

Center for Missing and Exploited Children for their assistance and counsel in drafting the bill. Mr. Speaker, as a mother of four and grandmother of seven, I know there is nothing more important than safeguarding our children from predators. We must not allow those who sexually exploit children to avoid prosecution because of a technicality.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4120 and send this important bill to the White House for the President's signature.

CONSOLIDATED SECURITY, DISASTER ASSISTANCE, AND CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this continuing resolution spending bill contained needed funding provisions, many of which I support. In fact, three separate Appropriations bills—Defense, Homeland Security, and Military Construction—Veterans Affairs are included in the Continuing Resolution (CR) package. The insertion of these individual bills within the CR will ensure the safety and security of our Nation, maintain the commitment of Congress to our men and women in uniform, and provide for the needs of our veterans through the next fiscal year.

Despite the needed funding to our troops and veterans, the Democrat leadership decided to take political advantage of this spending bill and slipped in several inappropriate spending measures. This legislation includes unjustified spending measures that should have had the opportunity to be considered through the normal legislative process, and not tacked onto a massive, catch-all Appropriations bill.

One of these unjustified spending measures includes a \$25 billion bailout of the auto industry of which \$7.5 billion is appropriated in the bill. First in line were Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac then Bear Stearns, and now a bailout to the auto manufacturing industry—Mr. Speaker, where does it end?

We must address the core economic problems that hold back workers from better paying jobs and that stifle businesses from being successful. The best and most responsible approach Congress can take is to continue to pursue policies designed to get our economy growing again. After September 11, 2001, our Nation's general aviation and airline manufacturing industry greatly suffered. Congress had a choice, to throw millions of dollars at the aviation industry or take a market based approach and allow accelerated depreciation of its products. The Republican majority chose to pass a jobs and economic growth bill that included depreciation and expensing provisions, which according to manufacturers, have resulted in back orders until 2012–2013. This is just one example of a market based solution to an economic crisis.

This is the type of policy that should guide this Congress in dealing with the failings of the auto industry, the housing industry, and so on. I cannot support a bill that attempts to undercut the integrity of our Nation's free market in-

frastructure through a \$25 billion bailout of the auto industry.

**THE TRINITY VALLEY EXPOSITION
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to recognize the Trinity Valley Exposition on its 100th anniversary this October. The TVE has been a fixture in southeast Texas that brings fun and culture together for a great yearly event. Additionally, outside of the celebration in the autumn, TVE is active in the community and invests in the youth of our great State.

The TVE is a charitable organization located in Liberty, Texas. The main groups benefitting from the works of the TVE are the young people residing in the counties of Liberty and Chambers. Over the past few years, the TVE has contributed thousands of dollars in scholarships to those students who are going to be attending post-secondary institutions. For example, in 2004, the TVE gave \$30,000 in scholarships to students in the area.

The TVE owns 60 acres of land, a covered arena, an exposition hall, and a pavilion. Various functions occur in these places throughout the year. People are allowed to rent these facilities, giving members of the community a chance to convene and offering anyone a great place to have ceremonies, celebrations, and get-togethers.

The TVE is a volunteer organization that relies on its helpers to be effective, especially, every fall when the TVE hosts a county fair. This is a tradition that attracts people from many places, near and far, to gather for the festivities. There is no gate charge, all events are free, and the entire public is invited.

This time, for the 100-year anniversary, the event is extra special with numerous contests engaging participants in kind-spirited competition. The contests include: quilting, baking, scarecrow, kiddie tractor pull, and salsa. Also, this year, favorite TVE memory is a contest, calling people to recollect special experiences of times past. In addition to these events, the TVE asks the children to participate in a coloring contest or in playing one of many games available. There will be live family entertainment, a magician, hotdogs, and rice. The grand event closes with a fireworks display to usher out a truly meaningful milestone.

The TVE is a tradition that brings the community together and calls to mind many of the things that identify us as Texans. Therefore, I am happy to draw attention to the Trinity Valley Exposition on its 100th year of operation.

VETERANS APPRECIATION CELEBRATION LEADING UP TO VETERANS DAY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, beginning November 1st, 2008 Charlotte

County will begin a Veterans Appreciation Celebration leading up to Veterans Day. This celebration will honor the Veterans in our area who have bravely served our country. It is my honor to recognize and thank the Veterans who made this day possible and the community leaders who helped to put this wonderful celebration together. Events included in this 18-day celebration are:

A Homeless Stand Down on November 1st, 2008, being hosted by the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition and the Charlotte County Veterans Service Office. The stand down will attempt to increase the community's awareness of homeless veterans and bring a variety of social service providers together to help these veterans. During the stand down, showers, haircuts, food and clothing will be provided for homeless veterans, as well as medical and counseling services.

A Purple Heart Memorial Dedication Ceremony to honor all branches of service on Tamiami Trail and Cochran Blvd in Port Charlotte, Florida. This ceremony will take place on November 2nd, 2008.

A Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 8th, 2008 in Punta Gorda, Florida.

Veterans Day Celebrations throughout the community on November 11th, 2008.

An Army/Navy youth football game at Franz Ross Park on November 16th, 2008.

A Veterans Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Disabled American Veterans on November 17th, 2008 in Punta Gorda, Florida.

Without the service of our great Veterans, we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we do today. On behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District, I applaud Charlotte County in their efforts to honor these men and women who so bravely served our country.

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S SEX ED
WEEK OF ACTION**

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today at a time when our country is facing grave concerns over the economy, yet this administration has supported \$1.3 billion on ineffective abstinence-only programs.

The CDC has just reported that more than 1 in 4 girls are infected with a sexually transmitted infection. It is clear that teens do not have access to full information about how to lead safe and healthy lives. This reaffirms what people in my home state of California already know: abstinence-only programs do not work.

I am proud to be from the first state that has rejected wasteful Title V abstinence-only funding. California leads the Nation in its effort to prevent unintended pregnancy through access to family planning, comprehensive sex education, public funding of family planning services and laws and policies protecting access to reproductive health care.

We must expand access to these services. This is why I support the outreach and community programs of the Planned Parenthood of Mar Monte. They provide comprehensive sex education programs through community outreach to high school students, parenting

and pregnant teen mothers and train young males in responsible decision making.

This week, Planned Parenthood affiliates around the country are sponsoring grassroots events to raise awareness about the need for comprehensive sex education. A majority of voters strongly support comprehensive sex education and want public schools to teach it to keep our youth healthy and safe.

These parents are just looking to Congress to eliminate funding for dangerous abstinence only programs and instead fund comprehensive sex education programs.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATINO COMMUNITY IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to pay tribute to the growing, enterprising and dynamic Latino community.

Today, you need only look at recent statistics to recognize the growing influence of the Latino community.

This year, the Latino population has grown to more than 45 million people in the United States. By 2050, the Latino population is projected to go up to 132 million, constituting 30 percent of the Nation's population.

Economically, Latinos own more than 1.6 million businesses in the country, generating \$222 billion in revenue at a growth rate that is triple the national average. In addition, by 2010, the purchasing power of the Latino community is projected to skyrocket from 600 billion to a trillion dollars. Clearly, this proven work ethic and an entrepreneurial spirit will enable Latino businesses and workers to play an even bigger role in sustaining and strengthening our Nation's economy in years to come.

Politically, Latinos are making significant gains, especially as representation in elected offices at all levels of government continues to increase. Currently, according to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, more than 6,000 Latinos are providing leadership in elected and appointed offices throughout the country.

While I am very proud of the many Latino leaders who are standing up for their communities by assuming important positions of leadership, we must keep working to increase our representation. According to a new report compiled by the University of Denver, the number of Latinos holding public office is disproportionately low given that the Latino population is the largest minority group. The report states, "Very few Latinos have ever been appointed to serve in high-ranking posts or cabinet positions. No Latino has ever been appointed to the Supreme Court. Only during the last twenty years have Latino leaders begun to occupy cabinet positions . . . A handful of Latinos have held such positions . . . Still, the participation of Latinos in the administration is below what should be expected relative to the population."

Without question, the commitment of Latino leaders to equity in this country has inspired all of us to do the work that we do with heart and compassion. I am inspired by the words

of the late Chicana author, Gloria Anzaldua, who wrote, "The possibilities are numerous once we decide to act and not react."

On May 1, 2006, Latinos came out by the millions and took to the streets stating, "Today we march, tomorrow we vote." They kept their promise and in the November 2006 election, the country saw the largest turnout of Latino voters for a midterm election. This November, with the growing population and increased numbers of registered voters, the Latino community will have a vital role in selecting the new president of the United States. According to the University of Denver report, 93 percent of Latino registered voters plan to vote in the upcoming election.

With increasing political clout in the halls of State legislatures and in the voting booth, Latinos will continue to be agents of social and political change in this country.

For example, since the start of the 110th Congress under the leadership of the new Democratic majority, Congress has passed key legislation that directly benefits the Latino community. Congress authorized Recovery Rebates that went out to 130 American households—including many Latino households—to help revitalize the economy. Congress increased in the minimum wage, directly benefiting 2.3 million Latinos over the next several years. Congress increased unemployment benefits at a crucial time when the Latino unemployment rate was at 8 percent. More recently, Congress reauthorized the Higher Education Act, an important piece of legislation that will help many Latino students pursue a higher education.

Under Democratic leadership, Congress has made strides in addressing the needs of Latino families. But we must not rest. This election cycle provides all of us in the Latino community with a critical opportunity to move our agenda forward. With responsive representation in all levels of government including the Executive Branch, the Latino community can better use its leverage to make progress on key priorities. These priorities include increased access to high quality education, greater access to quality health care and comprehensive immigration reform.

As we observe Hispanic Heritage Month, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the growing political empowerment and activism in the Latino community. Now more than ever, we must work together, organize, and, above all, vote, to make our voices heard this November.

TRIBUTE TO ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Boniface Catholic Church of Garner, Iowa, on celebrating their 125th anniversary as a congregation.

The history of Catholicism in the Garner community dates back to the time neighboring priests of Charles City, Mason City, and Algona would come together once a month to celebrate Mass and administer the Sacraments in homes and in the public school. On December 21, 1883 the deed for the land,

which was purchased for \$100 in 1882, was recorded. Father Hanley was appointed pastor of Clarion, Hampton, and Garner and had the church erected. It was the first Catholic Church in Garner and Mass was celebrated in the church in August of 1883.

In 1924, a purchase of two more lots gave St. Boniface ownership of the entire block and the rectory was moved to this location. In 1940, a new church was constructed for an estimated cost of \$37,000. While growing as a congregation, St. Boniface Church saw many liturgical changes take place over the years but the community always came together and remained steadfast and united.

St. Boniface Catholic Church is dedicated to benefitting the lives of those in Garner, and for this I offer my utmost congratulations and thanks on a prosperous history. It is an honor to represent all the parishioners of St. Boniface Catholic Church and the current pastor Reverend Henry Huber in the United States Congress, and I wish them continued success, grace, peace and celebration as a community.

IN HONOR OF VOCALESSSENCE SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor VocalEssence in honor of its 40th season. On September 14, 2008, VocalEssence kicked off its anniversary year with a community concert celebration featuring Garrison Keillor.

During its distinguished history under the direction of the internationally renowned director Philip Brunelle, VocalEssence has become one of the largest and most prestigious choral organizations in the country. Founded by Brunelle in 1969 as the Plymouth Music Series, the choral organization became VocalEssence in 1992, and has steadily grown in reputation along with Mr. Brunelle. Mr. Brunelle himself is an institution in the choral music community, and an outstanding artist. VocalEssence has earned praise for its innovation among the music community by working to spotlight lesser known compositions from all time periods, as well as the work of contemporary composers. By 1991 the organization enjoyed international recording success, as well as international recognition as a leader in choral music performance.

VocalEssence has been actively involved in community engagement in the Twin Cities through programs such as WITNESS, an initiative that honors and celebrates the contributions of African Americans to our cultural heritage. Through concerts and recordings featuring African American composers and artists and educational outreach designed to inform students of the historical role of African Americans in our culture, WITNESS has enriched our community and the musical world, reaching more than 115,000 students in more than 55 schools in the Twin Cities area.

VocalEssence has brought great distinction to the Twin Cities arts community, earning numerous recognition and awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, as well as the Margaret Hillis Achievement Award for Choral Excellence, an