

easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a federally funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental-health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

In order to protect our nation's children from mandatory mental health screening, I have introduced introduce the Parental Consent Act (H.R. 2218). This bill forbids Federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental-health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardians. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children. I hope all my colleagues will cosponsor H.R. 2218.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the emergency extension of unemployment benefit passed yesterday for States with high rates of unemployment like my home state of New Jersey. Today's passage of the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 is the final step before it is presented to President Obama for his signature.

As I said in September when we first considered this measure, I hear all the time from central New Jersey residents who are working hard each day to find a new job. Recently, a Mercer County resident wrote me to say his wife had been out of work for 11 months. He wrote to say, "The jobs are just not available for her to go back to work." This bill answers his plea and the pleas of countless other out of work New Jersey residents to extend unemployment benefits while they continue to search for employment.

In tough economic times, Congress and the President have worked together to extend unemployment benefits when needed. The previous extensions of unemployment insurance during this current recession have helped many New Jersey residents keep a roof over their head and food on the table when times were tough. In this tight job market and with the economy just starting to show signs of recovery, there are still six unemployed workers for each job opening and more than 5 million people who have been unemployed for more than 6 months.

The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009, H.R. 3548, would extend by 14 weeks unemployment benefits for individ-

uals who have exhausted their current benefits in all States and by an additional 6 weeks for individuals who live in States with an unemployment rates above 8.5 percent.

Our Government must help those in need as they seek new work. Morally, it is the right thing to do and the economists tell us that unemployment benefits are one of the most cost-efficient and fast-acting forms of economic stimulus.

The bill does not add to the deficit, by off setting its cost with a 1 year extension of a employment tax that has been in place for 30 years.

Once this bill is signed into law it is estimated that the extension of unemployment benefits will help more than 1.3 million out of work employees.

RECOGNIZING THE REDEDICATION OF THE W.T. WOODSON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rededication of the W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax County, Virginia. The W.T. Woodson High School has consistently been recognized as one of the top ranked schools in the country and continues to educate and shape our future leaders. I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of this school and all the students and faculty who have been a part of its storied history.

The W.T. Woodson High School first opened its doors to students in 1962. At this time, Woodson was not only the largest school in Fairfax County but the largest in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Built on a dairy farm, Woodson's campus continues to be the largest high school campus in Fairfax County.

Woodson High School was named in honor of the late superintendent of the Fairfax County Schools Mr. Wilbert Tucker Woodson. Mr. Woodson dedicated himself to his community and to the students of Fairfax County from 1921 to 1961. He inspired a tradition of service to community, and dedication to a well-rounded education that is still shared today. Today, Woodson continues to be recognized for having the best teachers in the county, a distinguished arts program led by their chorale and theater programs, and one of the most competitive sports programs.

While Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and a parent of a Woodson student, I was proud to be a partner in the renovations to the W.T. Woodson High School. Together with parents, faculty, and community leaders, we were successful in securing funds to start the much needed renovation to this school. Renovations to Woodson began in 2005 and were completed this year. As a result of our community's commitment to investments in education, we were able to create a new fine arts wing, renovate the cafeteria, expand and remodel the auditorium, as well as make improvements to classrooms and athletic facilities.

Woodson is an example of the culmination of the efforts of a community that came together for a common goal. Our community re-

alized the critical investments we must make in our nation's future by providing a positive community oriented learning experience for our children. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of the W.T. Woodson High School and its community's commitment and dedication to our students and the future leaders of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to be present in the Capitol for votes on Thursday, November 5, 2009. However, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on:

(1) H. Con. Res. 210—Providing for the House, upon completion of The Affordable Health Care for America Act, to adjourn until November 16, 2009.

(2) H. Res. 893—Congratulating the 2009 Major League Baseball World Series Champions, the New York Yankees.

(3) H.R. 3788—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3900 Darrow Road in Stow, Ohio, as the "Corporal Joseph A. Tomci Post Office Building."

(4) S. 1211—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 60 School Street, Orchard Park, New York, as the "Jack F. Kemp Post Office Building."

(5) Thompson Amendment to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009. ("aye")

(6) Final Passage of H.R. 2868—Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

Also, I would have voted "no" on:

(1) Barton Amendment to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

(2) Dent (PA)/Olson (TX) Amendment to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

(3) Dent (PA) Amendment to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

(4) McCaul (TX) Amendment to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

(5) Motion to Recommit H.R. 2868 to H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT (H.R. 3962)

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, passage of the Affordable Health Care for America Act marks the most important single step in 100 years in addressing the health care needs of American families. For the first time, the U.S. government has dealt comprehensively with the entire health care system.

Tonight I voted for every Oregonian who has faced bankruptcy when they've lost their care or has been denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Tonight, I voted to protect every Oregonian who has health insurance but sees their costs rising every year.

I'm pleased we were successful in the incorporation of major reforms, improving care for all Americans while strengthening the position of Oregon medical care providers.

This critical milestone, while historic, signals more hard work ahead to get the bill to the

President's desk. I will work to strengthen the reforms while fighting to lower costs to make health care more affordable for families and the federal treasury.

We must then be prepared to keep working to implement this sweeping change. But to-

night we should all pause to celebrate this moment in history.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks* section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 17

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the international aspects of global climate change.

SD-366

Judiciary

Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine cybersecurity, focusing on preventing terrorist attacks and protecting privacy in cyberspace.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine United States counterterrorism priorities and strategy across Africa's Sahel region.

SD-419

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the United States child nutrition programs, focusing on opportuni-

ties to fight hunger and improve child health.

SD-562

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 1524, to strengthen the capacity, transparency, and accountability of United States foreign assistance programs to effectively adapt and respond to new challenges of the 21st century, S. 1739, to promote freedom of the press around the world, S. 1067, to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, proposed legislation deploring the rape and assault of women in Guinea and the killing of political protesters, H. Con. Res. 36, calling on the President and the allies of the United States to raise in all appropriate bilateral and multilateral for a the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, adopted at The Hague on November 23, 2007, and signed by the United States on that same date (Treaty Doc. 110-21), the nominations of Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, William E. Kennard, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, John F. Tefft, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Ukraine, Michael C. Polt, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, and Cynthia Stroum, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg, all of the Department of State, and James LaGarde Hudson, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of

the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and routine lists in the Foreign Service.

S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine aggressive sales tactics on the Internet and their impact on American consumers.

SR-253

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the United States and the G-20, focusing on re-making the international economic architecture.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine H1N1 flu, focusing on getting the vaccine to where it is needed most.

SD-342

3 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine protecting consumers from overdraft fees, focusing on the Fairness and Accountability in Receiving Overdraft Coverage Act.

SD-538

NOVEMBER 18

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine reforming the United States financial market regulation.

SD-106

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine easing the burdens through employment.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine managing Federal forests in response to climate change, focusing on natural resource adaptation and carbon sequestration.

SD-366

NOVEMBER 19

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine environmental stewardship policies related to offshore energy production.

SD-366