite us. She is dedicated to the common good and draws us to shared goals through her personal warmth and deep convictions. Guided by clear thinking, intense intellectual curiosity as well as integrity and honesty—this is a woman who has a genuine concern for the well-being of others and is committed to improving our lives and those of women in the future. I could not be more pleased to rise today to join Connecticut NOW, family, friends, colleagues and community members in extending my heart-felt congratulations to Dr. Carolyn Mazure as she receives this very special award. Carolyn has left an indelible mark on her field, our community and indeed our nation. It is a legacy that will continue to influence public policy and the health of women for generations to come.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-31)

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, for the third time I will vote in strong support of H.R. 1591, The Iraq Accountability Act. This time I will vote to override the President's veto of this critical legislation. With U.S. troop levels in Iraq increasing towards 170,000, all of whom are in the middle of a civil war; it is an act of political gamesmanship, not executive leadership, for President Bush to veto this legislation. With this veto, President Bush, with the strong support of his Republican minority in Congress, rejected \$95.5 billion for our troops in harm's way and walks away from billions in needed funds for our veterans. The President vetoed this bill and rejected providing our troops with needed training, mandatory rest time, and an exit strategy from a civil war in Iraq.

This presidential veto sends a clear message to Congress and to the overwhelming majority of American people who are demanding a change in this administration's Iraq policy. The message is this: the White House has no intentions of holding Iraq's political leaders accountable for the future of their country. They have no intention of honoring the benchmarks his administration has established for measuring success in Iraq. And, President Bush has no intention of ending the U.S. military's presence in Iraq during his remaining 20 months in the White House. The only timetable this president is likely to honor will result in him walking out of the White House on January 20, 2009, leaving behind more than a hundred thousand U.S. troops in Iraq and the greatest foreign policy disaster in American history for a new president to address.

The Democratic majority in this House have made the needs of our troops, our veterans and our Nation's security our top priority. Unlike the minority in Congress and the White

House, we are not deluded by a false hope that Iraq will suddenly transform itself into a nation of peace and tranquility with a surge of U.S. troops. Every indicator—military, economic and social—demonstrates that U.S. troops and American taxpayers are bearing an overwhelming burden on behalf of a nation that is broken and an Iraqi political leadership that refuses to act to retain sovereignty over their own nation.

Iraqis must take responsibility for the future of their nation, not U.S. troops. The only solution that can be achieved and sustained in Iraq is through political dialogue, not expanded military action by a foreign army. President Bush's failed policy has U.S. troops doing the job Iraqi soldiers and police should be doing. The veto of this legislation not only strips General Petraeus and all our commanders on the ground of any leverage to hold Iraq's political leaders accountable, it ensures that U.S. troops will continue being engaged in door-to-door searches, Baghdad foot patrols and raids on torture centers run by Iraqi security forces.

Last month, 104 Americans were killed in Iraq. The President's surge is not creating security for Iraqis, but has placed U.S. troops at greater risk. In March, 2,762 Iraqi civilians and policemen were killed. In April thousands more Iraqis were killed. On Monday, sixty Iraqis were killed, including the thirteen corpses found in Baghdad, "all blindfolded, handcuffed and shot in the head" according to the Washington Post.

These are not just numbers, they are lives. They are the lives of men and women, children as well, American soldiers and Iraqi civilians, killed as part of a bloody civil war. More than 50,000 Iraqi are fleeing their country every month. Two million Iraqis are now refugees and another 1.9 million Iraqis are internally displaced because of sectarian killings, ethnic cleansing and civil war. For my colleagues who warn about a horrific humanitarian crisis if this legislation becomes law, why do you ignore the horrific humanitarian crisis that is taking place right now as a result of the failed policies of this White House?

I will vote to override this veto. This legislation starts the process of ending the war in Iraq. This legislation not only holds the Iraqis accountable, it holds President Bush accountable as well. This war started because of distortions, false information and the determination of the Bush White House to deceive the American people, not a threat to our national security. It has always been a war of choice and an unjust war. The empty rhetoric from the Republicans in this chamber claims that this legislation puts the American people at risk, yet it is their stay the course support for a disastrous Iraq policy that harms America. My Republican colleagues' rejection of accountability standards, benchmarks for success, and an exit strategy from Iraq is an indication of their blind loyalty to President Bush, his failed leadership and a perpetuation of the deceit that brought us the Iraq War.

I urge all my colleagues to vote to override President Bush's veto of H.R. 1591 and let us start down the path of successfully ending the war in Iraq.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my regret for missing votes on the House floor on Thursday, April 26, 2007. A close childhood friend died and I had to return home. I left directly after the vote on the Conference Report for H.R. 1591 vote on April 25, 2007.

PRESBYTERIAN HOMES INC. 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Presbyterian Homes, Inc., located in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, for reaching its 80th anniversary.

Presbyterian Homes, Inc., (PHI), originated in 1927 when Mrs. Ellen Parker donated her farmhouse to care for 10 older women from Central Pennsylvania. Today, PHI is dedicated to providing high-quality, affordable healthcare, housing, and retirement services to older Americans in 19 communities.

More than 2,500 administrators, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare staff provide care to over 5,100 residents of PHI. Throughout its system of care, PHI provides independent living facilities, assisted living and personal care, skilled nursing care, specialized Alzheimer's and dementia care, rehabilitation therapy, adult day services, and operates a meals-on-wheels program.

Madam Speaker, please join with me congratulating Presbyterian Homes, Inc., on their 80th anniversary. I wish them luck as they begin their traveling exhibit which makes its debut in the Pennsylvania State Capitol building in May.

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING SQUAD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cheerleading Squad at Washington Township High School. For the second year in a row, these outstanding student athletes won the Battle at the Capitol National Cheerleading Championship.

These young ladies are athletes in every sense of the word. They are dedicated and hardworking and spend up to 7 days a week practicing, cheering at basketball games and competing during the winter season while remaining excellent students. Team members include: Brooke Albano, Ashley Bonnette, Samantha Carfi, Victoria Collins, Bernadette Davis, Gabrielle DeMarco, Alyssa DeSilvio, Dana Dondici, Maria Freedman, Samantha Hersch, Holly Lloyd, Danielle Mace, Caitlin

McFall, Jenna Melchionna, Alyssa Mericle, Kristen Nisbet, Amanda Nowaczyk, Taryn Ortlip, Dana Pasqualone, Christy Pettit, Taylor Sartorio, Rachel Sims, Amanda Toton, Stephanie Toton, and Dana Villasin.

This year the Washington Township High School Cheerleaders competed against squads from around the country and won the Battle at the Capitol National Championship in Fairfax, Virginia. They also won the Olympic Conference Grand Championship for the eighth year in a row and the New Jersey Cheering and Dancing Coaches Association State Championship for the third year in a row.

Madam Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the Washington Township High School Cheerleaders on their National Championship win.

THE SAFE NURSING AND PATIENT CARE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Safe Nursing and Patient Act with Representative STEVEN LATOURETTE (R-OH). Our legislation would achieve two vitally important goals. First, it would improve quality of care for patients across our country by assuring that nurses are not forced to work beyond the time they feel safe. Second, it would address our national nursing shortage by improving the working conditions that are causing nurses to leave their profession.

Assuring quality medical care and addressing our nursing shortage should not divide us on partisan lines. That's why I'm especially pleased to be working across the aisle with my friend from Ohio, Mr. LATOURETTE, in this important endeavor. This is legislation we've introduced together for several sessions of Congress. Given our changed environment in Congress, we are hopeful that we'll be able to enact it this time.

There are some 500,000 trained nurses in our country who are not working in their profession. While they leave nursing for many different reasons, nurses consistently cite concerns about the quality of care they feel that are able to provide in many health care settings today. Nurses are also greatly concerned about being forced to work mandatory overtime.

Listen to these words of a nurse in the State of Washington:

I have been a nurse for six years and most of the time I have worked in the hospital environment. It is difficult to tell you how terrible it is to "work scared" all the time. A mistake that I might make could easily cost someone their life and ruin mine. Every night at work we routinely "face the clock." All of us do without lunch and breaks and work overtime, often without pay, to ensure continuity of care for our patients. Yet, we are constantly asked to do more. It has become the norm for us to have patient assignments two and a half times greater than the staffing guidelines established by the hospital itself. I cannot continue to participate in this unsafe and irresponsible practice. So I am leaving, not because I don't love being a nurse, but because hospitals are not safe places: not for patients and not for nurses.