

Members of Congress on the successes and challenges facing our service men and women that could only be gained from first-hand observation and face-to-face interaction. Due to his professionalism, dedication and keen knowledge, Major Thomas became the most sought after military escort for delegations traveling into Central Command. The time he has spent supporting Members of the House has been truly noteworthy. He has made lasting contributions to the House of Representatives.

Major Thomas has also made a lasting contribution in the sustenance of today's readiness and the shape of tomorrow's Marine Corps. Maj Thomas' distinguished service has left a mark of true excellence that will last long after he has departed the Office of Legislative Affairs. The Marine Corps will miss him, but Major Thomas leaves a tremendous legacy for others to follow and emulate. I wish Major Gerald Thomas congratulations and all best wishes as he enters this new chapter of his life.

During his 21 years of service, Maj Thomas has served as:

Communications Marine—Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune;

Student—Marine Corps Education Program—University of Arizona;

Platoon Commander—Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines;

Platoon Commander—Weapons Platoon, Echo Co, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines;

Executive Officer—Echo Co, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines;

Staff Platoon Commander—The Basic School;

Executive Officer—Alpha, Charlie, & Echo Companies;

The Basic School Instructor—Infantry Officer Course;

Student—Infantry Officers Captain's Career Course;

Company Commander—Lima Co, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines;

Congressional Fellow—Office of Rep. Sanford Bishop;

Joint Action Officer—Plans, Policies, and Operations Department, HQMC;

Deputy Director—Marine Corps House Liaison Office.

HONORING KORTNEY STEVEN  
GUTIERREZ

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kortney Steven Gutierrez of Platte City, Missouri. Kortney is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kortney has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kortney has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kortney Steven Gutierrez

for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE SAVE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Save American Energy Act" to obtain the significant benefits of cost-effective, environmentally friendly, energy efficiency resources. These energy efficiency standards will not only lead to lower global warming emissions but will also create jobs, reduce the need for new power plants, and save consumers money. As President Obama clearly articulated, energy efficiency is the cleanest, cheapest, fastest source of energy. The legislation that I am introducing today follows President Obama's stated goal of reducing electricity demand 15 percent by 2020 by creating an energy efficiency resource standard, EERS.

Reducing electricity consumption 15 percent by 2020 will save consumers \$130 billion over the next 20 years and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 5 billion tons through 2030. The Save American Energy Act sets minimum levels of electricity and natural gas savings to be achieved through utility programs, building codes, appliance standards, and other efficiency measures. This legislation will initially create a modest savings requirement of 1 percent for electricity and three-quarters of a percent for natural gas and gradually build to a 15 percent cumulative requirement for electricity and ten percent for natural gas in 2020.

The benefits of energy efficiency standards are clear and far-reaching. First, energy efficiency standards will dramatically reduce the global warming emissions that are creating the climate crisis. Energy efficiency is the easiest and quickest way that we as a Nation can take action to reduce emissions. These energy efficiency savings would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 260 million metric tons per year by 2020—the equivalent of the annual emissions from 43 million automobiles.

Second, energy efficiency standards will create jobs and can help revitalize our economy. The Save American Energy Act will lead to the creation of 260,000 new green-collar jobs. These jobs will be everything from retrofitting buildings to weatherizing homes. At a time when the American economy lost nearly 2 million jobs in the last 4 months of 2008, according to the Department of Labor, passing an energy efficiency standard can help send people back to work doing the work that most needs to be done.

Third, energy efficiency standards will decrease peak electricity demand. Savings from efficiency can be done far more cheaply than bringing new generation online. New generation from conventional resources costs somewhere between \$0.073 and \$0.145 per kilowatt hour compared to \$0.03 per kilowatt hour from energy efficiency savings. The Save American Energy Act will reduce peak elec-

tricity demand by about 90,000 megawatts in 2020. This reduction would eliminate the need to build 300 medium-sized new power plants.

Fourth, The Save American Energy Act will result in billions of dollars in consumer savings on their energy bills. This bill allows for numerous cost-effective efficiency savings in every area of the economy. The legislation that I am introducing today requires utilities to obtain energy efficiency savings that are available at a lower cost than traditional energy supply options.

Many States around the country have already implemented successful efficiency standards. Vermont and California are two of the States leading the way and 15 States and the District of Columbia have put in place policies promoting energy efficiency. The Save American Energy Act would set a federal efficiency standard but allows States with programs that meet or exceed that standard to administer the program directly, fostering policy innovation and adaptation to local circumstances.

The Save American Energy Act will take advantage of the cost-effective, available energy efficiency opportunities that can be quickly put in place. Adopting a national energy efficiency standard will allow us to reduce carbon emissions, create new green jobs, and reduce the need to build power plants: all while benefiting customers. The time to act is now.

# AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes:

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chair, I rise today to applaud a particular section of the stimulus package that will have a profound impact on the citizens of the District of Columbia. The hundreds of millions of dollars in AIDS/HIV testing and prevention contained in the legislation before us will assist an amazing organization in the District called the Whitman Walker Clinic. When it is time to award these funds, I strongly urge the Secretary of HHS and the Director of the CDC to look favorably upon the Clinic's application.

The District of Columbia is facing an HIV/AIDS epidemic of untold proportions. It is estimated that 1 in 20 citizens of the District now have HIV or AIDS. This is one of the highest incidences in the Country if not the highest compared to other major metropolitan areas.

The Whitman-Walker Clinic (WWC), a comprehensive primary care clinic with centers of excellence in HIV/AIDS care and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) health care, has been providing healthcare and supportive services to residents of the District of Columbia for 30 years. WWC is one of the largest nongovernmental HIV/AIDS medical and service organizations in the metropolitan

Washington area. The Clinic provides a full spectrum of medical and support services to patients residing in the District of Columbia metropolitan area through its two District of Columbia sites: Elizabeth Taylor Medical Center (ETMC) and Max Robinson Center (MRC).

The overall aim of WWC HIV/AIDS services is to improve health outcomes of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) by providing clients with comprehensive and coordinated primary medical care; dental care; HIV/AIDS specialty care; medical adherence case management; mental health and addictions counseling and treatment; HIV education, prevention, and testing; support groups; nutrition counseling; legal services; and day treatment programs. The Clinic offers a comprehensive continuum of HIV/AIDS-related medical, behavioral health, and social services through our "one-stop-shop" approach to service delivery where all client services are available and integrated at a single location at each of our sites. The WWC "one-stop shop" approach combined with a newly implemented Electronic Health Record (EHR) enhances and ensures coordinated treatment, continuity of care, confidentiality, and elimination of duplication of effort and/or services. The co-location also allows better and more efficient access to services for clients.

Among the many recent accomplishments of the Clinic are the four key new services which advance care for HIV patients: (1) the addition of an electronic health record (EHR) system; (2) the establishment of the Medical Adherence Case Management Department; (3) implementing the Public Benefits Department; (4) and implementing a new visit type: the "Rapid HIV" visit.

(1). The Electronic Health Record: WWC implemented an electronic health record system, "eClinicalWorks," in order to achieve significant clinical and operational efficiencies that are needed to support a high quality client/physician encounter. WWC EHR allows for a complete multidisciplinary approach to health care. All clients of WWC are established in our electronic health record (EHR) system in order to track progress in an organized and efficient manner. This allows physicians, mental health practitioners, nurse case managers, and other providers to coordinate the care of that client, exchange information, and communicate with each other in an efficient and trackable manner. When we receive information from an outside health service, that information is scanned into the patient's Clinic-based EHR. Similarly, when we send out information to an external provider, a note is made in the EHR as to the nature of the communication.

(2). Medical Adherence Case Management Department: The Medical Adherence unit consists of Medical Adherence Case Managers and Medical Adherence Care Coordinators. The Medical Adherence Case Managers, all of whom are RNs, provide the following: barriers to care assessment, care planning, disease process education, medication/treatment management support, 24-hour support via pager and pillbox initiation. The Medical Adherence Care Coordinators provide support by addressing clients who no-show as well as: prescription refill reports and followup, home visits, accompaniment to medical appointments, social services as they relate to barriers to care (like emergency financial assistance clinics, housing clinics, access to food and transportation) and other elements as they relate to

life skills for managing a healthy lifestyle. This unit provides an immediate point of care for our new clients, establishing the relationship from the minute they walk in the door, or receive an HIV positive test result. WWC recognizes that for many of our clients, access to food and transportation can be a huge barrier to maintaining their medical care. Each staff person in Medical Adherence will be trained in accessing resources available to assist clients in these areas. The Medical Adherence Department also employs two full-time referral coordinators who assist patients in securing specialty and subspecialty appointments. For HIV-positive patients, the Medical Adherence staff members, in conjunction with our physician providers, pay close attention to identifying those patients at risk of failing their treatment regimens.

(3). Public Benefits Department: As of October 1, 2008, all WWC clients receive eligibility screening for public and private insurance through our recently established Public Benefits department. This screening and support service ensures that clients are able to identify and apply for public insurance programs for which they qualify. By thoroughly assisting clients in securing insurance, it also ensures that Ryan White funds remain the payor of last resort. Public Benefits Coordinators meet with all new HIV clients soon after they test positive at the Clinic or seek care at the Clinic as a new patient with previously diagnosed HIV. Potential patients will be asked to bring in proof of residency and income. Public Benefits Coordinators then assist potential patients in determining for what insurance programs they are eligible and provide assistance in applying for benefits. Public Benefits Coordinators, most of whom are bilingual (English/Spanish), work closely with medical providers and the Medical Adherence Case Management department to help clients overcome barriers such as a medication they cannot afford, lack of insurance, denial of a service by their public insurance, all to ensure easy access to the services that they need. They guide clients through every step of the process necessary to eliminating barriers to care related to payor source. Most of the D.C. patients seen by WWC are ultimately deemed eligible for payor programs such as Medicaid and DC Alliance.

(4). The "Rapid HIV Visit": The development of a "Rapid HIV" appointment type has allowed the Clinic to retain new HIV clients in care. Through this system, all new HIV clients are seen by the Medical Adherence Nurse Case Management team as well as by their primary medical provider on the same day they test positive in one of our facilities or seek care at WWC for their previously diagnosed HIV. Medical Adherence Nurse Case Managers triage all new HIV clients and initiate their care at WWC. WWC reserves several "Rapid HIV" visits with providers for new HIV clients each day. Therefore, new HIV patients are almost always able to meet with a provider the same day they test positive or present to the Clinic as a new HIV patient. Medical Adherence Case Managers provide post-testing counseling and "HIV 101" education to help patients understand their new diagnosis and navigate their treatment options. For new patients, providers take a full history, screen for mental health and/or substance abuse issues, order HIV and other labs, and assess immunization and tuberculosis status. Patients will also be given the opportunity to

meet with the Public Benefits Coordinators on that same day as well.

The Clinic offers expanded hours to accommodate clients who need services outside of the traditional work day. ETMC hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 8 pm and Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. MRC hours are Monday and Tuesday from 8 am to 8 pm and Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. In addition to extended site hours, the Clinic provides an afterhours on-call nursing line pager with physician back-up for medical clients who may be experiencing a non-emergency problem or need medical advice.

WWC clinics are well situated, geographically, to provide services to underserved communities, including Blacks, recent immigrants, Latino/as, and men who have sex with men (MSM). Services at both sites are fully handicapped accessible and conveniently located on the Metro and bus lines. ETMC is located in Ward 2 near the U-street corridor, serves an area of the city concentrated with Latinos, African Americans, MSM, and where a significant number of people live below the poverty line. MRC is located in Ward 8, serves residents of Wards 6, 7, and 8, and residents east of the Anacostia River. Located in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods, MRC is well positioned to outreach and serve residents in Southeast, D.C., which is the area currently hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic. WWC's MRC location facilitates access to difficult to reach populations, such as IDUs, women with children, and sex workers.

The funding that is made available in this legislation will help give the necessary tools to the staff and volunteers of the Whitman-Walker Clinic. I am told that the Clinic has major renovation and infrastructure needs as well. Funding awarded by the Secretary of HHS and the Director of the CDC will go a long way to help identify and treat HIV/AIDS in the Nation's capital. Again, I am thankful that this money is contained in this package and I respectfully urge a favorable ruling on the Whitman-Walker's application for funding.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday February 3, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote #47 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 82), "yea" on rollcall vote #48 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 103), "yea" on rollcall vote #49 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 559)

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN PATTI

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a veteran Baltimore journalist who has reached a very special milestone. John Patti is celebrating 25 years of service at WBAL Radio.