

donors concerned about the changes are discouraged further by the perception of the new burdens associated with the amended rules.

Charities which had operated successful vehicle donation programs, either independently or through third-party fundraisers, have been hit hard. Those unable to cover overhead costs have eliminated vehicle donation programs and resolved to forego the resulting revenue stream. It appears that no charities have initiated or expanded vehicle donation programs over the past two years.

Contrary to reassurances offered during the congressional debate, the tax law changes constituted a classic "baby and bathwater" overreach that has seriously impacted social services provided by non-profit groups across the country. Modest tax incentives are critical to sustaining charitable contributions, including in-kind gifts. The decline in vehicle donations since 2004 could be addressed by minor legislative refinements that would also address potential abuses and buttress IRS enforcement.

Following are the text and technical analysis of my proposed legislation, which I view as a starting point for new congressional debate on this important issue.

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH CARIBBEAN NATIONS, SUCH AS THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, AND SUPPORT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL AND GEOPOLITICAL STABILITY IN THE REGION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this Concurrent Resolution recognizing the importance of our Nation's Caribbean heritage and urge its adoption. I would like to take this opportunity, in part, to focus attention on the provisions of H. Con. Res. 364 that highlight the continuing importance of the Caribbean region to our Nation. I believe it is important that the United States work harder to foster our relationships with Caribbean nations and support their efforts to enhance the financial and geopolitical stability of the region. I recently had the opportunity to visit with Dr. Emsley D. Tromp, President of the Bank van de Nederlandse Antillen, the Central Bank for the Netherlands Antilles. During that meeting, we had the opportunity to discuss the growing importance of our relationship with the Netherlands Antilles, which has grown closer, as this country has approached independent status within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Netherlands Antilles has endeavored to improve its security through a more diversified economy and favorable environment for additional foreign direct investment, particularly from the United States. The Netherlands Antilles made substantial changes to their tax laws, bringing them into compliance with international norms. In addition, they entered into a tax information exchange agreement (TIEA) with the United States and have actively cooperated on tax enforcement matters. It is an important strategic partner of the United States in the Caribbean Basin with shared in-

terests in countering transnational terrorism and crime and illegal narcotics production. A Forward Operating Location (FOL) on Curacao provides support for our drug interdiction efforts in the region. Madam Speaker, the United States should recognize and support efforts such as these in the Caribbean region, and actively work to forge closer ties with the Caribbean nations.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, together with Representatives MILLER, M. SPEIER, MATSUI and LUNGREN, to mark the 100th anniversary of the University of California, Davis. In the past 100 years, UC Davis has emerged from an agricultural outpost into one of the world's premier research universities, and along the way it has provided a first-rate education for generations of students, including several of my colleagues here today.

UC Davis touches and transforms everything that matters to us as human beings—our health; the economy; what we eat and drink; the ways we live and work together; how we find meaning through art, music, and literature; and our understanding of the natural world. UC Davis is a leading institution of education and innovation whose impact is felt around the world.

UC Davis was founded as an agricultural extension of the main University of California campus at Berkeley to address a lack of in-state educational opportunities for students of agriculture. Governor George Pardee signed off on the expansion in 1905, and Davisville was quickly selected as the location where the campus opened to 18 students in 1909. Women joined the student body in 1914.

In 1959 the Regents of the University of California elevated UC Davis to a general campus within the University of California system. This allowed the campus to develop as an institution in its own right, growing into new fields and developing its distinctive identity. Today, the campus is the largest in the system at over 5,300 acres and is internationally renowned for its beautiful layout, the extensive bike paths, arboretum and the art that enhances it throughout.

In 1966, the university affiliated with Sacramento County Hospital and within two years the first students were admitted to the UC Davis School of Medicine. The UC Davis Medical Center is consistently recognized as one of the top-50 hospitals in the Nation, and it serves as the region's trauma center. In addition, the hospital's cancer center, children's hospital and M.I.N.D. Institute for neurodevelopmental disorders are leaders in their respective fields.

As a research institution, UC Davis remains the most vibrant and productive agricultural research university in the United States, but it has expanded far beyond these roots. The faculty and administration are committed to providing a rigorous, attentive and research-oriented campus that has created a world-

class learning environment. Each year, the campus welcomes a diverse and talented group of students, and it remains a popular college destination for students from California and beyond—for the 2008 entering class, UC Davis received over 42,000 freshman applications, a 15 percent increase. With a student body of over 30,000, and 178,000 alumni, UC Davis has had a wide-spread impact on life in our state.

In 1996, the university joined the prestigious Association of American Universities, representing the top 62 research universities in North America. Research funding, most of which is competitively awarded, has risen to \$600 million annually, including a remarkable 15 percent jump over the past year. UC Davis's faculty regularly collaborates with leading researchers and scientists around the world. Recently, the university signed a partnership agreement to collaborate with Chilean universities on research in viticulture and enology, a major industry for California. The faculty maintains active research programs in a wide variety of fields with importance to the state and nation, including 1,500 researchers working on a range of environmental issues and over 100 engaged in cutting edge discovery and innovation in the transportation and energy sectors.

The work of the university has long been sustained by generous philanthropy from alumni and others supportive of the university's mission. Donors have established more than 100 endowed chairs at UC Davis. Recent gifts have included \$100 million from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to launch the new Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing; a \$10 million gift from alumnus Maurice Gallagher and his wife Marcia to fund a new building (Maurice J. Gallagher Jr. Hall) and an endowment for the Graduate School of Management; and \$35 million from Margrit Mondavi and the late Robert Mondavi to help establish the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts and the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science.

Excellence in women's and men's athletics has long been a proud tradition at UC Davis. For its thorough dominance of college athletics at the NCAA Division II level, Davis was awarded the Sears Cup for best Division II athletic program in six of the first eight years the award was given. At the Division II level, UC Davis won multiple national championships including basketball, softball and tennis. In 2003, UC Davis undertook the rigorous process to move its athletic programs to Division I. In 2007, the Aggies gained full Division I status after completing the probationary study-period and they now compete against the finest athletes in the nation. Undoubtedly, the most exciting times in this transition were the series of upset victories over "the other farm" in a variety of sports including football, basketball, soccer, wrestling and baseball.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we recognize and congratulate the University of California, Davis, on the occasion of its centennial. Over the past one hundred years, the university has been of incalculable benefit to the State of California and our nation with its accomplishments across all the fields of human endeavor. As an educational institution, UC Davis is rightly counted among the finest in the country and generations of students have benefited from the wisdom and

guidance of its faculty. I know that the university will continue into its next century as it finished its first: a dynamic institution for education and research, and a true source of pride for Californians. I ask you to join me in thanking all the students, staff, administrators and faculty, past and present, for their accomplishments and continued hard work.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL NIGHT
OUT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I support this resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same. This resolution is important today as Americans are desirous of making America a better, safer place. This resolution recognizes the importance of community policing and crime prevention.

Because the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) Program at fiscal year have been severely cut in America, we must be vigilant and ensure that America and our neighborhoods remain safe. The Byrne-JAG monies are supposed to be used to make America a safer place.

Byrne-JAG allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system, which states and local governments have come to rely on to ensure public safety. They support: law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education, corrections and community programs, drug treatment, planning, evaluation, technology improvement programs, and crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). In short, they are an indispensable resource that states use to combat crime.

Unfortunately, in fiscal year 2008 the Byrne-JAG program was cut by two-thirds. Although Congress authorized over \$1 billion, only \$520 million were appropriated for fiscal year 2007. The appropriation was then drastically reduced to \$170.4 million in fiscal year 2008, and the President has proposed further cuts for the fiscal year 2009 budget.

The continuing cuts seem to indicate that information regarding the success of the program has not been brought to the attention of members of Congress or to the Administration. Therefore, H. Res. 1324, recognizes that the President should focus on neighborhood crime prevention.

The trend to reduce the grant funding may result, in part, from instances where Byrne-JAG funding has been abused. For example, in 1999 Byrne-JAG funding was used in the infamous Tulia outrage in which a rogue police narcotics officer in Texas set up dozens of people, most of them African-American, in false cocaine trafficking charges. In other instances, jurisdictions used the funding to fund task forces focused solely on ineffective, low-level drug arrests, which has put the task force concept and the diminished standards of drug enforcement that it has come to represent in the national spotlight.

The most well-known Byrne-funded scandal occurred in Tulia, Texas where dozens of Afri-

can American residents (representing 16 percent of the town's black population) were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to decades in prison, even though the only evidence against them was the uncorroborated testimony of one white undercover officer with a history of lying and racism. The undercover officer worked alone, and had no audiotapes, video surveillance, or eyewitnesses to collaborate his allegations. Suspicions eventually arose after two of the accused defendants were able to produce firm evidence showing they were out of state or at work at the time of the alleged drug buys. Texas Governor Rick Perry eventually pardoned the Tulia defendants (after four years of imprisonment), but these kinds of scandals continue to plague the Byrne grant program.

These scandals are not the result of a few "bad apples" in law enforcement; they are the result of a fundamentally flawed bureaucracy that is prone to corruption by its very structure. Byrne-funded regional anti-drug task forces are federally funded, state managed, and locally staffed, which means they do not really have to answer to anyone. In fact, their ability to perpetuate themselves through asset forfeiture and federal funding makes them unaccountable to local taxpayers and governing bodies.

But, reducing the funding is not the answer. Instead, we should encourage the President to invest in America and keep our neighborhoods safe. H. Res. 1324 does just that. I urge my colleagues to support it.

RECOGNIZING MARIAN MEDICAL
CENTER'S CO-GENERATION EN-
ERGY PLANT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marian Medical Center, located in Santa Maria, California, and in my congressional district, for the recent completion of a new Co-Generation Energy Plant. This truly is a win-win project that will benefit our community and the environment.

With skyrocketing energy costs, it's very important now that we develop alternative methods of generating electricity. The Marian Medical Center Co-Generation Energy Plant system works by capturing toxic methane gas run-off from the Santa Maria Municipal Landfill and piping it to an energy plant recently built on the hospital campus where it is converted to clean electrical energy.

Piping gas from the landfill to power the hospital will significantly reduce methane emissions and offset the use of non-renewable resources, such as natural gas and oil. The energy plant will also result in significant energy and cost savings for the hospital. It will supply all but 50 kilowatts of the energy necessary to power the medical center and is expected to achieve an annual electrical cost savings of nearly \$350,000. Finally, the cogeneration project will provide benefits to the City of Santa Maria, which will be able to make use of and receive revenue for an otherwise unused, potentially toxic resource.

I am so proud that Marian Medical Center is one of only a handful of healthcare facilities in

the nation to be powered by co-generated energy. This project is the result of a unique partnership and I want to commend Marian Medical Center and the City of Santa Maria for serving as a role model for other organizations in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL
OLYMPICS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1279, "Recognizing the Special Olympics 40th anniversary". First, I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, LEE TERRY of Nebraska, for introducing this important piece of legislation. This resolution will recognize the significance of the Special Olympics in establish lasting competitive bonds and teaching the world that all people possess the same courage and profound joy in the face of athletic competition. Through its 40 years the Special Olympics has dedicated itself to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive, and respected members of society through sports training and competition. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this act.

The Special Olympics currently serves over 2,500,000 people with intellectual disabilities in more than 200 programs in over 180 countries. The organization has over 700,000 volunteers and 500,000 coaches worldwide. Indeed, every four years the Special Olympics requires a massive undertaking of athletes, volunteers and coaches. Throughout all this the organization has stood true to its oath "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt". Indeed, the bravery of the Special Olympics and its intellectually disabled athletes is inspiring, and well worth this commendation.

This bill recognizes not only the importance of an organization such as the Special Olympics, but also its effects. Children and adults with intellectual disabilities who participate in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image. These competitors grow not only physically, but mentally, and emotionally. In the process new powerful ties are made between individuals and between nations regardless of the barriers of language and geography.

This legislation will express the desire of Congress to recognize the tireless compassion of those volunteers and coaches working with the Special Olympics, as well as the unshakeable bravery of its athletes. Through its 40 years of service the Special Olympics has helped millions of intellectually disabled children and adults to find their true voice.

Whether it is through their 40 years of international competition, or their work regionally, where chapters such as Special Olympics Texas work to bring out both athleticism and joy from the intellectually disabled in 21 sports, this organization has shown a commitment to bringing out the best in both volunteer and competitor alike. To think that from a small summer day camp for intellectually challenged children and adults could evolve into a