

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEP OUR PACT ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, it is with a sense of urgency that I reintroduce the Keep Our Promises to America's Children and Teachers Act at the beginning of the 111th Congress.

I offer the Keep Our PACT Act today to help meet the aspirations of our nation's school children—and to help provide all of their teachers and schools with the resources they need to help them achieve those aspirations. Additionally, I offer this bill as a reminder to those of us in government of the importance of keeping our promises and of truly making education a priority.

Put simply, the Keep Our PACT Act would put Congress on a fiscally responsible path to fully funding the No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Act—on a mandatory basis, once and for all.

Madam Speaker, since 2002, Title I of NCLB—the funding that goes to our highest-need students—has been funded at \$54.7 billion below its authorized level. Currently, approximately 4.3 million students are not getting the extra Title I help they were promised.

Furthermore, since IDEA's reauthorization in 2004, IDEA Part B has been funded at \$20.3 billion below its authorized level and funding has never reached even half of the 40 percent average per pupil expenditure the government originally promised states more than 30 years ago.

We need to keep our commitments to education, support our schools and provide all of our students with resources they need to succeed.

Madam Speaker, once again I am proud to make the Keep Our PACT Act the very first piece of legislation I introduce this Congress. Additionally, I want to thank my colleagues joining me as original cosponsors on this bill today. We pledge to stand for the fundamental values this bill represents and invite Members from both sides of the aisle to embrace those values and get this bill passed.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JASON D. VIA

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Officer Jason D. Via, who was named the 2008 Springfield Police Patrolman's Association Patrolman of the Year.

Officer Jason D. Via began his career with the Springfield Police Division on November 17, 2003. After completing his recruit training, he was assigned to the uniform patrol, where he continues to serve today. He is an extremely dependable, well respected officer who is a person his fellow officers and citizens can rely upon. Jason was nominated for the Patrolman of the Year Award for 2008 because of these exceptional traits.

During 2008, Officer Via was selected to participate in the Safe Streets Task Force with

three other officers. During his service in the Task Force, he took a subject who was arrested for trying to solicit another officer and turned this person into a confidential informant. Using this information, he was able to make several arrests of street-level drug dealers. From these arrests, he was able to "flip" some of them and arrest several suppliers.

Upon making his last arrest, he seized over seven ounces of crack cocaine, as well as at least \$5,000 in cash. Due to his diligence and hard work, approximately nine mid-level dealers and suppliers were arrested, making our streets safer.

For these reasons Officer Via deserves our gratitude and special thanks.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States seek membership in the International Renewable Energy Agency because our energy security, the health of our planet, and the strength of our economy have reached a critical juncture. With volatile energy prices, emissions of heat-trapping gases continuing to climb to dangerous levels, and the U.S. economy in turmoil, two things have become clear. First, a fundamental change is needed in the way we generate and use energy here at home. Secondly, the rest of the world must be also part of this new energy future. The resolution I am introducing today calls for the United States to seek membership in the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to address both of these challenges.

On January 26, 2009, 75 countries signed the statute to establish IRENA, marking a promising step towards international collaboration and mitigating climate change. This collaboration was a good start, but the urgency of global warming and our dependence on fossil fuels require that we take the lead in the permanent international agency to drive the development and deployment of renewable energy in all countries, including ours. The United States still has a chance to be a founding member of the body if it signs on by April 30th of this year. As a founding member country, the United States would be eligible to nominate a Director General and bid to host the IRENA headquarters on American territory.

Despite the enormous strides renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies have made over the last several years, hurdles remain to major and rapid scale-up on the level needed to meet the world's need for energy while also addressing global warming. IRENA is the first international organization to focus solely on renewable energy and include a broad constituency of industrialized and developing countries. It will provide the institutional support needed to address the technological, financial, informational, and policy barriers that keep renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies from reaching their full potential.

Renewable energy has the potential to reduce global warming pollution while also creating millions of green jobs, reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy, and spurring the technological development that will fuel the global economy over the coming century.

In 2007, new investment in clean energy technology worldwide increased 60 percent over 2006, but vast markets remain untapped and not included in the green economy. Over the next two decades, greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries are projected to grow at more than twice the rate of those in developed countries. Encouraging growth of renewable energy in developing countries reduces the extent and likelihood that these economies will follow a carbon-intensive, fossil energy development path. It also opens a valuable market for the clean energy companies that developed economies will rely on for growth over the coming century, a market that American businesses and American workers can benefit from. The International Renewable Energy Agency will have the independence, credibility, and expertise necessary to assist governments at the national, state, and local level implement renewable energy policies and projects.

Other international energy agencies were formed to address narrow problems. The International Energy Agency (IEA): oil security and fuel supply disruptions. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): nuclear proliferation and safety. With the aid of institutional support, these energy resources became foundations of modern economies. An International Renewable Energy Agency is needed to support the unique problems facing renewable energy: marketplace failures, political inertia, and information gaps. Our membership in the organization will allow us to help shape the direction of this agency. To this end, IRENA will:

Support governments in drafting policies and programs for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

Assist governments in conducting studies that analyze the potential of renewable energies and the appropriateness of different technologies.

Provide long-term projections and scenarios based on existing data and policy in order to identify opportunities as well as gaps, barriers, and failures in markets and policies.

Organize training programs, information campaigns, and courses for civil servants, scientists, businesses, and non-government organizations.

Supply curriculum for schools and universities on relevant renewable energy topics.

Work with financial institutions to support innovative financing mechanisms for renewable energy projects.

Develop international norms and quality standards.

Gather and disseminate data, statistics, and reports on renewable energy deployment, policy approaches, and technology development.

The status quo is not working for America or the planet. The environmental, energy, and economic problems we are facing are largely due to a failed energy policy. The International Renewable Energy Agency represents an opportunity for America to change its energy path and confront global warming while reestablishing its leadership role and reputation in the international community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC
SERVICE OF ALFRED SAN NICOLAS
FLORES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Alfred San Nicolas Flores, a former Guam Senator who passed away on February 6, 2009 at the age of 93. Alfred, known as "Davy Crockett" to family and friends, was devoted to his community and will be remembered for his public service and his love of farming.

Born on June 20, 1916 to Jose Duenas Flores and Rafaela San Nicolas, Alfred was raised by his step-mother Margarita Flores in the village of Inarajan. He became a Lancheru, or "rancher," farming his family's land and raising cattle. He later established the Flores Poultry Farm which became a major supplier of fresh eggs to Guam's civilian and military communities.

Alfred entered public service, first as an Assemblyman in the Guam Congress, and later as a six term Senator in the Guam Legislature. He promoted agriculture by establishing a special water rate for farmers and establishing a crop insurance program. He also authored legislation to create low and moderate income housing subdivisions. In 1976 he was elected to the office of Commissioner (Mayor) of Inarajan. Senator Flores was a founding member of the Democratic Party of Guam and he was known for his fiery campaign speeches.

Alfred Flores served on the Selective Service Board, the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority Board of Directors, the Guam Farmers Cooperative Association, and the Soil and Water Conservation District. He was active in his village church, St. Joseph's Parish in Inarajan. He also mentored young men by volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America.

Senator Alfred Flores was a dedicated public servant who made many lasting contributions to our community. He was recognized later in life as a Master Lancheru for his contributions to preserving traditional farming. My heartfelt condolences are with his wife Ester, their children Lucille, May, Fred, and Roy and his extended family and friends. He will be dearly missed.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION CELEBRATE LINCOLN'S
200TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Esther Reed Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In honor of the 200th anniversary of the birthday our Sixteenth President these women will conduct a wreath laying ceremony at the base of a statue of President Lincoln in downtown Spokane, WA.

This 12-foot bronze statue was dedicated in Spokane on November 11, 1930 before a

crowd of 40,000 people and depicts the Sixteenth President as Commander in Chief reviewing the Union Army. This statue is a valued part of the landscape of Spokane and acts as a steady reminder of the trials our country has faced and our ability to overcome them.

As part of their long and continuing efforts to preserve and celebrate our history, the Esther Reed Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution has organized a week long celebration to honor this great man. The celebrations will include several lectures by prominent Lincoln historians, a concert, and an ongoing art show featuring Lincoln-related works.

Madam Speaker, I believe the dedication shown by the Daughters of the American Revolution and their ongoing efforts to celebrate our leaders and history is worthy of recognition before this body. I invite my fellow members in joining with me to honor a past president's birthday and the efforts by the Daughters of the American Revolution to observe it.

ABILITYONE, FORMERLY JAVITS-
WAGNER-O'DAY, PROGRAM

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the past 70 years the AbilityOne formerly Javits-Wagner-O'Day (ABILITYONE) Program has empowered Americans who are blind or severely disabled by providing them with a diverse set of employment opportunities. Today over 40,000 disabled Americans are realizing their potential by working in their local communities across the country under this program. These Americans are proud to provide federal and military customers with a wide array of SKILCRAFT and other ABILITYONE products and services. The ABILITYONE Program prides itself on delivering high quality products and services at a competitive price in the most convenient way possible.

Some of the product categories offered by the ABILITYONE program include office supplies, military specific, safety, maintenance, repair, medical-surgical, janitorial-sanitation, and customization. The services that are provided to the federal and military customer include but aren't limited to call center and switchboard operation, military base and federal office building supply centers, CD-Rom duplication-replication, data entry, document imaging and grounds care. I rise today in support of the AbilityOne Program and the opportunities it provides for an underemployed population of hard working Americans. Furthermore, I urge my colleagues to purchase SKILCRAFT and ABILITYONE products from the House-Senate Stationary stores not only because of their quality and value, but also because of the socioeconomic benefits that can come from supporting the program. By purchasing these products and using these services we are enabling more disabled Americans to have the opportunity to become taxpayers.

Today in Winston Salem, North Carolina 156 blind Americans are employed under the ABILITYONE Program and are producing high quality items or services for us. The ABILITYONE Program is administered by the Presidentially-appointed Committee for Pur-

chase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, with much assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH, which serves people with a wide range of disabilities. More than 650 local nonprofit agencies associated with NIB and NISH employ people who are blind or disabled to produce the quality products and offer the services authorized for sale to the federal government under the ABILITYONE Program.

The ABILITYONE Program is a great illustration of a successful partnership that has the ability to continuously grow with the changing procurement environment within the federal government. This is a Program that works for America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, I missed Rollcall Vote 55, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Girls and Women in Sports Day, because I was attending to official events in my home state of Florida. If present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF MONIQUE YVE'TTE
PORTUSACH-CEPEDA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and service of Monique Portusach-Cepeda, a dedicated community leader who continually gave back to the people of Guam. Monique passed away on January 3, 2009 after a battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Nathaniel Fejeran Ulloa, her mother Frances Portusach Hudgens, and her father Anthony Calvo Cepeda.

Monique graduated from George Washington High School as valedictorian in 1996. Monique enrolled in Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and in 2001 graduated with a degree in American Civilization and Bio-Medical Community Health. While at Brown University, Monique was awarded the President Harry S. Truman Fellowship before continuing her education at Harvard University. In 2002, Monique graduated from Harvard University with a Master's Degree in Public Policy. Monique was also selected as a Presidential Management Fellow, a program for individuals dedicated to promoting sound policy and programming in government agencies.

Monique worked with the Social Security Administration on Guam as a Federal Disability Examiner where she helped residents of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa through the disability claims process. She continued to give back to her community through participation in organizations such as Youth for Youth, Democrats for a Better America, and Young Government Leaders. Monique