

our state highway system, he was proven in advancing the best of any cause that might come his way.

He took on all comers with a positive attitude, and fought back against unwanted turns of life.

Because of him, and his principled approach to business, building a better community was always possible.

It is with great thanks to Lee that we are all left with such great civic pride.

I am grateful for his example, and I honor his life and achievements that serve as a great example for us all.

RECOGNIZING WIRELESS BROADBAND COMPANY ON THEIR GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize Wireless Broadband Company for their far-sighted provision of high speed Internet services to rural areas.

Wireless Broadband Company is a pioneer in the high speed Internet industry as they are reaching customers that larger companies have deemed unprofitable. This company has earned my respect for remembering that rural communities should not be left behind in the Information Age. Farmers, ranchers, lake-area inhabitants, and other country dwellers now have immediate access to online communities and knowledge databases thanks to the innovation and concern of this company. Wireless Broadband Company will be opening their third office and continues to expand their service capacity to rural areas.

Madam Speaker, I commend the management and employees of Wireless Broadband Company for the positive professional contribution they have made to rural communities, notably constituents within the 26th District of Texas. I warmly congratulate Wireless Broadband Company upon the opening of their third store and wish them continued business growth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on July 22, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be in the Chamber for a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 512, the Aviation Safety Enhancement Act of 2008.

CONDEMNING THE PERSECUTION OF BAHAI'S IN IRAN

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the Baha'i faith emphasizes unity within the human race. The Baha'i teachings are built on the values of peace and unification.

Although the history of the Baha'i faith is a turbulent one, they have maintained unity within their own faith. Their faith teaches that unity manifests a global community that is complete with social and economic equality, the elimination of prejudice, education for all, collective security and the elimination of extreme poverty and wealth.

With these values in mind this body should be attentive to the ways in which we can bring about the unification of the human race and instill world peace. Affirming strong support for religious freedom for all people throughout the world and working to ensure this freedom is maintained at all times for all people is important. Our religious freedom is an inherent right, a human right and must be protected. It must be said, however, that the act of condemning is not the best way to bring about these important goals.

In the spirit of honoring the Baha'i faith we should work to bring about the peace and unification that ends egregious persecution. The United States should engage Iran in high-level diplomatic negotiations. Engaging Iran diplomatically honors the spirit of unity that is central to the Baha'i faith and brings us closer to peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE IMAGINE DISCLOSURE SUNSHINE ACT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce companion legislation to S. 3343, the Medicare Imagine Disclosure Sunshine Act of 2008. This legislation would require physicians, at the time certain imaging procedures are ordered, to inform the patient of any ownership interest the physician may have in those imaging services and provide the patient with a list of other, local imaging providers.

This legislation is based on recommendations by both the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

The Medicare Imaging Disclosure Sunshine Act will provide beneficiaries more transparency and disclosure of potential conflicts of interest when physicians write referrals for imaging services while also providing beneficiaries with the consumer-friendly option to choose when and where they seek an imaging procedure.

Madam Speaker, I believe this legislation takes an important step toward a more transparent referral procedure, and in the coming weeks I plan to continue to work on this legis-

lation with the committees of jurisdiction and stakeholders and revise it so that it achieves the best possible balance for physicians, beneficiaries, and the health of the Medicare system.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTVILLE POLISH CLUB

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Montville Polish Club. On August 30, 2008, the club will commemorate 75 years of history with a night of celebration including traditional pierogi, kielbasa, and kapusta and Polish dancing.

In the midst of the Great Depression, John J. Smith, Sam Onuparik and John Emilyta, conceived the idea for a regional Polish-American club to help connect and empower citizens of Polish descent in Montville, Connecticut and surrounding communities. In 1932, with the help of Walter Walenczyk, these men were able to garner support from 33 additional members of the community. In October of that year, the Montville Polish Club convened their first meeting in the Papyis Hall in Uncasville, Connecticut.

In a time of great financial uncertainty, the Montville Polish Club offered hope and opportunity through continuity for members of the Polish community in eastern Connecticut. For newly arrived Polish immigrants, the club offered opportunities to acclimate to American life, providing English lessons, assistance with employment, and fellowship. For established Polish-American families, the club offered opportunity to preserve native cultures and traditions.

Today, the club remains an integral part of the eastern Connecticut community, hosting picnics, plays, parties, and dances. The club has also proven a civic leader, sponsoring countless youth organizations.

Madam Speaker, 75 years ago the Montville Polish Club was founded by a few Polish men with great hopes of bringing their community together. Today, with over 500 members, the club's continuity remains as strong as ever. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing and celebrating the Montville Polish Club's 75th anniversary.

APOLOGIZING FOR THE ENSLAVEMENT AND RACIAL SEGREGATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 194, a resolution that apologizes for the enslavement and racial segregation of African-Americans.

It may be unimaginable today, but for more than 240 years, until 1865, in the 13 original colonies and the United States, there were

men, women, and children forced to labor in bondage and bought and sold as property. It is a dark and shameful historic truth that this Nation must acknowledge and seek to remedy. Those who were enslaved and those who owned slaves have all passed away long ago. Yet, the historic legacy and pain of slavery is a reality we continue to struggle with as a nation.

As slavery evolved into racial segregation, a new pain and hardship was inflicted upon African-Americans. While far less severe than slavery, it was no less degrading and demoralizing. This is also a painful historical legacy we have rejected as a nation. Still, this legacy took place in my lifetime and should be remembered, reflected upon, and aggressively attacked when it reemerges "officially" in our cities, neighborhoods and schools.

This resolution is courageous and correct. I commend Mr. COHEN, its author, because it is meaningful for the U.S. House of Representatives to make this public apology. As a former social studies teacher, I taught my students that we cannot change history, but we must learn from history and use its lessons to make the future better for all mankind. Respect, tolerance and the elimination of prejudice and racism are actions we can take as individuals and as a society today.

We have an opportunity today and every day, as lawmakers here in Congress and as citizens across this country, to recommit ourselves to seek an end to racial inequality and injustice, and to seek greater unity among all Americans. To keep moving forward towards racial equality in America requires recognizing past injustice and to this end, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

AMERICAN HOUSING RESCUE AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, owning a home is an essential component of the American dream, and an accomplishment that millions of Americans aspire to and take pride in. In recent months, however, the housing market has entered a slump. The effort to provide a way for all Americans to own their own homes brought a sharp increase in the usage of subprime and exotic mortgages, which proved to be more than the market could handle. We now find ourselves grappling with decisions on how best to "fix" the problems that have arisen in the housing market and in our economy.

However, a potential \$300 billion Government handout, such as what has been proposed in this legislation, is not the answer. Congress has been given a real opportunity to reform Government Sponsored Enterprises, GSEs, and eliminate the threat to the housing market. Unfortunately, however, the authors of this legislation have chosen to reject real reforms and instead only include ridiculous amounts of bailout spending. By extending an unlimited line of credit to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac until 2009, we are placing American taxpayers at risk by absorbing the losses of these for-profit institutions. The bill further

institutes a tax on the very GSEs that we are being asked to prop up, and allows that money—an estimated \$9 billion over 10 years—to be given to supposed "housing and development" groups that have been shown to participate in illegal and unethical activities, such as widespread voter fraud. The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, has estimated that the expected value of the Federal budgetary cost from enacting this proposal would be \$25 billion over fiscal years 2009 and 2010, but that this figure could rise into the hundreds of billions of dollars. I believe this legislation will further exacerbate our nation's rising deficit and further weaken our already "weak dollar."

While there is no doubt the housing slump must be addressed, I am concerned by the precedent of using taxpayer dollars to bail out fraudulent lenders and, in some cases, irresponsible borrowers. Congress can enact responsible, market-based legislation to address our housing needs. I fully support FHA and GSE reform measures, yet I cannot support a massive bailout to irresponsible lending practices and market speculators. For these reasons, I voted against H.R. 3221.

I remain committed to supporting measures that provide the necessary relief to families who have been victimized without burdening taxpayers for the irresponsibility of others. Therefore, I have given my support to two alternative bills introduced before the House of Representatives that precisely address the needs of homeowners in a responsible and fair way.

First, H.R. 5974, the Housing Opportunity for All Americans Act of 2008, addresses the housing slump in a responsible way. For instance, this bill does not include \$300 billion in funding to the Federal Housing Authority. Instead of providing a massive bailout to irresponsible lenders and borrowers, this legislation creates a market incentive approach to the housing slump. The market approach includes a one-time tax credit for homebuyers of 10 percent of the home's purchase price, up to \$10,000, for 1 year after the enactment of the bill. Also, under this legislation, taxpayers who are nonresident aliens, those who flip a home within the 1 year period, or people who sell a house to a relative simply for the credit, would not be eligible. Furthermore, mortgages which exceed the maximum original principal obligation of a mortgage Freddie Mac will purchase would not qualify.

Second, the Homeownership Protection and Housing Market Stabilization Act of 2008, H.R. 5857, is a more responsible approach to addressing the current issues facing the housing market and the underlying causes of the problem. The bill includes provisions to directly protect homebuyers and owners, such as housing counseling, improved disclosure practices, fraud combating and prevention measures, and encouragement to rework loans instead of foreclosing. It also aims to help prevent lenders from falling into the same habits that have recently developed in the industry by providing liability protection for helping troubled borrowers, requiring escrow accounts for subprime borrowers, and reforming appraisal practices for prospective homebuyers. In addition, this legislation contains provisions similar to those that have passed this House with my support: FHA modernization and improved regulation of GSEs, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks.

These alternative bills provide the integrity of the appraisal process and strengthen mortgage fraud prevention efforts that will help bring stability to the current housing market. These bills together represent a viable alternative, offering an appropriate response to a serious problem without burdening taxpayers for the irresponsibility of others. I hope this body has the chance to consider these important provisions in the immediate future.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4137, HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend Chairman MILLER and Mr. McKEON for producing a strong piece of legislation. The Higher Education Opportunity Act does what the name suggests. It expands affordability and access to college education for the broadest range of Americans. It expands Pell Grants, the basis of financial aid, and I'm pleased to say it allows Pell Grants to be used year round and for certificate programs and part-time students, something I have been working on for a long time.

This Act will help bring transparency and accountability to student loan programs by requiring institutions of higher education and lenders to adopt strict codes of conduct, and protects students from aggressive marketing practices by lenders. It will provide students with full information about their borrowing options when taking out loans, and help promote financial literacy for students and their parents.

This legislation will help streamline the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, and encourage the Department of Education to coordinate with the IRS to use information that the Government already has. It as well expands the access for low-income families to student aid with an easy to use two-page FAFSA-EZ form. Additionally, the bill strengthens the TRIO and GEAR UP college readiness programs for first-generation and low-income students.

One of the complaints I hear most from students and their parents is about the ever-increasing cost of college textbooks. This bill will help make textbook costs more manageable by ensuring students know the price of textbooks in advance so they can plan for the expense. And it requires colleges and faculty members to have access to the textbook costs when making selections for their courses.

The bill also builds on our work to restore the full benefits of the GI Bill to our Nation's veterans, by creating a new scholarship program for active duty military personnel and family members. It also establishes support centers to help veterans succeed in college and ensures fairness for veterans in student aid decisions.

I am pleased that this bill will help colleges recruit, retain, and graduate students with disabilities. The legislation will also help colleges