

I want to thank Mr. BRAD MILLER and Mr. MEL WATT for sponsoring this important legislation and for being a champion for consumers and borrowers. I also want to thank Chairman FRANK for his commitment to finally bringing real reform to our mortgage markets and ending predatory lending and misleading and abusive lending practices.

I served for 8 years on the House Financial Services Committee with my colleagues and we repeatedly warned the, then majority, Republicans, the Bush Administration, the Treasury and the Federal Reserve about the need for stronger oversight and critical reforms that would end the pattern and practice of predatory lending.

Our warnings fell on deaf ears.

They chose to allow kickback schemes like yield spread premiums which put the mortgage lender's financial incentives in direct conflict with the interests of the consumers they are supposed to serve.

They chose to allow the reprehensible act of "steering" lower income, senior and minority borrowers into higher rate sub-prime and alt-a loans than they qualify for.

They chose to blindly trust financial institutions to "regulate themselves".

And we and our entire nation know where that got us.

It is long past time that we bring sound, reasonable regulation and oversight to our mortgage markets.

And this bill will do that.

I am also very pleased that this bill will protect renters and tenants who have been silently suffering due to the wave of foreclosures.

Too many renters who have paid their rent on time have been finding out for the first time that the property they live in is being foreclosed when the sheriff delivers an eviction notice.

Innocent tenants should be protected and let me thank Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MILLER, Mr. WATT and Mr. FRANK for acting on behalf of innocent renters.

I encourage my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 1728.

DR. MELINDA O'ROURKE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. Melinda O'Rourke who has received the Golden Ethics in Business award. Dr. Melinda O'Rourke is an ophthalmologist and Vision Health International volunteer and received this award because of her sense of global and local volunteerism and dedication to bettering the lives of those from all social classes and nations through health care.

The devotion demonstrated by Dr. Melinda O'Rourke directly benefits her community and many throughout the world, and is exemplary of high personal and professional standards. She serves as a leader who inspires those around her to continually strive for better health care, both for those who can afford it and for those who cannot.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Dr. Melinda O'Rourke for winning the

Golden Ethics in Business award. I have no doubt she will continue to exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her volunteer career to all future undertakings.

MAY: WORLD TRADE MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, May is World Trade Month, and events around the country will highlight the vital role that trade plays in creating jobs and growing our economy.

World Trade Month is the perfect reminder of the need to pass pending free trade agreements that have languished for far too long. As Americans confront economic uncertainty, Congress must act now to advance our trade agenda. We cannot allow important agreements with Panama, Colombia, and Korea to remain on hold while Europe, China, and others continue to knock down trade barriers and become more competitive in the global economy.

Opening new global markets gives employers incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and employ more American workers. I have seen these job-creating effects first-hand, with trade accounting for 1 out of every 3 jobs in my State of Washington.

Let's recognize World Trade Month by implementing these trade agreements and pursuing these proven measures of job creation at a time when they are badly needed.

COST/PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Cost/Productivity Improvement Program at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, a former chemical manufacturing site being cleaned up by the U.S. Army near Denver, CO. The Cost/Productivity Improvement Program is an innovative effort instituted by the Army and Shell Oil Company, who are responsible for the cleanup of the site. The Program encourages employees to be proactive in improving the efficiency, safety, and quality of the transition of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal into a premier urban national wildlife refuge.

Construction and fieldwork are due to be completed in 2010, one year ahead of schedule and within budget. This achievement is due in no small part to cost savings suggestions by employees that were implemented through the Cost/Productivity Program under the leadership of the Army, Shell and their contractors. Not only has the program resulted in a savings of \$67 million dollars over 10 years, with \$4.5 million saved last year alone, it is an innovative example of a successful public-private partnership. The program has resulted in the promotion of "green" practices, including recycling and native vegetation re-seeding.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to the Cost/Productivity Improvement Program and the Army, Shell and their employees and contractors at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. I have no doubt this program will continue to improve practices, while continuing to inspire employees and workers as they complete the environmental restoration and transformation of the site into a national wildlife refuge for generations of Americans to enjoy.

SUPPORT FOR THE STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009 IN HONOR OF DR. XIANGZHONG "JERRY" YANG

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare my support for the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2009. I intend to cast this vote in honor of the efforts of Dr. Xiangzhong "Jerry" Yang, a pioneer in cloning and stem cell research, who died of cancer three weeks ago at the age of 49. Dr. Yang left a great legacy of hard work, dedication, and success on the front lines of stem cell research. His work has led to a series of breakthroughs that have taken us closer to the dream of cloning stem cells to match an individual and cure the individual's disease, a breakthrough that would bring hope to countless men, women, and children who are suffering from otherwise untreatable illnesses.

The Yang laboratory, stationed at the University of Connecticut, is the world's leading laboratory in animal cloning and stem cell technology. Dr. Yang and his team provided critical insights into the previously mysterious mechanisms of how germ cells are programmed to form embryos, and how these embryos form distinct types of tissue. He was instrumental in working with then-Connecticut State Senator CHRIS MURPHY (now my colleague Representative MURPHY) to establish the Connecticut State Stem Cell Research Program, one of the very few such programs in the Nation. Because of the program's existence, Connecticut was one of the few states that would fund human embryonic stem cell research that could not be funded by the Federal Government. Just this year, the University of Connecticut announced the derivation of two new human embryonic stem cell lines as a result of these research funds. This breakthrough, along with many others, would not have happened without Jerry's influence and guidance.

Dr. Yang's ultimate dream to tailor stem cell cloning to specific people, organs, and diseases has not yet been realized, but with the help of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, we may yet reach the world he envisioned: One in which organ damage from cancer, heart attacks, spinal disorders, or any other conceivable illness can be reversed with stem cell therapy. I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in applauding the work of Dr. Yang: he will be sorely missed, but the important work he has done deserves all the recognition and support this body can offer.

KWYN PAVEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kwyn Pavey who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kwyn Pavey is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kwyn Pavey is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kwyn Pavey for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF RECOMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to reintroduce my resolution urging the United States to ratify and implement certain fundamental international conventions.

This resolution is supported by a variety of organizations including Free the Slaves, Human Rights Watch, AFL-CIO, Amnesty International USA, Global Rights, Citizens for Global Solutions, Oxfam America, the National Alliance of HUD Tenants, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Justice and Human Rights.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Universal Rights. It is the foundation of the current human rights movement. Americans, led by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, helped craft this historic convention, and next week, the United States will again seek a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Last week, I joined my colleagues to protest the genocide in Darfur at the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, D.C. Three years ago, many of us were arrested doing the same thing; three years later, millions continue to suffer.

Our case against this and other humanitarian crises would be so much stronger if the United States had ratified the U.N. Conventions that address the rights of women, children, and forced disappearance. How can we ask for our global trading partners to respect international labor standards, when we ourselves have not ratified ILO standards on the right to organize and bargain collectively, or against forced child labor, or age discrimination? How can we fight poverty and homeless-

ness if we do not support UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights? How can we stand up for civil rights when we do not support hemispheric efforts to recognize historic struggles of marginalized communities?

Our country was founded on the principles of civil and human rights. Many, many people—men, women, and even children—have sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today. Madam Speaker, this is a time of war. This is a time when the global economy is struggling. This is a time when access to food, water, shelter, and resources impacts every person on this planet. It is during periods like these when it is most important to protect our values and our commitment to universal human and civil rights.

Simply said, this resolution is our recommitment to our own American principles and to our neighbors and friends around the world. We must always be vigilant. We must be vocal. But we must remember—actions speak louder than words.

LEAH M. VARNELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Leah M. Varnell who has received the Golden Ethics in Business award. Leah Varnell is the executive director of Court Appointed Special Advocates of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties and received this award because of her vision, bravery, and sense of social responsibility to those children who face the worst of all situations.

The dedication demonstrated by Leah Varnell directly benefits her community, and is exemplary of high personal and professional standards. She serves as a leader who inspires those around her to continually strive for a safer environment for America's children.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Leah Varnell for winning the Golden Ethics in Business award. I have no doubt she will continue to exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her career to all future undertakings.

INTRODUCING THE FAIR TREATMENT FOR METAL IMPLANTEES ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, today I would like to introduce the "Fair Treatment for Metal Implants Act", which creates a program within the Department of Homeland Security that incorporates biometric technology or other applicable technologies to verify the identity of an individual who has a metal implant, so as to limit disruptions for such individuals while traveling by air transportation, in a manner consistent with aviation security.

According to the Joint Implant Surgery & Research Foundation, there are approximately 500,000 total hip and knee replacements per-

formed in the United States each year. An estimated 11 million people in the United States have a medical implant and this number is growing as the population receiving implants increases.

In a 2007 study, researchers at the Harvard Medical School found that 100 percent of hip replacements and 90 percent of knee replacements cause commercial airport metal detectors to alert. Whenever a passenger alarms the walk-through metal detector, additional screening must be conducted to locate and resolve the source of hand-held metal detector and, first, conducts a pat-down inspection of any area that alarms; then conducts a whole-body pat-down. This additional screening consumes an average five minutes more of a passenger's time at security checkpoints.

This excess screening of metal implantees is not an efficient use of a TSO's time, which could be more efficiently used elsewhere. H.R. _____ would develop a travel credential or system that incorporates biometric or other applicable technologies to verify the identity of an individual who has a metal implant to ensure that such individuals can travel by air with greater ease, consistent with current security regulations. The bill would require the program to include verification of the individual with a metal implant, resolution for false matches and non-matches, determination of travel credential or system, and validation of a credential or system issued to an individual under the program that is lost, stolen, or no longer authorized for use.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Mr. Thompson, for introducing this legislation with me. H.R. _____, the "Fair Treatment for Metal Implants Act", will direct more resources to secure our skies and help metal implantees negotiate through airport security.

KRISTIAN YEAGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kristian Yeager who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kristian Yeager is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kristian Yeager is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kristian Yeager for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.