

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this FY 10 Interior-Environment Appropriations bill for the investments it makes in our infrastructure, natural resources and cultural life—as well as its commitment to tackling the ongoing challenge of global climate change.

This legislation provides \$10.46 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency to safeguard our nation's land, air and water. Of that amount, \$2.3 billion will go to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$1.4 billion will go to the Drinking Water State revolving fund to help over 1500 communities improve their wastewater and drinking water systems. One and a half billion dollars will go to clean up hazardous and toxic waste, including \$605 million for our nation's most toxic Superfund sites and \$100 million for brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. And \$601 million is provided at President Obama's request to enable the EPA to enforce our nation's environmental laws.

Our national parks receive \$2.7 billion, which includes \$100 million to support the park service's 10-year initiative to upgrade park facilities before the National Park System's Centennial Anniversary in 2016. Our national wildlife refuge system is provided \$503 million for its conservation efforts. And the U.S. Forest service is allocated \$2.77 billion to manage of (Air federal forests—including targeted support for the Legacy Road and Trail Remediation program protecting streams and water systems from damaged forest roads, as well as the Forest Legacy Land Conservation Program to help protect environmentally important, privately owned forest lands.

To support our nation's cultural heritage, this legislation invests \$340 million, split evenly between the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. And the Smithsonian will receive \$774 million for reducing its backlog of deferred maintenance and the planning and design of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Finally, this bill provides a total of \$420 million on climate change related initiatives—including \$50 million for the EPA's Energy Star program, \$17 million for the development of a Greenhouse Gas Registry necessary for monitoring greenhouse gases and \$10 million for new grants to empower local communities to find innovative ways to cut their, greenhouse gas emissions.

Madam Chair, I commend Chairman DICKS, Ranking Member SIMPSON and the rest of the subcommittee for developing this thoughtful bill, and I urge my colleagues' support.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
OLMSTEAD DECISION SUP-
PORTING CIVIL RIGHTS FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to take this moment to recognize the tenth anniversary of a monumental United States Supreme Court decision that represented a great advance in our contemporary civil rights struggle. On June 22, 1999, the United States Supreme Court asserted the right of individuals with disabilities to reside in their community via a 6–3 ruling. The Olmstead v. L.C. decision stated that making services for disabled individuals available only in institutions, thereby forcing them out of their homes, went against the Americans with Disabilities Act. Essentially, the Olmstead decision clarified the fact that the Americans with Disabilities Act gives individuals with disabilities the right to choose to receive their care in the community rather than in an institutional setting. Provision of care within one's community via personal care assistants is cost-effective and improves the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Studies show the cost of providing services in the community is much lower than in institutionalized settings, thereby allowing more individuals to receive services for the same cost. In addition, the ability to receive community based services and supports improves the ability of persons with disabilities to lead independent lives, work, and participate in their communities.

The federal government bears the responsibility of restructuring our current health care system. The inequities that exist in our health care system are profoundly disturbing. It is essential that we take the steps necessary to create an overhaul of the health care system that is both moral and practical. As Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said: "Of all the forms of inequality injustice, health care is the most shocking and inhumane." In this spirit, I urge concerned citizens to mobilize to help us create a system that best serves those in our society who have limited resources.

As a policymaker who is adamant about improving health care for persons with disabilities, I believe it is imperative that the health care reform legislation that Congress intends to enact this year take a substantial step forward in requiring that all Medicaid-eligible individuals with disabilities have a choice between receiving care at home or in an institution. The option to receive care in one's community is critical to conforming to the goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act and with the Olmstead decision.

The Olmstead decision was a great step forward in allowing persons with disabilities the option to receive care in their own community. The tenth anniversary of the Olmstead decision symbolizes the struggle to create more options in our current health care system. We must strive to include the tenets of the Olmstead decision in our health care reform plans. Including provisions that provide choice in location of care to Medicaid-eligible persons with disabilities in comprehensive health care reform legislation would be a wonderful way to

mark the tenth anniversary of the Olmstead decision.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COM-
PREHENSIVE COMPARATIVE
STUDY OF VACCINATED AND
UNVACCINATED POPULATIONS
ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation that I hope will resolve the question of whether there is any link between the increased incidence of neurological disorders, including autism, and the use of certain vaccines and/or multiple vaccine schedules. Vaccines have been instrumental in reducing the incidence of many once-common diseases. However, there continue to be questions raised in numerous media reports, and by medical professionals, regarding the safety of vaccines and multiple vaccine schedules while there have been no comprehensive studies comparing the health outcomes between vaccinated and unvaccinated populations.

We owe it to parents and children to study and resolve the question of a possible link between vaccines and neurological disorders. The comprehensive national study comparing outcomes between vaccinated and unvaccinated children mandated by this legislation would help resolve this controversy once and for all. As the most scientifically advanced country in the world, we should be jumping at the chance to conduct a comprehensive national study and help ensure absolute trust in our nation's vaccine program. Parents deserve answers, and children deserve no less than absolute certainty and safety when it comes to their health, which is why I am pleased to reintroduce this legislation today.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SE-
CURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2009 and the employees of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The service and dedication of the men and women that work to ensure the safety of our country is admirable.

This bill responds to the public safety needs of our communities in a time of hardship by providing \$800 million in grants to fire departments, of which \$380 million is provided for the Assistance for Firefighters Grants program used to train, hire and retain our local firemen

and women. It funds an increase in the number of border patrol agents to 20,019, providing additional jobs and better national security. I also support the provisions requiring DHS to monitor the medical care of all detainees held in immigration detention facilities and to direct Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to report to Congress on steps it has taken to ensure that all detainees are receiving proper medical care and attention.

I remain concerned about provisions in the bill regarding prisoners held in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. I commend President Obama's pledge to close Guantanamo Bay, but this bill fails to ensure that the rule of law and our commitment to universal human rights are being upheld for detainees.

Section 522(a) of the bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to conduct extensive threat assessments for all detainees held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility as of April 20, 2009, and to place all detainees on the "no-fly" list unless there is Presidential Certification to exclude them on such a list. This section also prohibits any funds in the act from being used to provide detainees with any immigration benefits, including refugee or asylum classification. The treatment and detention of hundreds of foreign nationals held indefinitely and illegally without charge at Guantanamo Bay has violated our most basic democratic principles. The burden to right this wrong by ensuring due process for the remaining 245 falls on the U.S. The detainees held at Guantanamo Bay must be afforded habeas corpus protections. We must have the confidence in our own U.S. system of justice to try the detainees.

I will continue to work to ensure all have equal protection under the law. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, COORDINATION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, as our understanding of human impacts on the environment grows, so too, must our commitment to the protection and conservation of the world's fish and wildlife resources. The United States is largely regarded as the global frontrunner in international fish and wildlife conservation. Our nation has a longstanding history of sharing our knowledge, technical abilities, and experience gained through the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to aid other countries in the conservation of their wildlife and wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, wildlife conservation resources, including trained wildlife professionals and basic logistical and communication tools, still commonly remain unavailable in many foreign range states that are home to globally significant species.

Notwithstanding the many successful conservation initiatives implemented by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service around the world through its programs such as Wildlife Without Borders Program, there remains a glaring need to improve coordination and col-

laboration within the Federal government. In addition, improving cooperation between the Federal Government and non-governmental organizations to increase public awareness about illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade, to raise awareness about the implications of global biodiversity loss, to enhance assistance to range states in the conservation of their wildlife, and to close existing gaps in current conservation activities, is necessary and long overdue.

The Global Wildlife Conservation, Coordination and Enhancement Act of 2009, which I have introduced today, would address these needs by consolidating and enhancing the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to specifically conduct fish and wildlife conservation activities internationally. This legislation reflects the solid input gained through two oversight hearings conducted by the Committee on Natural Resources during the 110th Congress. The bill also benefits from extensive dialogue with wildlife conservationists, zoo and aquarium professionals, law enforcement experts, animal health and welfare organizations, and other stakeholders.

Title I of the bill would create an Institute for International Wildlife Conservation within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, through which the Department of the Interior's international conservation initiatives would be coordinated and collaborative partnerships built. The Institute, which would enhance and strengthen the Service's existing International Affairs Office, would have authority to carry out a targeted public education and awareness campaign to better inform U.S. consumers of the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, and most important, what they can do to limit the United States as a market for illegal contraband.

The Institute also would be empowered to provide financial, educational and technical assistance to range states and other partner institutions to support capacity building, to create and enhance locally adapted wildlife management programs abroad, and to develop professional cadres of wildlife conservationists in the United States and abroad. In addition, the Institute, through its Center for International Wildlife Recovery Partnerships, would provide a forum for the active collaboration of federal, state, tribal, local, and non-governmental entities regarding wildlife conservation and the care, rehabilitation and recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species.

Title II of this bill would create a Global Wildlife Coordination Council within the Executive Branch in recognition of the fact that international wildlife conservation is a multi-dimensional issue that requires the broad involvement of the Federal Government to be successful. This Council, which is patterned after the highly successful United States Coral Reef Task Force, would be comprised of various Federal agencies with a responsibility and stake in global wildlife conservation. To comprehensively address the myriad threats confronting global wildlife, this Council would be tasked to develop a cross-cutting strategy to better utilize existing resources to increase Federal coordination without creating new bureaucracy.

In closing, the illegal wildlife trade, which has received considerably less public attention than the illegal trade in narcotics and weapons, is an increasing challenge threatening not only the conservation of biodiversity but also

the social, political and environmental stability of range states throughout the world. Congress must act to ensure that the Federal Government has the authority and tools it needs to promote the conservation of wildlife resources abroad, to protect the environmental health and security of the United States today, and ensure that we pass on those resources to future generations.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation and to strengthen the abilities of the Federal Government to provide critical wildlife conservation support around the world and to maintain the United States' leadership role internationally in wildlife conservation.

TRIBUNE TO FRANK REYES

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor the career and contributions of a longstanding community activist, dear friend, loving husband, and father—Frank Reyes.

After 32 years of loyal service to the Inland Empire of Southern California, Frank recently announced his retirement from his post as Executive Director of Governmental Relations for the San Bernardino City Community College District (SBCCD).

Frank has made San Bernardino, California, his home since first immigrating to the United States from Guadalajara, Mexico, at age 12. He attended San Bernardino High School and Valley College before earning his degree in business from Cal State San Bernardino.

While Frank's academic background is in business, his true passion lies in the field of education. Before joining SBCCD, Frank worked as both a professor and a student counselor. During his tenure at SBCCD, Frank's strong leadership helped secure over \$100 million in grant money for both Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College.

Frank has received numerous Community Awards, from myself and many others for his excellent work in the areas of education, county safety, and community leadership.

Frank has been an active member of many distinguished professional organizations, including, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the California Teachers' Association, the California Community College Counselors Association, the Association of Mexican American Educators, and the Inland Empire Latino Business Council.

In addition, Frank has been involved in numerous philanthropic activities in the San Bernardino area. He is a board member with Hands of Mercy, which builds homes for the needy in Ensenada, is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, and has been very involved with the Jerry Lewis Fire Training Facility. I know Frank will continue to work tirelessly, even in retirement, to support the causes he believes in.

I have had the great privilege of becoming close, personal friends with Frank, his wonderful wife, Eloise, and their son Christopher. In addition to being an outstanding husband and father, Frank has always been a strong supporter to me and my family, and for that—I am forever grateful.