

arts. Each learning center is a literacy-rich environment stocked with age appropriate books, as well as creative writing and reading materials. Students are encouraged to check out books, create journals, and engage in any type of activity that encourages them to read and write.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources & Services Administration

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Children's Hospital of Orange County at Mission

Address of Requesting Entity: 27700 Medical Center Road, Mission Viejo, California 92691

Funding Secured: \$95,000

Description of Request: Funds will be used to purchase needed equipment to retrofit all patient rooms on the Medical/Surgical unit with sleep sofas to improve the comfort and restfulness of overnight accommodations for parents of children in the Children's Hospital of Orange County at Mission. To facilitate and maximize parental and family involvement in patient care at CHOC at Mission, the hospital maintains open visiting hours and encourages parents to spend as much time as possible with their children, including sleeping overnight with their children, in the hospital. CHOC at Mission provides a family lounge area, two separate parent sleep rooms with bathrooms, and sleep accommodations for parents in each room on the general Medical/Surgical unit.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Highway Administration, Interstate Maintenance Discretionary

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orange County Transportation Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 550 South Main Street, Orange, CA 92868

Funding Secured: \$237,500

Description of Request: Funds will be used for the examination of the technical feasibility of options to connect SR-91 Express Lanes with SR-241 and for the preliminary engineering for funding for the SR-91 corridor and the Costa Mesa Freeway (SR-55) Interchange. The SR-91 is the only significant transportation facility connecting Orange County and Riverside County. The facility is currently operating at full capacity during peak hours and is critical for the movement of goods from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to inland destinations. The request is partly for examination of the technical feasibility of options to connect SR-91 Express Lanes with SR-241. A direct connection between high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes on the SR-91 and the SR-241 toll road will provide a new travel option for SR-91 commuters and allow for a more balanced distribution of travel along the highly congested SR-91 corridor. The request is also for the preliminary engineering for funding for the SR-91 corridor and the Costa Mesa Freeway (SR-55) Interchange. Constructing this project will alleviate current and future congestion at the interchange of SR-91 and SR-55.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Highway Administration, Transportation, Community and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Address of Requesting Entity: 22112 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, California

Funding Secured: \$95,000

Description of Request: The project will consist of removing failed pavement, installing new pavement in the failed areas, cold milling the pavement, overlaying the entire roadway surface with Asphalt Rubber Hot Mix, repairing the sidewalks, installing Concrete Access Ramps, adjusting utility manholes and water valves to grade, and installing new striping and traffic loops along the Antonio Parkway. The Antonio Parkway was constructed in the mid to late 1980s. Since that time, heavy use combined with the natural aging process has caused transverse block cracking, heaving, and shoving on its surface. A new surface course of asphalt rubber hot mix combined with full depth dig-out repairs will extend the life of the pavement another 20 years.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiative

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hillview Acres Children's Home

Address of Requesting Entity: 3683 Chino Avenue, Chino, California

Funding Secured: \$95,000

Description of Request: This request is for construction and improvements to Hillview Acres Children's Home facilities. One of the biggest challenges Hillview faces today is their aging physical plant. The campus's relationship impact model was written and implemented in the 1970s. Since that time, Hillview has continued to be progressive in the way they treat and care for injured children. As their success in taking care of abused and neglected children maintains and increases in strength, their facilities have weakened and no longer parallel the quality of their program.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiative

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Community Renaissance

Address of Requesting Entity: 9065 Haven Avenue, Suite 100, Rancho Cucamonga, California

Funding Secured: \$950,000

Description of Request: Funding will be used for the construction of affordable housing communities. With this funding, National Community Renaissance will undertake one or more large-scale neighborhood revitalization projects, develop or acquire and preserve over 10,000 additional apartments in at least 10 more states nationwide, and establish a best-in-class non-profit Web portal, a free information resource that will become the go-to location for updates and information assistance in using affordable housing resources. National Community Renaissance is one of the largest nonprofit affordable housing development corporations in the United States. It manages several business lines that contribute to the development and preservation of high quality affordable housing throughout the country, including development of new affordable housing, preservation of existing affordable housing

at risk of going to market rate, and full service construction management with expertise in multifamily and mixed use development.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE SANDY VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CARDINALS FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Sandy Valley High School Cardinals football team admirably squared off against the Garaway High School Pirates on the night of Friday, September 12, 2008; and

Whereas, recognizing the game was not going their way, the Sandy Valley Cardinals, under the direction of Coach John Groff, exemplified the finest in sportsmanship and class by allowing the Pirate's team manager, Craig Gordon, a young man with Down Syndrome, to record his first touch of the football during a game; and

Whereas, Cardinals players allowed Gordon to carry the football into the end zone for a touchdown, giving him a memory and a feeling of pride that will last a lifetime, now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the players and coaches of the Sandy Valley High School Cardinals for showing the very highest in class, sportsmanship, and character by allowing Gordon the opportunity to fulfill a dream of scoring a touchdown during a game in his senior year. Coach Groff, his coaching staff, and the Cardinals players have proven to be decent and honorable men who should be proud of their actions on the field that night.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2009*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Troops to Teachers Improvement Act to improve opportunities for veterans to transition into second careers in teaching. I am pleased to once again be joined in this effort by Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI. I have been a supporter of the Troops to Teachers program since its authorization, and I am proud of its success over the last decade. Since 1994, this program has placed nearly 10,000 veterans in our nation's classrooms.

Troops to Teachers is a unique program that provides retiring military with a \$5,000 stipend to help cover the costs of teaching certification in exchange for three years service in a high-need school, which until recently was defined as receiving grants under part A of Title I. To further encourage participants to teach in schools with the greatest need, a \$10,000 bonus is offered to those who agree to teach for three years in a school with 50 percent of students below the poverty level.

This structure has proven very effective in transitioning qualified retiring military personnel into second careers in teaching. Indeed, Troops participants fill several critical

needs among educators: eighty-two percent are male, over one-third ethnic minorities, and a majority bring an expertise in science and math to the classroom. In an increasingly globalized economy, these valuable characteristics provide a vital resource for schools across the country.

However, this success is now in jeopardy due to a drafting error in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act which has inadvertently restricted the number of schools at which participants may fulfill their service. The applicable definition for "high-need local education agencies" for Troops to Teachers was inadvertently changed as it was included in the section of the legislation regarding other alternative programs that had a different definition. This stricter definition requires a higher threshold for "high-need," requiring the school to have either 10,000 students or 20 percent of students from families below the poverty level. However, the original Title I definition of high-need was also retained in the law in the section specifically detailing the Troops program. Essentially, Congress inadvertently created two conflicting definitions of "high-need" with regard to this program.

Early on, the Department of Education and the Troops to Teachers program recognized this unintended change in law and worked together to address it. From 2003–2005, while discussions were being held on how to reconcile this discrepancy, the program continued to operate under the original and intended definition. However, after the completion of a negotiated rulemaking process in September 2005, the Department issued a regulation stating that the new, stricter definition was not an error but congressional intent. As one of the leading supporters of this program during the drafting of No Child Left Behind, I can assure my colleagues that this clearly was not the intent of the supporters of the program.

Madam Speaker, the unfortunate result of this, aside from limiting the number of schools at which veterans may teach and honor their obligation of three-years service, is that it has disproportionately impacted western and rural states. In my home state of Wisconsin, the number of eligible school districts has been reduced from approximately 420 to 13. Not surprisingly, participation in the program has fallen significantly since the implementation of the new definition. This decision, although understandable given the conflicting definitions contained in the law, is a disservice both to veterans wishing to continue their service to our nation as educators as well as children who stand to benefit from their unique expertise.

The bottom line is that we are losing out on great teachers because they cannot accept the certification stipend due to a lack of schools meeting the higher needs threshold in their communities. The more we restrict opportunities for participation, the fewer teachers we will be able to bring into public education, and the fewer teachers we will eventually be able to attract to the schools with the greatest need. Further, given the nation's need for more math and science teachers, we should be removing, not creating, restrictions that prevent qualified teachers in these areas from teaching in our nation's classrooms.

Madam Speaker, with Troops to Teachers, the Department already has an established program that is well-funded and successful. Rather than restricting it, we should be maximizing this program's potential. This legislation

would correct this error and restore the original intent of the Troops to Teachers program. Our bill would ensure that veterans participating in the Troops to Teachers program may receive a \$5,000 stipend for teaching for three years in any school that is in a district receiving grants under part A of Title I. This legislation would result in a 49% increase in the number of eligible schools for the program. This would mean that in my home state of Wisconsin, 94 percent of the schools in the state would once again be eligible for the program.

The legislation would retain the current criteria for troops to receive an additional bonus of \$5,000 for teaching in a high need school, defined as in a school district that has at least 10% or greater who come from families living below the poverty level and a school where at least 50% of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch or have a "high percentage" of students with disabilities.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Congresswoman MATSUI in supporting this successful program and restoring the opportunity to "serve again" to our nation's veterans.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CHALFONT METHODIST CHURCH

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Chalfont Methodist Church was founded in 1808 and is celebrating its 200th anniversary in Washington Township, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation was started by Mordecai Chalfant, a member of the society in Methodism in 1808 but did not have a church until 1811, and

Whereas, in June of 1970, when the East Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church decided to close the parish due to dwindling membership, the building was turned over to another congregation and scheduled to be demolished, the community came together to form the Chalfant Society, raising money to purchase the building and have it named to the National Register of Historic Buildings; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Chalfont Methodist Church for two centuries of dedication and service to the Washington township community and their determination to save the church building and continue the good works of the parish.

H.R. 1293, DISABLED VETERANS  
HOME IMPROVEMENT AND  
STRUCTURAL ALTERATION  
GRANT INCREASE ACT OF 2009

**HON. STEVE BUYER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2009*

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill to provide an increase in the amount payable to disabled veterans under

the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Home Improvement and Structural Alteration Program.

Known as the HISA program, this important VA benefit provides grants to seriously disabled veterans who require home adaptations to provide access to in-home medical care.

Typically, HISA grants are used for such things as widening doors; putting in handrails or special lighting; making kitchens, bathrooms, windows, or electrical outlets and switches more accessible; building ramps or improving entrance paths and driveways.

The benefit is paid from the medical care appropriation and is available to both veterans with service-connected and non-service connected disabilities. A service-connected veteran can receive a HISA grant in addition to other home adaptations grants available through the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Congress first authorized VA to establish the HISA program as part of outpatient care for home health services in 1973. We have been engaged in the Global War on Terror for nearly eight years and are seeing an increasing number of servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan utilizing VA health care. It is especially important that this program remains relevant and can meet the needs of our newest generation of veterans.

The current maximum amount of a HISA grant is \$4,100 for service-connected veterans and \$1,200 for non-service connected veterans. This amount was established by Congress in 1992 and has not been raised in seventeen years.

My bill would increase the maximum amount of the grants to \$6,800 for service-connected veterans and \$2,000 for non-service connected veterans. This recommended increase reflects a three percent increase for each year since 1992. It accounts for inflation and the increased cost of home modifications.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation. It would have a direct and immediate impact on improving health care and the quality of life for our disabled veterans.

SOLID WASTE GREENHOUSE GAS  
REDUCTION ACT

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Solid Waste Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act," legislation that will reduce our nation's contribution to global warming by addressing the methane gas that escapes from municipal solid waste landfills.

Hardly a week goes by without reports of new evidence that the world climate is changing because of human activities that are putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Scientists predict that as the earth warms, droughts and flooding will become more severe, threatening the world's food supply. Warmer ocean waters are producing expanding oxygen-depleted zones that are unable to support sea life. Higher temperatures are shrinking the Arctic ice cap, threatening coastal communities with rising sea levels and destroying the habitat that polar bears depend