

recruiting and retention. Military communities lacked amenities that most other Americans enjoyed. The Army's construction and maintenance backlog exceeded \$6 billion, with no predictable funding sources in sight. Complicated, cumbersome business processes caused significant delays in planning and executing housing programs.

Today, as we start RCI's tenth year, it is a major success. In fact, the Bush Administration calls RCI the "most important military housing improvement program in our Nation's history." I am honored to have played a leadership role in RCI from its start. Despite numerous challenges in policy, organization and execution, RCI has achieved high satisfaction rates among military families, lower development costs and faster construction, better housing, neighborhoods and community facilities, and more responsive maintenance and management. RCI encompasses over 88,000 new and renovated multi-family housing units—97 percent of the Army's U.S. housing stock—located on 45 installations in 20 states. RCI communities are purposefully and profitably built and managed by nine major real estate development groups and are financed with \$10 billion of new private capital, achieving 10-to-1 leverage of public investment—an exceptional result for the taxpayer. RCI projects are pioneering the use of manufactured housing, solar-powered and "green building" techniques, and "new urbanism" design concepts for safe, walkable neighborhoods, with community centers and leisure facilities that are especially important to military spouses and children during long deployments. RCI has spawned other military privatization programs for Army lodging, unaccompanied housing, retail and "lifestyle" centers, office parks and warehouse developments. RCI has become one of the Federal Government's largest public-private partnership programs.

I was proud to help Secretary Apgar steer RCI through four Congressional committees and a skeptical Army leadership. With no prior Washington experience but a clear vision of the future, a gracious manner and a pragmatic approach, he bore the brunt of considerable criticism and built coalitions among numerous stakeholders across the political and commercial spectrum.

Many saw RCI as a dilution of control, a diversion of resources, and a haven for profiteering. But Secretary Apgar saw it as a means of expanding the Army's military construction budgets with private capital, enlisting the entrepreneurship and capabilities of American business, and reforming the Army's approach to meeting infrastructure needs.

Madam Speaker, RCI has progressed from the vision and persistence of a single official, through the minefields of committee oversight and staff reviews and the complexities of our vast military organization, to a mature, sustainable, bipartisan, public-private partnership effort. At a time of enormous sacrifice by our soldiers and their loved ones, we can be proud of a program that provides military families with the quality housing and communities they so deserve. And in an era of economic stress, we should look to RCI for lessons that may help to meet our national challenges in rebuilding infrastructure and managing resources.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF JOURNALIST HRANT DINK

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, it is with a mixture of anger and sadness that I rise today to honor the 1-year anniversary of the murder of Hrant Dink, the courageous Armenian-Turkish journalist, who was murdered by a Turkish extremist.

Mr. Dink founded the bilingual newspaper *Agos* in 1996, giving a voice to Turkey's Armenians. He acted on his beliefs of building community and acknowledging the past, for which he was persecuted, prosecuted and eventually forced to pay the ultimate price. Clearly, however, his life's work was not in vain; at his funeral, approximately 100,000 people marched behind his coffin, chanting, "We are all Dink. We are all Armenians."

Before Mr. Dink's untimely death last January, the Turkish government constantly tried to limit his freedom of speech. It confiscated copies of *Agos* on many occasions and on the flimsiest of pretenses. In 2004, Mr. Dink wrote an article stating that Turkey's first woman pilot was an Armenian orphan adopted after 1915. The government convicted him of insulting "Turkishness" under Article 301 of the Penal Code, a law specifically designed to prevent discussion of the Armenian Genocide. He received a 6-month suspended sentence. This was just one of several such prosecutions against Mr. Dink.

Mr. Dink's courage to confront the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide cost him his life. He continually received threatening telephone calls, e-mails, and letters. He reported this terrorization to the police, but they failed to protect him. On January 19, 2007, an extreme nationalist teenager shot Mr. Dink three times outside the *Agos* offices in Istanbul, killing him. Court hearings continue, but Mr. Dink's family stated that the investigation of his murder was conducted in secrecy and is incomplete.

Turkish prosecutions under Article 301 increased in 2007 and continued to affect Mr. Dink's family. Arat Dink, his son, published an interview in which Mr. Dink said that the 1915 to 1917 Armenian massacres constituted genocide. Last October Arat Dink received a 1-year suspended sentence for publishing this interview. Punishing Mr. Dink's son for publishing his murdered father's words is a travesty and exposes the lengths to which Ankara will go to hide the truth about the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Dink's death was devastating to the democratic principle of a free and unfettered press and to the efforts of a handful of Turkish intellectuals who have been fighting to expose the crimes of Turkey's Ottoman predecessor. Denying the Armenian Genocide harms Turkey and imperils the future of this important nation. As the world marks the anniversary of Dink's murder, I reiterate my call for Turkey to honor the memory of Hrant Dink by repealing Article 301, and to acknowledge the truth of the Armenian Genocide.

Together with his family and colleagues, the Armenian community in Turkey, and his admirers around the world, we remember Hrant

Dink, heroic defender of speech and human rights, on the 1-year anniversary of his murder.

CONGRATULATING LESLIE ANDERSON

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Leslie Anderson of Longmont, Colorado. Ms. Anderson is a political science student at the University of Florida and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Anderson and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge a "yes" vote on overriding President Bush's veto of the urgently needed reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Over the last several months, President Bush has had an opportunity to work with a bipartisan majority of Congress and provide health insurance to over 10 million low-income children. However, he decided instead to place himself on the wrong side of the history of health care and play politics with the health of American children.

The Children's Health Insurance Program is a highly successful program with a proven track record that is supported by an overwhelming majority of the American public. We need to reauthorize and build on the success of this program and override this ill-timed and unconscionable presidential veto.

A recent Joint Economic Committee report estimated that between 700,000 and 1.1 million additional children will enroll in Medicaid and CHIP programs each year due to slowing employment growth.

In fact, the JEC report notes, "The association between poor economic conditions and children's enrollment in Medicaid/CHIP is large, consistent, and statistically significant." So what does the president do as working families strain to make ends meet in the face of a looming economic crisis? He vetoes health care for poor children! This is unacceptable.

To my Republican colleagues, who are considering how to vote on this bill today—given the current economic landscape, I urge you to reject the President's radical stand against poor, sick children and join the overwhelming majority of the American public who support this important program.

It has been said that "Health is the first wealth." Well, what does it say about our country when many families that work hard to make ends meet are forced to choose between providing health care for their children and putting food on the table? If we are to give low-income families a chance to succeed in our society, we must give them access to the health care that they need and deserve.

We have known for some time that our nation has 9 million uninsured children, with the vast majority coming from families that cannot access affordable coverage. This number will only grow, as more and more families feel the squeeze of the increasing costs of living and unemployment rates.

Sadly, most of our Republican colleagues turned their backs on these families by voting to sustain President Bush's veto in October. Health coverage for all of our Nation's children should be a priority. Worsening economic conditions only reinforce the need to cover children from low-income families, in which parents are forced to choose between health care and necessities like food and shelter. No parent should have to choose between caring for a sick child and putting food on the table.

I urge an "aye" vote to override this veto.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was in the Chamber when votes were cast on H.R. 3524, the HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007. I listened to the debate, voted on all the amendments and the Motion to Recommit. However, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to cast a vote of "aye" on the final passage of H.R. 3524.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today the House took up a second vote to override the President's veto of bi-partisan, bicameral legislation to reauthorize and expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

This bill, H.R. 3963, would maintain coverage for the 6.6 million children currently enrolled and expand coverage to 3.8 million children who are currently eligible but unenrolled.

In the face of a weakening economy, with unemployment rates on the rise, it is becoming

more and more difficult for parents to find affordable health insurance for their children. We know that when fewer Americans are employed, the number of uninsured in our nation will grow.

The vast majority of the American people believe in the value and necessity of the SCHIP program in providing access to health care for low-income children. This bipartisan SCHIP bill is supported by: 81 percent of the American people; 64 Senators (including 17 Republicans); 43 Governors (including 16 Republicans); and more than 270 organizations, including AARP, AMA, Catholic Health Association, and Families USA.

We live in a country where nearly 1 out of every 110 people is a millionaire. Unfortunately, this is the same country where more than 1 out of every 10 children lacks health insurance coverage. In these difficult and uncertain economic times, access to affordable health care for low-income children is more critical than ever.

The children who are enrolled in Texas SCHIP and CHIP programs around the country are from hard-working families. They deserve the opportunity to have access to affordable, accessible, and consistent health care. Healthy children become healthy, productive adults.

Children cannot work and children do not choose to be poor. Children do not choose where they live or the circumstances they are born into. But, as Members of Congress elected to serve all people young and old, we do have a choice. We can choose to improve access to health care for our children and make an investment in the future of our country.

CONGRATULATING FRANCES TRUJILLO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Frances Trujillo of Littleton, Colorado. Mr. Trujillo is a leadership and management administrator at Colorado Academy and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Mr. Trujillo and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARK TULCHINSKY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Mark Tulchinsky, a leader in the South Bend Community School Corporation, a mentor, father, educator, and beloved member of the community. Mr. Tulchinsky passed away while working in his office at Tarkington Traditional School on January 22, 2008.

Tulchinsky's peers describe him as "a good friend and an excellent principal." He was the perfect example of an empathetic and kind-hearted principal as well as a tremendous friend and mentor. Whether it was taking part in school sports or activities or dealing with serious situations and discipline issues within his school, Tulchinsky was able to handle his position as a leader with poise and compassion.

Former students and colleagues said he had an uncanny ability to remember the names and faces of students, even decades after he taught them. We should all return this favor, by remembering and thanking him for his service to the young people of his community. There is no doubt that he positively impacted the lives of countless individuals. Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to bettering the community through volunteering and mentoring.

After graduating from Adams High school in South Bend, Tulchinsky attended the University of Chicago where he earned a bachelor's degree in history. He then returned to his hometown and began his lifelong career in education. Through the South Bend Community School Corporation, Tulchinsky began teaching at Perley Elementary in 1968. He taught for a few years as a fourth grade teacher, and in the process furthered his education by earning a master's degree in 1974 from the University of Notre Dame. Later, Tulchinsky gave back to the Notre Dame community by operating the shot clock for Notre Dame men's and women's basketball teams as well as timekeeping at Notre Dame home football games.

In 1979, Tulchinsky began his lengthy career in administration, first serving as assistant principal for Jefferson School. He went on to serve as a principal for McKinley, Perley, Jefferson, Monroe, and Tarkington Schools. Throughout his 39-year career in education, students called him by the affectionate nickname of Mr. T. In addition to his service in education, Tulchinsky was a big supporter of local athletic teams. He officiated for both basketball and football games, including the IHSA Class 2A football championship in 1983. His dedication to both athletics and education was evident in 1994 when he suffered a heart attack while officiating for basketball; he returned to teaching after his recovery.

Tulchinsky is survived by his wife of 38 years, Nan; three grown children, Peter, Daniel, and Sarah; four grandchildren, Abbey, Emma, Payton, and Jacob; as well as a myriad of students whose lives he touched. He will be greatly missed for his dedication to teaching, his devotion to the community, and his warm love for all those around him.