

this legislation, not due to a lack of merit, but because many members of this body have sought relief for an equally vital visa issue—the H-2B Visa program.

The H-2B Visa program was designed to provide access to nonimmigrant, temporary workers for seasonal needs when no American workers can be found. These foreign workers offer short-term assistance and return to their home country at the end of their season. H-2B visas are capped at 66,000 per year. This still does not meet the needs for small businesses. In fact, the 2009 cap was met within the first week of January.

I have previously called upon the leadership of the Congress to address this urgent need in districts like mine across the country. To the detriment of so many of the small businesses that are the engine of our economy, this issue is ensnared in the broader immigration debate and no action has been taken to date.

In the absence of such a consensus, I respectfully oppose this bill and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting and calling for a vote on H.R. 1136, the "Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act," introduced by my friend from Michigan, Mr. STUPAK.

During these difficult economic times, we cannot leave our small businesses with few options and even fewer workers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. JESSIE WADE, ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mrs. Jessie Wade, a long time Michigan resident and teacher, upon her 100th birthday.

Jessie Wade was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 6, 1909 to a large family of two brothers and three sisters. In 1926, she graduated from Southwestern High School and subsequently worked her way through college. Jessie attended Wayne University for two years and in 1931 graduated from Michigan State Normal College, currently known as Eastern Michigan University. In the midst of the Great Depression, Jessie struggled to find fulltime employment. Coming from a family of educators, Jessie devoted her life to Detroit-area students as a teacher with the Detroit Public Schools through World War II and until her retirement. Jessie married Starr Wade on April 7, 1931 at the Dearborn Inn and spent 49 wonderful years with him until his passing. Jessie and Starr were blessed with one daughter, Linda, who tragically passed away on November 3, 1945 leaving her three children in their care.

Jessie Wade is a life-long educator and a fulltime grandmother and great-grandmother to her three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Jessie has lived for the past twenty year in the Silver Village retirement community in Livonia, Michigan. She has been an active and founding member of Grosse Pointe Congregational Church. Although she had to give up driving at the age of 96, Jessie has remained a very independent and active member of her community.

Madam Speaker, admired by all who know her, Jessie Wade has enriched and inspired

everyone she has touched throughout her life. As Jessie celebrates her 100th birthday today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on reaching this spectacular milestone and honoring Jessie for her loyal service to her community and the country.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
BETTY McCRARY MCCORQUODALE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Jackson and, indeed, the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Betty McCrary McCorquodale and pay tribute to her memory.

A lifelong resident of Jackson, "Miss Betty" graduated from Jackson High School and attended Florida State University before marrying Joseph Charles McCorquodale Jr. In World War II, her husband served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and during the time they were stationed in Big Spring, Texas Air Force Base, "Miss Betty" was selected as the Beauty Queen of the Cadet Corps. She also served as president of the Cadet Wives Club.

In 1959, Mr. McCorquodale was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives. "Miss Betty" was actively involved during his 23 years in the Alabama Legislature. She helped organize the Legislative Wives Club and served one year as its president. She was also instrumental in having replicas of the original gas lights installed in the lobby of the entrance to the Alabama Capitol building as well as in the House chamber.

"Miss Betty" was a founding member of the Jackson Woman's Club and served as its first president. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Jackson where she taught Sunday school classes.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Betty McCrary McCorquodale will be dearly missed by her family—her husband of 67 years, Joseph Charles McCorquodale Jr.; their two sons, Joseph Charles "Mac" McCorquodale III and Gaines Cowan McCorquodale; their four grandchildren, Elizabeth M. Percy, Joseph Charles McCorquodale IV, Martha Virginia "Ginny" Stewart, and Mary Helen Marks; seven great-grandchildren; her sister, Jean McCrary Payne; nieces, nephews; and other relatives—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

THE INCREASED STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH IN-
CREASED STUDENT SUPPORT
ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act.

With the No Child Left Behind Act dramatically increasing the pressure on teachers and administrators to improve test scores, too often we forget that students' academic success is also dependent on a number of other factors. For example, as students transition into adulthood, they experience social, emotional and behavioral needs that if unmet, impede academic success.

These diverse needs often cannot be met by already over-burdened teachers. Students need school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists. Yet, in low income neighborhoods, students lack these essential resources. Nationwide, the average student to counselor ratio is 475 to 1, nearly double the suggested 250 to 1 ratio. In California, the ratio is a dismal 920 to 1, the worst in the nation.

To help improve student performance and increase graduation rates, this bill would authorize funding to form partnerships between under-served school districts and higher education institutions that train school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists. By increasing school support staff, we can address children's out-of-the-classroom needs so that when they're in the classroom, they can be safe, engaged, and achieving their full potential. The students of low-income neighborhoods deserve the same opportunities as others for a productive learning environment.

Today's children are the economic engine of our future. We must make certain all children have the opportunity to develop academically and socially, and all schools have the resources to achieve this goal. Academic success does not come when children are hungry, bullied, traumatized, or depressed. We need more personnel to help address and alleviate these issues so that all children, no matter what their economic situation is, can focus on math, reading, and science. This is why I urge my colleagues to invest in our children and our future by supporting the Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act.

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE
STATE DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN
RIGHTS OFFICERS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues a letter I sent to the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) following the successful rollout of the 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

These sweeping reports reflect the hard work of hundreds of human rights officers in Washington and abroad. I would like to thank, by name, the DRL staff people without whom this report would not have been possible. Specifically the editorial staff of the Country Reports Team consisting of: Editor in Chief Stephen Eisenbraun; Office Directors: Bruce Connuck, Kay Mayfield, and Michael Orona; Senior Editors: Jonathan Bemis, Douglas B. Dearborn, Daniel Dolan, Jerome L. Hoganson, Patricia Meeks Schnell, Julie Turner, and Rachel Waldstein; Editors: Naim Ahmed, Sabrina

Bahir, Joseph S. Barghout, Katherine Berglund, Sarah Beringer, Alisha Bhagat, Sarah Buckley, Laura Carey, Elise Carlson-Rainer, Ebenezer Concepcion, Sharon C. Cooke, Susan Corke, Stuart Crampton, Frank B. Crump, Mollie Davis, Cortney Dell, Morton Dworken, Jennifer Evans, Verinda Fike, Joan Garner, Karen Gilbride, Jeffrey Glassman, Edward Grulich, Cheryl Harris, Patrick Harvey, Matthew Hickey, Alexandra Hoey, Victor Huser, Stan Ifshin, Sami Jiries, Simone Joseph, Jennifer King, Jane Kim, Sidney Kewir, Lawrence Lesser, Jessica Lieberman, Katie McLain, John McKane, Michael McKenna, Gregory Maggio, Jessica Megill, Nicole Morales, David Mikosz, Leonel Miranda, Stephen E. Moody, Jennie Munoz, Sandra Murphy, Daniel L. Nadel, Catherine Newling, Susan O'Sullivan, Meredith Pierce, Drue Preissman, Peter Sawchyn, Amy Schmisser, Wendy Silverman, Erin Spitzer, Rachel Spring, Brian Stout, James Todd, Rachel Waldstein, Nicole Willett, Mikel Wood, and Isabelle Zsoldos; Contributing Editor: Lynne Davidson; Editorial Assistants: Adrienne Bory, Karen Chen, Carol Finerty, Elizabeth Mokaba, and Kimberly Jorgensen; and Technical Assistant Eunice Johnson.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2009.

Ms. KAREN STEWART,
Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Washington DC.

DEAR MS. STEWART: I write following the successful rollout of the 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. I know that this exhaustive report which catalogues human rights abuses globally is the result of countless hours of hard work on the part of human rights officers in DRL and in American embassies abroad. I also know that the final product often comes after hard fought battles within the building.

I ask that you share with your staff and with human rights officers the world over my profound appreciation for their efforts. At times I know it can seem a thankless task. But the efforts of your bureau to speak truth to power and to be a voice for the voiceless brings hope and makes a difference to millions.

You have my profound thanks. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, today, I will be absent from votes in the House, as I will be travelling to Ohio with the President to discuss the economic challenges facing my home state of Ohio.

The most recent unemployment numbers only underscore the clear and glaring need for economic revitalization in my district. I look forward to sharing the perspective of Appalachian Ohio with the President and discussing how we can move forward with plans that offer new opportunity for the people I represent.

This cooperation will be critical to steering our nation's economy back on track.

I will return to the House for any scheduled votes this afternoon.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FORMER ALABAMA GOVERNOR GUY HUNT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former Alabama Governor Guy Hunt. Our nation lost a wonderful friend and an individual who made numerous contributions toward the betterment of our state.

A native of Holly Pond, Alabama, Governor Hunt enlisted in the United States Army upon graduation from Holly Pond High School and served in the Korean War. Following his discharge in 1956, he returned to Alabama where he operated an egg farm. In 1958, he was ordained a Primitive Baptist minister.

Governor Hunt's political career began in 1962 when he ran for a seat in the Alabama Senate. He lost the election; however, in 1964, he was elected probate judge of Cullman County becoming the youngest probate judge in Alabama. Honoring a campaign promise, he stepped down after two terms.

He was also active in the Republican Party, serving as state chairman of Ronald Reagan's presidential campaigns in 1976 and 1980. He also chaired Alabama's Republican delegations at the 1976 and 1980 Republican National Conventions.

After President Reagan won election in 1980, he appointed Governor Hunt state director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. He served on the committee until 1985 when he stepped down to run for governor.

Winning the 1986 election with the most votes ever for a gubernatorial candidate at that time, he became Alabama's first Republican chief executive since Reconstruction. His election to the governor's office is credited with creating a two-party system in the state. Governor Hunt was re-elected in 1990.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this dedicated public servant. Guy Hunt will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Anne Smith Hunt; two sons, Keith Hunt and his wife Heather, and Cary Smith and his wife Jayne; five daughters, Pamela Hunt, Sherrie Williams, Lynn Harris and her husband Doug, Judy Gurley and her husband Mike, and Lois Swindal and her husband Bruce; 16 grandchildren, Nigel Hunt, Nolan Hunt, Ashley Hunt, Kayla Hunt, Samuel Hunt, Heath Williams, Eric Williams, Kelly Williams, Raygen Catoe, Dusty Kanute, Dawn Brantley, Rachel Gurley, Caryanne Swindal, Bradley Swindal, Joshua Swindal, and Anna Grace Swindal; and eight great-grandchildren, Bonnie Catoe, Katelyn Kanute, Cale Kanute, William Brantley, Parker Brantley, Levi Hunt, Skye Hunter, and Helen Anne Williams—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

Mr. Chair, my congressional district, like districts all across the nation, has been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis. In 2007 Los Angeles County had a foreclosure rate of 12%. In 2008 this number had jumped to 35%. Worse yet, while many parts of the country have already received the full brunt of the foreclosure crisis, experts agree that the full force of the crisis has yet to reach Los Angeles.

I have been concerned that previous congressional efforts to stabilize the economy and help my Los Angeles constituents have failed to address the root of the problem—defaulting mortgages.

I am pleased that the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act will make substantive reforms to end the rising tide of foreclosures and keep families in their homes.

Specifically, the measure will allow a judge to modify primary mortgages in the case of bankruptcy so that families can stay in their homes. Currently, when a family files for bankruptcy they can modify loans on second homes, and other property but not on their primary residence. It is widely recognized that judicial modification of mortgages on primary residences is one of the most significant things that we can do to keep families in their homes.

By encouraging homeowners to work out their loans before filing for bankruptcy, the measure ensures that bankruptcy still remains a measure of last resort. The bill will also adapt federal loan modification programs to make it easier for mortgage servicers to participate.

In addition, the bill begins to address a growing concern—the growing number of organizations that aim to profit off of families who are in crisis and at risk of losing their home. This problem is highly visible in my congressional district, and is a cause of great concern. The measure increases oversight over the FHA home mortgage insurance program to better ensure that predatory lenders are barred from participating.

Mr. Chair, this legislation is necessary to help our nation's path of recovery by addressing the cause of the economic crisis.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical measure that will keep our constituents in their homes.