

been silenced, the democratic ideals she so fervently fought for will continue to be voiced throughout Pakistan. The torch she carried will be borne by her son and her many other followers.

In a world where terrorism has become a pronounced presence, this assassination is yet another example of the lengths that terrorists will go to achieve their ends. And in a world where the United States has vowed to fight terrorism to the bitter end, this resolution is yet another example of how we will assist all governments in the fight against terrorism. Terrorists everywhere must understand that the world will not stand still.

Although no one can bring back this brilliant leader of the Pakistani people, the world must condemn these terrorist activities and promote a free and democratic environment in Pakistan, an environment in which future great Pakistani leaders will rise from Bhutto's memory and continue her successes.

INTRODUCTION OF CAGING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2008

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Caging Prohibition Act of 2008, a critical contribution to the Congress's election reform efforts as we approach the 2008 election. I would like to acknowledge and thank those that join me in this introduction—Representatives RAHM EMANUEL, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, XAVIER BECERRA, RUSH HOLT, MIKE HONDA, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, and GWEN MOORE and members of my committee, the Judiciary Committee—Representatives JERROLD NADLER, ZOE LOFGREN, STEVEN COHEN, and KEITH ELLISON.

Since the late 1950's, the pernicious practice of "voter caging" has been used to discourage or prevent eligible voters from having their vote cast and counted on election day. Recent elections have shown that caging tactics are not outdated, and in fact, have been used to disenfranchise voters in recent midterm and Presidential elections. While caging efforts have traditionally been directed at minority communities, all voters are susceptible to these attempts at voter intimidation and suppression.

The undemocratic practice of voter caging involves sending mail to voters at the addresses at which they are registered to vote. Should such mail be returned as undeliverable or without a return receipt, the voter's name is placed on a "caging list." These caging lists are then used to challenge a voter's registration or eligibility. For those that suggest that voter caging is done with the purest of intentions, I point out that this method remains an unreliable and dangerous way to identify ineligible voters. Mail may be returned as undeliverable for any number of reasons unrelated to an individual's ability to vote. Typos, transposed numbers, new street names, and improper deliveries explain just some of the many reasons for returned mail.

In my home State of Michigan, I have seen firsthand how caging efforts are used to harass, bully, and ultimately disenfranchise, eligible voters. During the 2004 election, chal-

lengers monitored every single one of Detroit's 254 polling stations. With a Michigan lawmaker advocating "suppress the Detroit vote," it was obvious why the challengers were at every polling place—to create a tense and hostile environment for those eligible voters who simply wished to participate in our democracy by casting a ballot. And furthermore, I cannot help but think that "suppress the Detroit vote" is synonymous with "suppress the Black vote" as Detroit is 83 percent African American. These voter suppression campaigns always seem to target our most vulnerable voters—racial minorities, language minorities, low-income people, homeless people, and college students.

However, during the 2004 election, we learned that no one is immune to voter suppression when Ohio and Florida caging lists specifically targeted soldiers whose mail was returned as undeliverable because they were stationed overseas. Here it is, our soldiers are fighting for democracy abroad, but find out that they cannot participate in democracy at home. During the last Presidential election, caging tactics were not limited to Michigan, Ohio, and Florida. Reports of caging came from all over the country—from Wisconsin, where "suspicious addresses" were used as the basis for challenges, to Nevada, where partisan gains were the acknowledged motive for challenges.

Voter caging is inconsistent with the principle that every eligible citizen should be entitled to the right to vote. The Caging Prohibition Act of 2008 will clearly define and criminalize voter caging and other questionable challenges intended to disqualify eligible voters. This bill is really quite simple. One, it requires election officials to corroborate their caging documents with independent evidence before a voter can be deemed ineligible. And two, it limits all other challenges that do not come from election officials to those based on personal, first-hand knowledge.

Caging tactics meant to suppress the vote do more than impede the right to vote. They threaten to erode the very core of our democracy. By eliminating barriers to the polls, we can help restore what has been missing from our elections—fairness, honesty, and integrity.

IN HONOR OF POLICE OFFICER VINCENT J. ROMANO, CITY OF NEW JERSEY, NJ

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jersey City Police Officer Vincent J. Romano on the occasion of his retirement. Police Officer Romano who retired on November 1, 2007, received numerous recognitions for his service, evidence that he was an outstanding member of the Jersey City Police Force.

Police Officer Romano, was appointed to the Jersey City Police Department in 1988, and initially assigned to the South District. His dedication garnered the trust of his superiors and earned him other opportunities to serve the Department in the West District, North District, Municipal Court Unit and the Records Room. His experience and his knowledge of

the community also won him specialized assignments in the Narcotics Unit and the Violent Crimes Unit.

Throughout his career, Police Officer Vincent J. Romano has received numerous awards which included: 2 commendations, 11 Excellence Police Service Awards, 3 Unit Citations and 1 World Trade Center Award.

Please join me in honoring Police Officer Vincent J. Romano for his distinguished service to the Jersey City Police Department, and in congratulating him, his wife, Connie, and their two sons, Vincent and Joseph.

COMMENDING BILL CAMERON FOR BEING NAMED THE SOUTHEAST FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate a friend and hardworking farmer who has received one of the most distinguished awards a farmer can receive in the Nation. Bill Cameron, a Hoke County citizen, won the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farm of the Year for 2007, and I couldn't be more proud of him for this well-deserved accomplishment.

Bill Cameron is a native of Hoke County. He coached the high school football team for 11 years and then decided to focus on farming full time and invest his life in the agriculture industry.

Bill started his farming operation with 82 acres, and it has grown to almost 900 acres today. He is well diversified with swine, cattle and row crops. His livestock operations include Santa Gertrudis cows, bulls used to raise seed stock, feeder steers and a large breeder gilt grower operation. On the crop side, Cameron grows hundreds of acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, rye and hay.

During the Southeastern competition, Cameron was selected among ten state finalists in the Southeastern states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Folks, this is quite an achievement to be selected from such a competitive group of farmers, and I am very happy for Bill. I know that there was a tremendous amount of hard work and sacrifice that went into his operation and making it such an efficient and successful operation.

Anyone who knows Hoke County understands that agriculture is at the heart of the community. Bill Cameron has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help create and sustain a strong agriculture community, and as a citizen of North Carolina, I join many in sincerely thanking him.

Not only has Bill Cameron built a first class farming operation, but he has worked tirelessly to help increase the quality of life for Hoke County and the 8th District as a whole. Bill is a former Hoke County Commissioner, and his determination to help build and create a better community and a better North Carolina is inspiring.

I would also like to acknowledge Bill's family that has been there backing him in his efforts and successes. I am sure Bill's wife, Rhenda,

and his two children, Candace and Bill, are as proud as I am of his many accomplishments and his dedication to his profession.

AMERICA'S LOOMING LONG-TERM CARE CRISIS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, while I was back home in Indiana for the recent congressional recess, I came across an excellent op-ed in the Indianapolis Star written by the CEO of Consecro Inc—one of our Nation's premier insurance, annuity and financial security firms—C. James Prieur. The topic of this op-ed was a subject that I have been deeply concerned about for some time, namely, the question of long-term health care. Not since the days of Hillarycare back in the early 1990s has the issue of health care been raised to such prominence in political and civic debates all across the country. However, one aspect of health care that I believe is still not garnering the kind of attention it should is long-term care, LTC, insurance.

Back in December 2006, the AARP released a shocking survey, which found that a full 59 percent of American adults age 45 and older overestimate Medicare coverage for long-term care. Other studies have shown similar results. Taken together, the implication is clear; far too many Americans do not have a clear perception of long-term care costs or to what extent long-term care is covered by public programs. For example, Medicare pays for care delivered in skilled nursing facilities to patients who require longer term medical treatment, but Medicare does not pay for custodial care needed to assist frail and disabled beneficiaries with eating, bathing and other activities of daily living. Medicaid only covers those types of services if you are impoverished or become impoverished, and it provides far fewer quality care choices than are offered through typical long-term care insurance plans.

With the impending retirement of roughly 76 million baby boomers in the next 10 to 20 years, and the average cost of a private room in a nursing home running about \$75,000 a year, in current dollars, we are facing a potential long-term care train wreck. Fortunately, the solution is already in place, and it is not a Government-run insurance program; it is the private insurance industry. As Mr. Prieur clearly says in his op-ed, and I agree with him, long-term care insurance isn't for everyone. But, millions of Americans have already put their trust in LTC insurance, and when 97 percent of long-term care claims submitted to private insurers are being paid out—which is the finding of a survey of the leading LTC insurers done by America's health insurance plans—the facts seem to show that this trust is well placed.

I urge my colleagues to read this op-ed and to talk to your constituents about Medicare and long-term care issues. And I urge my colleagues to come together to enact simple, commonsense changes in Federal policy that can help Americans take an important step towards preparing for their long-term care and retirement security needs. One of the easiest

things we could do is to allow long-term care insurance to be offered among employer-sponsored cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, FSAs. Currently, benefits such as medical insurance, disability income, life insurance, and a variety of other voluntary benefits are cafeteria style but long-term care insurance is not. Moreover, long-term care insurance cannot be purchased using FSA dollars. That simply makes no sense.

[From the Indianapolis Star, Dec. 31, 2007]

LET'S WORK TO AVOID LONG-TERM CARE CRISIS

(By C. James Prieur)

Here's a question: What percentage of the long-term care claims submitted to private insurance companies were paid in 2006? 10 percent? 25 percent? 50 percent? The actual answer—according to a survey of the leading LTC insurers by America's Health Insurance Plans—is 97 percent. If that high percentage surprises you, it may be because a small number of problem LTC insurance cases have been grabbing the headlines.

Public attention is focusing as never before on the important issue of how Americans will pay for their long-term care needs. Soaring health care costs, the looming retirement of millions of baby boomers, and the fear that Medicare and Medicaid will be dangerously strained are behind this concern. Unfortunately, misleading media accounts may be driving away the very people who would benefit most from LTC insurance.

Far-sighted leaders in Congress who are pushing to broaden the number of Americans who have LTC insurance are doing so for good reason. The cost for providing long-term care will be a major, potentially crippling expense for many households. Contrary to what many think, government programs will pay only part of the tab. Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa noted recently that “preparing for long-term care needs can make a big difference in both the quality of life for individuals and the solvency of Medicaid.” How the success of these products and their new variations will affect public programs is a serious issue. Many seniors mistakenly believe their LTC costs will be covered by Medicare. In fact, Medicare does not cover home health care, nursing home care or the type of care one may need for a severe cognitive impairment like Alzheimer's disease.

This means that most seniors will have to bear a meaningful share of their own long-term care costs, and that's where private LTC insurers enter the picture. It is our mission to provide seniors with the assurance that their long-term care needs will be covered and their legacy will be preserved.

Millions of Americans have put their trust in LTC insurance, and the facts show that this trust is well placed. Overwhelmingly, insurers are meeting their obligations. Across the country in 2005 (the most recent full-year data available), the LTC industry paid more than \$3 billion of claims.

LTC insurance isn't for everyone. If you are among the wealthiest of Americans, you might be able to afford to pay your own LTC expenses. If you have a very low income or few assets, Medicaid may help you. If you fall somewhere in between, LTC insurance may be the smart choice to relieve the financial strain on your family and help you protect assets.

LTC insurance is getting more expensive. Many LTC insurers today are asking state insurance departments for authority to raise their LTC insurance rates. Policyholder premiums are based on several factors that have changed significantly over time, and in ways that few anticipated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, I missed a vote.

I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 3: “yea,” passage of H. Res. 912 under suspension of the rules, condemning the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

RECOGNIZING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2008

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Catholic Schools Week 2008.

From January 27 to February 2, 2008 nearly 2.4 million students who attend the Nation's 7,800 elementary, middle and secondary Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

I laud the efforts of faculty and parents who provide our Nation's children with an excellent education focused on faith and values.

The 2008 theme, “Catholic Schools Light the Way” focuses on the leadership that Catholic Schools provide to our Nation by producing graduates who “light the way to a brighter future for all humankind.”

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has a long-standing tradition of leadership. I thank the Archdiocese for their commitment to enriching the lives of children.

Catholic Schools Week is a testament to the outstanding work by the Archdioceses across the country.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MR. HRANT DINK

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to solemnly remember the life of journalist and activist, Hrant Dink,

On January 19th, 2007, Mr. Dink was gunned down by a Turkish ultra-nationalist outside his newspaper office in Istanbul, Turkey.

Hrant Dink was a man who called for tolerance, peaceful dialogue and greater civil rights for all Turkish citizens. He was a fierce defender of freedom and believed all people have equal rights under the law. He believed that everyone should have the right to know the truth about their nation's past, however dark that past was.

Hrant Dink had been prosecuted by the Turkish government under penal code 301—a