

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CATHY BRYCE, HIGHLAND PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Cathy Bryce, the Superintendent of Schools of Highland Park Independent School District (HPISD) who stepped from this position on December 19, 2008.

After serving in various administrative roles in surrounding school districts, Dr. Bryce joined HPISD in July of 2001. In this role, she quickly demonstrated her ability to work with the community to develop a comprehensive education program and build broad based support for a large bond issue. She sought higher standards for student achievement and better school accountability. Dr. Bryce has a well earned reputation as an advocate for children and has made every effort to help children reach their fullest potential. Dr. Bryce's commitment to community service extends beyond parameters of the school district. She is actively involved in the Dallas YWCA, Dallas Museum of Natural Science, and the Park Cities Rotary Club among many other local organizations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating her and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

### CAPITAL GAINS AND ESTATE TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2009

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, earlier today my colleague Representative MARK KIRK and I introduced the Capital Gains and Estate Tax Relief Act of 2009, a bill to extend critical tax cuts that will help middle-class families in my district and across the country.

If enacted, this legislation would make recent cuts to capital gains and estate taxes permanent. If Congress does not act, these tax cuts will expire at the end of 2010.

At a time when we so desperately need to encourage economic growth and investment, I believe it is wrong to raise these taxes.

Last month, the United States lost 524,000 jobs, bringing the total number of lost jobs in 2008 to 2.6 million. In December, unemployment rose to 7.2 percent, the highest rate since January 1993.

Arizonans, like all Americans, are feeling this pain and factoring the sluggish economy into their decision making. Home sales have slowed, small businesses are struggling and people are taking a hard look at their IRAs and 401Ks. With the economy weighing down important decisions about how, where, and when to buy a home or make other critical investments, Congress should not add to this burden by allowing capital gains and estate taxes to increase.

Several years ago, these tax cuts were championed by President Bush and a Repub-

lican Congress. Since then, the political winds have clearly changed. But in our haste to distance ourselves from the past, I implore my colleagues to give careful consideration to these tax cuts before dismissing them.

These tax cuts are sensible. They help millions of middle-class Americans, and making them permanent would make our tax code fairer and more predictable. They affect small businesses. They affect stockholders. They affect anyone who owns a home.

Unfortunately, when it comes time to buy or sell a home or stock or make other basic investments, these taxes often act as disincentives toward optimal financial decision making. At this difficult time, we need to keep these burdens as low as possible.

We need to incentivize investment and encourage growth, not penalize them.

Some have called for the outright elimination of these taxes. Still others have sought to rescind these tax cuts before they have a chance to expire.

Now more than ever, we must place pragmatism above partisanship, and do what is necessary to get our economy moving.

In 2007 and again in 2008, I voted against the Budget Resolutions, in part, because they failed to extend cuts to capital gains and estate taxes. At the time, I expressed frustration with both Democrats and Republicans for failing to work together to create a budget that incorporates good ideas from both sides of the aisle.

I believed then that we could do better, and I believe now that we must. So today, I challenge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the right thing for middle-class families, small businesses, stockholders, and homeowners. Consider this legislation, not on a partisan basis, but on its merits. Making these tax cuts permanent will help our middle class, and working together, I know we can make that happen.

### RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

SPEECH OF

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Service Day that is held on the third Monday of January each year, the same day that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is observed.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is well known for his peaceful march on Washington, D.C. where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech and other nonviolent protests. But as a minister and civil rights activist, his vision was to end discrimination and to improve the lives of all mankind. He focused on community organizing where he told others that they can make a change if they worked together.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. it is important for people to get involved in their communities and give back to those in need. Volunteering at a food bank, helping to clean up a neighborhood, donating blood are simple ways that people can participate in National Service Day.

It is time for us to get involved to help others and to improve our nation as a whole.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in three votes on the floor of the House of Representatives yesterday.

The first vote was H. Res. 41, supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The second vote was H. Res. 50, honoring the life of Claiborne Pell, distinguished former Senator from the State of Rhode Island. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The third vote was H. Res. 43, recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promoting the holiday as a day of national service. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

### THE PREVENTION FIRST ACT

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today, I am again proud to introduce the Prevention First Act. I first introduced this legislation in the 108th Congress as an innovative approach to reducing unintended pregnancies. The Prevention First Act achieves this goal by providing comprehensive access to all forms of contraception and sex education.

If we want to reduce the number of abortions in this country, the methodology is clear—empower women to prevent unintended pregnancies through education and access to contraception. And, that is precisely what the Prevention First Act does.

Throughout the years, our conservative leaders have sought to limit women's rights and freedoms by imposing stricter penalties and enacting laws to criminalize doctors and women, when one is faced with an unintended pregnancy. Yet, these leaders have done very little to ensure that millions of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, STD, are prevented in the first place. If they are opposed to abortion, they should be for preventing unintended pregnancies and they should be for this bill.

By emphasizing prevention first, my bill will help protect women's reproductive health, reduce unintended pregnancies, decrease the spread of STDs, and give women the tools they need to make the best decisions possible for themselves.

It has been more than 40 years since the Supreme Court said women could access contraception. This decision was revolutionary in that it allowed women to control when to get pregnant and how many children to have. Access to contraception single-handedly improved women's equality in American society.

That is why for most women, including women who want to have children, contraception is not an option; it is a basic health care necessity. Contraceptive use saves scarce public health dollars. For every \$1 spent on providing family planning services, an estimated \$3.80 is saved in Medicaid expenditures for pregnancy-related and newborn care.

Many poor and low-income women cannot afford to purchase contraceptive services and supplies on their own. About 1 in 5 women of reproductive age were uninsured in 2003, and that proportion has increased by 10 percent since 2001. Half of all women who are sexually active, but do not want to get pregnant, need publicly funded services to help them access public health programs like Medicaid and Title X, the national family planning program. These programs provide high-quality family planning services and other preventive health care, such as pap smears, to underinsured or uninsured individuals who may otherwise lack access to health care and alternative options for birth control. Each year, publicly funded family planning services help women to prevent an estimated 1 million unplanned pregnancies and 630,000 abortions. Yet these programs are struggling to meet the growing demand for subsidized family planning services without corresponding increases in funding. The Prevention First Act authorizes funding for Title X clinics and strengthens States' coverage of Medicaid family planning services.

Improved access to emergency contraception, EC, can further reduce the staggering rates of unintended pregnancy and abortion in this country. EC prevents pregnancy after unprotected sex or a contraceptive failure. The Alan Guttmacher Institute estimates that increased use of EC accounted for up to 43 percent of the total decline in abortion rates between 1994 and 2000. In addition, EC is often the only contraceptive option for the 300,000 women who are reported to be raped each year. Unfortunately, even with the recent FDA decision to allow EC to be sold over-the-counter to women 18 years of age and over, many women do not know about EC and many still face insurmountable barriers in accessing this important product. The Prevention First Act mandates that the Secretary of Health and Human Services implement an education campaign about EC and requires that hospitals receiving Federal funds provide victims of sexual assault with information and access to EC.

Contraceptives have a proven track record of enhancing the health of women and children, preventing unintended pregnancy, and reducing the need for abortion. However far too many insurance policies exclude this vital coverage. While most employment-related insurance policies in the United States cover prescription drugs in general, the many do not include equitable coverage for prescription contraceptive drugs and devices. Although 21 States now have laws in place requiring insurers to provide contraceptive coverage if they cover other prescription drugs, 29 States still do not have any laws. Out of pocket expenses for contraception can be costly. Women of reproductive age currently spend 68 percent more in out-of-pocket health care costs than men, much of which is due to reproductive health-related supplies and services. The Prevention First Act requires that private health plans cover FDA-approved prescription contraceptives and related medical services.

Teens face additional barriers regarding access to services and information. Sixty percent of teens have sex before graduating high school. Teens who receive comprehensive sexuality education that includes discussion of contraception as well as abstinence are more likely than those who receive abstinence-only messages to delay sex, to have fewer partners, and to use contraceptives when they do become sexually active. Efforts by conservatives to restrict access to family planning services and promote abstinence-only education programs, which are prohibited from discussing the benefits of contraception, actually jeopardize adolescent health and run counter to the views of many mainstream medical groups.

Nearly 50 percent of new cases of STDs occur among people ages 15 to 24, even though this age bracket makes up just a quarter of the sexually active population. Clearly, teens have the most to lose when faced with an unintended pregnancy or an STD infection.

Moreover, 1 in 3 girls becomes pregnant before the age of 20, and 80 percent of these pregnancies are unintended. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school. Furthermore, children of teenage mothers have lower birth weights, are more likely to perform poorly in school, and are at greater risk of abuse and neglect. Improving access to contraceptive services and information does not cause non sexually active teens to start having sex. Instead, teens need information to help them both postpone sexual activity and to protect themselves, if they become sexually active. A November 2006 study of declining pregnancy rates among teens concluded that the reduction in teen pregnancy between 1995 and 2002 is primarily the result of increased use of contraceptives.

The Prevention First Act provides funding to public and private entities to establish or expand their teenage pregnancy prevention programs. This bill also provides for comprehensive, medically accurate sex education programs that teach young people about abstinence, health, and contraceptives. Moreover, my bill requires federally funded programs that provide information on the use of contraceptives to ensure that the information is medically accurate and includes health benefits and failure rates.

Reducing unintended pregnancy and infection with STDs are important public health goals. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention included family planning in their published list of the "Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century." My bill, the Prevention First Act, will improve access to family planning services for all women in need and will go a long way in fulfilling the promise of this important public health achievement.

Madam Speaker, I urge every Member to join me in this comprehensive, nationwide effort to reduce unintended pregnancies.

#### TRIBUTE TO LEE VAN VOORHIS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lee Van Voorhis, a

World War II veteran living at the New Horizons facility in Marlborough, MA. Mr. Van Voorhis recently wrote an essay calling for the establishment of a Department of Peace. I was honored to visit with Mr. Van Voorhis on January 12. Below is a story about Mr. Van Voorhis from the Marlborough Enterprise, which includes a copy of his remarkable essay.

#### WORLD WAR II VET URGES "SECRETARY OF PEACE"

(By Mary Wenzel)

MARLBOROUGH.—World War II was underway and a poster, hanging in the Montclair, N.J., Post Office, calling for 50,000 pilots, was meant to catch the attention of young men. And it did.

"As a teenager, flying a plane seemed like an exciting kind of thing to do," said Lee Van Voorhis, a senior at the local high school, who during his junior year had been an air raid warden for his neighborhood.

Like many of the young men of his generation, Van Voorhis signed up for the flight training program and became a pilot for the B-25 medium bomber.

"It was the work horse of the Army Air Corps," said Van Voorhis who served from June 1943 to November 1945.

"My grandfather was in the Civil War, my father in World War I and I was in World War II," reminisced Van Voorhis who also saw a son serve in Vietnam.

"I remember very distinctly my father being very emotional about my going off to war," said Van Voorhis, "because he thought that when they fought World War I, it was the war to end all wars, and he was so upset because he saw his son going off to a second World War."

However, for this pilot, a Second Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps, his service would be short lived.

"The war was winding down," he said, "and there were surplus pilots."

For Van Voorhis and many of his fellow servicemen, it was off to college on the GI Bill when he entered Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

"When I was in college, my philosophy professor was dynamic, always asking us questions," explained Van Voorhis.

In spite of a half century since he sat in that classroom, Van Voorhis remembers this professor pacing up and down and asking the students, half of whom were GIs, a question that they couldn't answer, "What's the cause of war?"

"You're GIs and you fought the greatest war the world has ever known and you don't know the cause," the professor said with great passion.

"It's a lack of communications," the professor stated answering his own question. "What should you do when two countries are having problems getting along with each other? Send 100 ambassadors, send 10,000 ambassadors."

Van Voorhis still remembers the final exam for this philosophy class and the blue book to be filled with the answer to only one question, "What would you do when two countries are not getting along well and explain in detail."

"I had an hour to answer the question," said Van Voorhis. "I poured sweat because I tried so hard to think of all the things that you could do following his (the professor) idea of communications."

That was in 1948 and now in 2008, 60 years later, Van Voorhis has found a way to express himself in a way that he didn't know he had so many years ago.

Nena Van Voorhis, Lee's wife of 61 years, signed up for a Creative Writing Class that had begun at New Horizons, off Hemenway Street, where the couple reside.