

Dr. French is married to E. LaVon Crum French, a lawyer who served the U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee for 9 years, who is sitting in the galley. The following 17 years she served in a special magisterial appointment as Special Master for the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Program for the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. She retired in April of 2005. A son, Colin V. French, is a tax lawyer in Dallas, Texas. He is married to Amanda, also a lawyer, and they have two daughters, Carolyn and Kelsey. Dr. Kelsey French is a clinical psychologist and is married to Vince Bzdek, the news editor for the Washington Post. They have two children, a daughter, Zola, and a son, Xavier, and live in Washington, DC.

HEALTH-IT INTRODUCTION

(Mr. MOORE of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Information technology has significantly changed the way we live and do business, making it easier to communicate with others, manage our personal finances or even track a package we ship across the country. Unfortunately, the health care industry lags far behind other sectors in its utilization of information technology. The inefficiencies and redundancies that result from this lack of automation costs the industry billions of dollars a year, but, more importantly, it costs lives and reduces quality of care.

As Congress considers health care reform proposals, focus should be given to system changes providing patients with more choices, more convenience and control over their health care records. That is why today I will be introducing the Independent Health RECORD Trust Act. I will introduce this with Congressman PAUL RYAN from Wisconsin, and we have over 30 original cosponsors, to establish a market-driven approach to building a national health information network through the establishment of federally certified organizations called Independent Health Record Trusts. Individuals would have the option to sign up for an account to be managed by a health record trust similar to the way banks offer and maintain credit card accounts. Patients will have ownership of their electronic records and can create multiple health entries so their dermatologist will not see their mental health history. We will be introducing this today. We hope for speedy passage through the Congress.

OUR FUTURE ENERGY SUPPLIES

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, most credible estimates of future energy supplies for this country indicate that, by 2025, we will still be importing mil-

lions of barrels of crude oil and refined products every single day. That scenario is not positive for America. We should begin today looking at policies that decrease our dependence on foreign crude oil, policies that increase domestic production of crude oil, policies that increase the private investment in domestic production of all energy sources, including crude oil and natural gas, policies which will help stabilize prices to consumers both for gasoline and electricity.

Any policy that we look at that does the opposite, that increases our dependence on foreign crude oil, reduces domestic production, reduces private investment in sources of energy, and arbitrarily increases prices to consumers must be challenged and opposed. These are important. They do not wear party jerseys. They are simply the right answer for America. It is our job to get those policies in place.

REPEAL THE TIAHRT AMENDMENT

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the repeal of the Tiahrt amendment which is up for a vote in the Appropriations Committee tomorrow.

The Tiahrt amendment restricts the use of firearm tracing data. Tracing data lets our police departments locate the gun dealers who sell guns used in crimes. One percent of gun dealers sell 57 percent of the guns used in the crimes across the country. That is a staggering statistic. If we can crack down on that 1 percent, we can make our streets and our police officers safer.

The collection of tracing data does not prevent anyone from not buying a firearm; it simply gives law enforcement officials the tools they need to do their job. Let's make our streets safer and help law enforcement by repealing the dangerous Tiahrt amendment.

With that, I hope the American people start calling their Congresspeople. This is important for all communities and all cities around this country.

NINE NEW ENTITLEMENTS, DECREASED COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2669 and in support of the McKeon alternative. As the father of three college graduates and a college sophomore, I understand the financial burden higher education poses on families and students. That is why I am proud of Republican efforts, particularly those of Representatives BUCK MCKEON and RIC KELLER to expand college access and increase affordability.

As lawmakers, our number one education priority should be to ensure that college is affordable for any student. Unfortunately, H.R. 2669 pits the Federal Family Education Loan program against the Direct Loan Program and creates an imbalance in the student loan industry. Instead of helping students, the Democrat entitlement bill would require student borrowers to pay thousands more for a college education. H.R. 2669 creates nine new entitlement programs, placing the interests of colleges and universities above the needs of low-income students, and does nothing to expand college access and affordability for middle-class families.

Congress should not be playing politics with college educations. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the McKeon alternative.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

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ADMINISTRATION'S BENCHMARKS ON IRAQ

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday the President will issue an interim report on the Iraqi government's success or failure meeting the benchmarks. But prior to taking a look at that report, we have another set of benchmarks to look at; that is, the benchmarks for President Bush's administration and what they've done on the Iraqi policy.

When the war began, The White House said that Americans would be greeted as liberators. That's not happening.

Next we were told oil revenues would finance the reconstruction of the Iraqi society. Not happening.

Then we were told that the insurgency was in its last throes. Not happening.

Then we were told that we were planting a democracy in the heart of the Mideast. Not happening.

At every turn, the administration's benchmarks for the Iraqi strategy have failed to meet their own measure of success. And the American people have been asked to pay for this failure.

Two years ago, we were spending \$5 billion a month in Iraq. It is now reported that we're up to \$10 billion a month in resources, not counting the amount of lives we lose on a monthly basis.

Mr. Speaker, we've waited long enough. The President's strategy of more troops, more time, more money and more of the same has run its course. It's time for a new direction.

DON'T CALL THEM RADICAL ISLAMIC TERRORISTS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the blissfully ignorant British bureaucrats have decided to ignore who they are fighting. In the name of political correctness, Prime Minister Brown is refusing to acknowledge acts of terror are committed by Islamic radical insurgents.

The British Government has banned the use of words such as "Muslim" and "war on terror." Acts of terrorism are now referred to as "criminal acts." The Islamic extremists who commit the attacks are being referred to as "communities."

Islamic terrorists can go ahead and continue the barrage of terror because proper Britain won't even acknowledge who they are.

When did the great nation of Britain turn into the timid, politically sensitive, fearful country that is more concerned about hurting the feelings of terrorists than protecting their island? It's time for Britain to boldly name the enemy at the gate, to turn around and fight for their country, not hide behind niceties.

Winston Churchill wasn't afraid to name and fight the Nazis when he said, "We shall go to the end; we will defend our island whatever the cost will be; we will fight on the beaches; we will fight in the fields and on the streets. We will never surrender."

And that's just the way it is.

H.R. 2669—COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the College Cost Reduction Act. For far too long we've watched as Pell Grants have stayed flat and tuition has continued to soar, over 40 percent in the last 6 years alone.

Students today are graduating with greater and greater debt. As a result, they are increasingly unwilling to take critical public sector jobs such as first responders, law enforcement officials, nurses and teachers because of the modest salaries. For example, nearly 32 percent of graduates pursuing teacher careers can't afford to repay their loans on a starting teacher's salary.

By passing the College Cost Reduction Act, we are encouraging and rewarding public service by providing \$5,000 in loan forgiveness to graduates who take public service jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this is one excellent provision that makes an important investment in our communities, and it's just one of the many reasons I'm going to be supporting this legislation today.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the College Cost Reduction Act.

SAFETY OF CHINESE PRODUCTS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in recent months the number of unsafe products imported to the United States from China, ranging from seafood and pet food to toys and toothpaste, has grown steadily. Chinese-made products have accounted for 60 percent of recalls this year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

China's small-scale food producers have been accused of unsanitary production, conditions, using tainted or substandard ingredients, and failing to register with the authorities. About 350,000, or 78 percent, of China's food processing operations employ 10 people or less.

Americans are rightly concerned when they learn many of the products imported from China pose a threat to their health. American consumers have grown to expect that the products they buy at their local markets are safe for their entire family. That is why it is vitally important for Congress to hold hearings on these issues to better examine how we can protect our constituents from substandard Chinese products.

CONSTITUENT VIEWS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this past week was our home work week, and we went to visit with our constituents and see what the people thought.

In the Ninth District of Tennessee, I found a people I know who felt that this war that we're engaging in is one that we need to bring our troops home from. They spoke of their family members who served in the previous war and said, there's no purpose in what we're doing, and we don't understand it.

I saw a people who saw the movie "Sicko" and came away amazed. And as I toured the Federal Correctional Institute, I felt like I was watching "Sicko" in live theater, for I saw that if you're in prison, you get all the health care you want, but if you don't commit a crime, you don't get health care in this country. And Michael Moore has made a valid point.

And I saw a people who feel like crime is a great problem in this country and their neighborhoods and who commend this Democratic Congress for passing the COPS bill and having more money for the hiring of policemen and for better technology.

And I saw a people that wondered what's going on with our President and our Vice President and asked more and more about impeachment. It's something that the American Congress needs to consider strongly, for our executive powers are out of control.

AMERICANS LOVE A FAIR FIGHT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the American people love a fair fight, and so do I. In the debate over America's future, we especially want to hear all the facts and all the arguments on every side of the issue.

Unfortunately, some in our Nation's Capitol want to achieve that result by bringing back what is known as the Fairness Doctrine, an archaic government regulation imposed by the Federal Communication Commission that for decades required broadcasters to present controversial issues in a fair and balanced manner.

Now, it sounds acceptable enough. But there is really nothing fair about the Fairness Doctrine, Mr. Speaker. This is a relic of America's broadcasting past, and it should stay in the past where it belongs.

Fortunately, 2 weeks ago, 309 Republicans and Democrats in the Congress voted in favor of the Pence amendment to prevent the FCC for 1 year from re-instituting the Fairness Doctrine.

While I was pleased with the bipartisan passage of this legislation, today we will open a second front to ensure that the Fairness Doctrine can never come back again. In cooperation with colleagues in the House and the Senate today, we will unveil the Broadcaster Freedom Act, which will ensure that the FCC and any future administration cannot re-regulate the airwaves of America without an act of Congress.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, join me in cosponsoring the Broadcaster Freedom Act and preserve the free airwaves of America.

REDEPLOYMENT OF OUR TROOPS FROM IRAQ

(Mr. SESTAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, even for those convinced the surge in Iraq is a mistake, the manner in which we implement a decision to leave that country is critical to our Nation. Therefore, any Congress mandating a new security policy through force of law owes a careful explanation to the country why and how it is to be done, including dealing with what would occur in the aftermath.

However much Americans may agree with us a desire to reduce U.S. forces and withdraw them from Iraq quickly, this Nation must face the alternative of what will happen in the region once that redeployment is done by a force of law.

We must remember it took us approximately 6 months to withdraw a small number of troops just from Somalia. We have 160,000 troops in Iraq and over 100,000 contractors, but the time line of about a year that is needed for a safe redeployment also works well to protect our regional interests in a strategic approach to end this war. It provides the time needed for a strategy of regional accommodation to take effect with Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia,