

Whereas, Sallie Mae employees 647 Hamilton County Residents and,

Whereas, Sallie Mae, its employees and leadership have been significant supporters of the community in many ways; and,

Whereas, the Hamilton County Council on behalf of all residents of Hamilton County is supportive of responsible actions by the Congress which will recognize appropriate cost saving measures while protecting valuable jobs for Hoosier families; and,

Whereas, Sallie Mae and a broad coalition representing various stakeholders in the student loan community have proposed a responsible alternative which should be seriously considered and adopted as the best way of achieving the goals and objectives of both the President and Congress, without sacrificing tens of thousands of jobs across the country and here in Indiana: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Hamilton County Council, meeting in regular session, as follows:*

Section 1. That the Congress of the United States is hereby encouraged to adopt a student loan reform proposal that makes college more affordable and achieves significant taxpayer savings while also protecting Hoosier jobs and our families and communities.

Section 2. That a copy of this Resolution be provided to all members of the Indiana Congressional delegation forthwith as an expression of the concern and desires of the entire County of Hamilton, Indiana.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and upon its adoption.

All of which is resolved this 4th day of November, 2009.

Hamilton County Council.

I support the FFEL program and believe that H.R. 3221 will lead to its extinction, which is why I voted against the bill. Additionally, on two separate occasions during this Congress I have proposed amendments to help preserve the FFEL program, and the jobs associated with the program. Disappointedly, the Majority has used their control of the House Rules Committee to kill those amendments and prevent the full House of Representatives from debating and voting to protect these jobs.

I have not given up the fight to preserve the FFEL program or the jobs associated with it though. Could improvements be made to the program? Sure, but there is more to lose than gain by eliminating the program in its entirety. Since 1965, the FFEL program has provided access to higher education for tens of millions of Americans, and it has done so with private capital and private labor. I believe we have a responsibility to the American people to preserve the FFEL program and the good-paying jobs associated with the program.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM R.  
GIFFORD

**HON. JOHN H. ADLER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I stand today before the House to recognize an important member of New Jersey's 3rd District, Mr. William R. Gifford who is celebrating his 90th birthday on December 20, 2009.

Mr. Gifford is a graduate of the Ohio State University. During World War II, he served with distinction with the rank of captain, as a bombardier in the 15th Army Air Force's 484th

Bombardment Group. After the war, Mr. Gifford became employed at Pricewaterhouse in New York City where he was made partner.

Now retired, he enjoys spending time with his sons, William R. Gifford, Jr., Russell M. Gifford and Gregory Gifford and their families.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you please join me in wishing Mr. Gifford a happy 90th birthday.

JO ANN RZEPPA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Sergeant Jo Ann Rzeppa for her outstanding service to our community.

Sergeant Rzeppa's career in the field of law enforcement began over 30 years ago, in what was then a male-dominated profession. She earned respect among her co-workers while serving as a patrol officer, in under-cover narcotics, and as a detective. She is a symbol of the Arvada Police Department's desire to maintain a strong relationship with area schools by serving as the sergeant in charge of School Resource Officers for Arvada schools.

Sergeant Rzeppa's participation in the after school club "Police Pals" allows her to provide an excellent example for young women interested in pursuing careers in law-enforcement.

The dedication demonstrated by Sergeant Jo Ann Rzeppa directly benefits her community, and is exemplary of her high personal and professional standards. Those who know Sergeant Jo Ann Rzeppa personally comment on her passion for living, enthusiasm for her work, and confident, friendly manner.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Sergeant Jo Ann Rzeppa for her recognition by the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge the request I have detailed below is (1) not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit the following information on a project I requested and was included in the Conference Report for H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Account: EPA—STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Project Name: Umatilla County for Milton-Freewater Stormwater System Improvements

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Umatilla County, 216 SE 4th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

Project Location: The City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon

Description of Project: The Conference Report for H.R. 2996 appropriates \$300,000 for the Milton-Freewater Stormwater System project. According to the requesting entity, this funding will be used by Umatilla County to assist in the development of a stormwater treatment system for the city of Milton-Freewater, Oregon. This is a beneficial use of taxpayer funding because it will enable the community to construct a holding pond to catch silt-laden storm and winter water runoff which currently clogs the drainage system and deposits silt into drinking water wells.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY HILL PLAYHOUSE IN PHILADELPHIA, PA

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Society Hill Playhouse in Philadelphia. Under the leadership of Deen and Jay Kogan, who founded the theater in 1959, the Society Hill Playhouse has become a home for important works by contemporary American and European playwrights.

The Kogans met while students at Temple University and married soon after graduation. Deen carried a lifelong passion for the theater, and Jay, a former World War II prisoner of war, was soon bitten by the theater bug. After a year working in theaters in Milan and Zurich, the Kogans set out to create their vision of a theater community in Philadelphia.

Over the last 50 years, the Society Hill Playhouse has delighted Philadelphia audiences with productions including Nunsense, Lafferty's Wake, and Menopause: The Musical. In addition to its contributions to the Philadelphia theater community, the Society Hill Playhouse created the Philadelphia Youth Theater, which for 25 years opened its doors to allow Philadelphia youth to have access to the arts and develop their skills.

The Society Hill Playhouse prides itself on its appeal to "people who don't like theater . . . or who think they don't." As Philadelphia's original public theater, the Society Hill Playhouse has made a lasting contribution to the design of new theaters throughout the Delaware Valley. Rarely does a theater extend beyond a location and become an integral member of the arts community, but the Playhouse has done exactly that. The Society Hill Playhouse brought a new generation into the theater, while producing hits and entertaining crowds for 50 years.

Madam Speaker, the Society Hill Playhouse has made immeasurable cultural contributions to the Philadelphia area. I congratulate Deen Kogan and her late husband Jay on accomplishing their vision of a premiere arts institution in Philadelphia, and wish the Society Hill Playhouse many more years of success.

# AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 7, 2009*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Affordable Health Care for America Act. I join the American Cancer Society, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, Consumers Union, AARP, and many other organizations in the strong belief that this bill will bring financial relief to middle class families and businesses who have faced skyrocketing costs for health care.

In the past months, I have listened carefully to the families and businesses I represent on Long Island. I held many public forums on health care; visited businesses facing double digit premium increases; met with physicians and toured hospitals; invited protesters into my office to hear their concerns; convened a tele-town hall that attracted 5,000 senior citizens; hosted another tele-town hall meeting with nearly 11,000 people; organized a live town hall meeting at Suffolk Community College with 500 people; made hundreds of personal phone calls to constituents; and much more.

People with strong opinions on opposite sides of this issue have insisted that I listen to them, believing that they represent a majority of our community. And at the end of the day, I believe strongly that we can no longer do business as usual. In the past 10 years, Long Islanders have seen their health insurance premiums increase 80 percent. And if we do nothing, the average Long Islanders' health costs will increase \$1,800 every year.

Employer-sponsored health insurance premiums have increased 80 percent in 10 years for Long Island businesses. As a result, more companies are forced to cut payroll, trim raises, or increase employee contributions. Some have told me if this continues, they will have to begin considering offering no health insurance.

And almost every week, my office in Hauppauge receives complaints from neighbors who were denied insurance coverage due to preexisting conditions. They complain about "sticker shock" when they open their insurance company statement and learn that they'll have to pay for a greater share of services they assumed were covered.

In a region with unacceptably high property taxes and energy costs, we simply cannot afford to allow health care to continue skyrocketing.

The original bill did contain provisions that concerned me. As a result of my town meetings and other visits, I was able to help improve the bill.

For example:

Many Long Islanders complained that the original family income trigger for the surtax that will fund nearly half of this bill was too low. I successfully fought to raise the trigger to \$1 million per family. As a result, no Long Island family with earnings less than \$1 million will see a surtax to pay for this bill.

I worked to increase the trigger for small business health care from \$250,000 to \$500,000 in payroll.

Many seniors in Medicare Part D prescription drug plans asked for faster relief from the

so called "donut hole." In 2010, they will receive an immediate \$500 expanded benefit. That will assist 8,000 seniors in our district alone.

To lower drug costs, I fought to include a provision allowing the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate volume discounts with big drug companies, just like the VA does.

I sought to increase funding for the Family Caregiver Support program to help Americans who take care of their parents or grandparents.

Some argued that insurance should be sold across State lines. This bill would allow companies to sell plans across State lines where States joined together to form interstate compacts to allow it.

Before accessing the newly created Health Insurance Exchange, one's citizenship and immigration status will be verified by the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard some insist that this bill represents a government takeover of health care. It is simply not true. All the bill does is give Long Islanders the choice to enter into a competitive Health Insurance Exchange to shop for a health insurance plan—just like every Member of Congress. There, private companies will compete for one's business. Among those private businesses will be a "public option" which must be self-sufficient and funded from premiums paid by its enrollees. That option will not need to worry about dividends or profits, CEO salaries or expensive marketing campaigns. It will compete against the private plans: just like public colleges compete against private colleges, just like ExpressMail competes against FedEx, just like Perrier competes against the Suffolk County Water Authority. I haven't heard anyone call the water they drink from their faucets "socialist water". And I've not heard any reasonable person call Medicare socialized health care. The reason the public option is so vital is that its lower costs will incentivize insurance companies who have doubled their premiums to be more price sensitive in order to attract customers.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a special word for those who have demanded that I "listen to them." We tend to see the world through our own eyes, leaving very little room for what may be outside our vision. People on polar opposites of this issue have understandably demanded that I "listen to them." Both claim to represent a majority of Long Islanders. I don't pay much attention to polls, Mr. Speaker, but a recent poll in Newsday indicated that 70 percent of Long Islanders support the public option. I will say that after that poll, some of the same people who demanded I listen to the majority told me the majority doesn't know what it's talking about so I should ignore it.

I made a final judgment by listening carefully to everyone. I fought and delivered improvements in this bill. Is it perfect? No. Government can never be perfect, and I'll continue to demand that it be more competent. But this bill, for the first time, will give Americans more choice and control over a virtual health insurance monopoly and will finally end the days when someone who has faithfully paid their premiums from hearing that their diabetes, their cancer, their children's autism, are no longer covered.

JO LYNN OSBORNE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Jo Lynn Osborne for her outstanding service to our community.

Jo Lynn Osborne has served as an advocate for the rights of the disabled since 1980. She began her career as a secretary at the Arc in Jefferson County where she quickly moved into program development. In 1989 she created the Mobilizing Families program, which has won national awards and has been translated into several languages.

The dedication demonstrated by Jo Lynn Osborne directly benefits her community, and is exemplary of her high personal and professional standards. Through individualized advocacy, Jo Lynn Osborne has personally helped thousands of individuals and families achieve greater levels of independence.

Today Jo Lynn Osborne is interim executive director for the Arc in Jefferson County, an active member of the Alameda West Kiwanis Club, and a strong community leader.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jo Lynn Osborne for her recognition by the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

## TRIBUTE TO LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL PERSONNEL

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to personally thank and commend the 2,837 personnel—including Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Department of Defense civilians and contractors, and coalition liaisons from Canada, Poland, Jordan, and Australia—of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

These dedicated folks do yeoman's work in providing world class comprehensive care to our warriors wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and to more than 52,000 American military personnel and their families in the Kaiserslautern Military Community. They also provide specialized care to nearly 245,000 American military personnel and their families throughout the European Theater.

I can personally attest to the phenomenal work done at Landstuhl. During a visit to Iraq over Thanksgiving 2005, Congressman TIM MURPHY and I were injured in a motor vehicle accident. After receiving excellent care at the Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, we were moved by C-17 to Landstuhl. I spent several days in room 7 of the Intensive Care Unit there. It is not an understatement to say that the care I received was outstanding. I am sure any of our troops who have been treated there and their families would attest to the same.

Along with my committee's ranking member, BUCK McKEON, I will soon be leading a congressional delegation to visit wounded