

of operating a personal vehicle while performing an important service in the pursuit of a greater good.

To achieve this end, my legislation would exclude from gross income any reimbursement received for the use of a volunteer's car while assisting a charitable group, limited only by the cap the Internal Revenue Service sets each year regarding business driving. This treatment would be available only for services provided without compensation and drivers would be required to maintain sufficient records to substantiate the charitable use of their vehicles. Finally, this bill drops the requirement that charitable groups report these reimbursements to the IRS, removing an administrative and paperwork burden that detracts resources from their larger purpose.

Each day, thousands of Americans lend a hand in providing transportation services to a multitude of organizations engaged in good works. These activities include assisting individuals with their routine grocery shopping, providing the use of a four-wheel drive vehicle to transport home-visit nurses during inclement weather, delivering meals as part of a holiday food drive, helping individuals to keep their medical appointments, and many more similar activities.

These volunteer drivers are donating their time and their talents, not their vehicles, and accepting reimbursement for the use of that car, incidental to their time and talent donation, is a reasonable act, which should not result in an additional tax liability. Today, when it comes to driving a personal vehicle, our tax code makes a distinction between business and charitable uses. This distinction is a mistake; it is a serious disincentive to charitable activities, and it should be corrected. I encourage my colleagues to support the continued efforts of our charity-minded constituents by cosponsoring the Charitable Driving Tax Relief Act of 2009.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill will ensure that health coverage continues for the 7 million children currently covered under the Children's Health Insurance Program, and will extend coverage to an additional 4 million children who are currently uninsured. Without the legislation, the CHIP would end on March 31, 2009.

CHIP provides health care coverage for children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance. In 2007, more than 240,000 children in North Carolina received health coverage through North Carolina's CHIP, NC Health Choice for Children. Under the legislation, North Carolina's allotment would increase by 81 percent over the current level from \$136 million to \$245 million. North Carolina has 296,000 uninsured children, the sixth-largest number in the country. Two-thirds of uninsured

children in North Carolina live in a home where at least one parent works full time.

As North Carolina's former Superintendent of Public Instruction, I have seen first hand that healthy children are better prepared for learning and success. The Children's Health Insurance Program ensures that America's children are as healthy and productive as possible and that they can grow up to fulfill their potential. Untreated illnesses can have long-term consequences, and access to health care can head off expensive treatments down the road. As a Nation, we must protect our most vulnerable citizens.

I still regret that the bill will be funded by a tobacco-tax increase. The tax in H.R. 2 falls disproportionately on North Carolina, and on the Second District in particular. I understand the burden this will place on farmers who work hard to build a better life for their own children, and I will continue to work to support these families as they adjust to transformations in the global economy. However, with one out of eight children in North Carolina lacking health insurance I will vote for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the children of America's working families.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong, unwavering, and steadfast support of the reauthorization of SCHIP to provide healthcare for millions of uninsured children. SCHIP is a critical safety net for children. As Chief Justice Thurgood Marshall once said, "The measure of a country's greatness is its ability to retain compassion in times of crisis." Providing healthcare for low-income children, especially during this economic crisis, reflects a commitment to the least among us as well as sound economic policy. A healthy child is prepared for school and life. A healthy child does not require costly emergency room visits. I applaud House leaders for including mental health parity and dental coverage for children.

In Fiscal Year 2007, SCHIP provided health care to over 345,000 children in Illinois. Unfortunately, due to overwhelming need, Illinois faced a shortfall in federal spending last year. This bill does much to address this gap. Specifically, in addition to preserving coverage for the 7 million children currently in the program, this bill expands coverage to another 4 million children in need.

I want to briefly mention the efforts of Chicago Public Schools in helping low income families overcome many of the barriers that often prevent them from enrolling in SCHIP. The Children and Family Benefits Unit assisted approximately 60 schools in a recent 12 month period, helping over 4,200 families' complete applications to enroll into the Illinois CHIP, including Medicaid. I am proud of this effort in Chicago, and I am pleased that this bill will continue to support such programs.

In closing, this bill will provide much-needed health care for low-income children in Chicago, Illinois, and the nation, and I look forward to this bill being signed into law in the near future.

THE IRAQI REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE, RESETTLEMENT, AND SECURITY
ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Madam Speaker, I rise today with my good friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN DINGELL and almost 15 original cosponsors in strong support of the Iraqi Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of 2009, a bill which I am reintroducing for the 1st Session of the 111th Congress.

The comprehensive legislation I am introducing today addresses this crisis and the potential security break-down resulting from the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq, and also facilitates the resettlement of Iraqis at risk.

The plight of Iraqi refugees and IDP's is worsening by the day. It is heartbreaking to hear the stories of families who fled for their safety, are now unable to work and have subsequently depleted their savings in order to survive.

I believe that the United States has a moral obligation to take the lead and provide a 'humanitarian surge' in responding to this crisis. The future of the Middle East depends on it.

I would like to thank Congressman DINGELL for his continued leadership in the House of Representatives on this issue and for his help in drafting this legislation as well as the other original co-sponsors supporting this bill. As I have said on many occasions, this must not be a partisan issue, but rather Congress and the Administration have an obligation to work together before the Iraqi refugee crisis further destabilizes the region.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, which will provide much needed relief for Iraqi refugees and IDP's. I call on the leadership of the House to support this bill.

REMEMBERING MAJOR JOHN P.
PRYOR, MD

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Christmas Day, 2008, an enemy mortar round struck the living quarters of Major John P. Pryor, MD, in Mosul, Iraq where he was stationed while on his second tour of duty as an Army Reservist. Major Pryor died of his wounds.

Major Pryor was widely recognized as one of our country's finest trauma surgeons. On the battlefield, he fought to save the lives of

countless soldiers and Marines. Here at home, he served just as valiantly in his capacity as the director of the trauma department at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Throughout his life, Major Pryor demonstrated an uncommon commitment to our community and our country. On 9/11, he hitched a ride to New York City in an ambulance so that he could lend a hand in one of our greatest hours of need. Shortly thereafter, when America went to war, he volunteered for military service because he felt a patriotic duty to heal wounded soldiers. Time and again, Major Pryor was there when we needed him most.

Major Pryor's absence has been deeply felt by his family, his fellow soldiers, the HUP community, and by all those whose lives he touched. Across our country, we share their grief.

Soldiers like Major Pryor remind us that the price of war cannot be measured just in dollars, or in territory, or even in the number of our patriots who never return home. It must also be measured with the valor, the potential, and the devotion of those we have lost. Within our military are heroism and courage beyond measure, and while the presence of these heroes makes our Nation stronger, the loss of any servicemember is all the more painful, for when they give their lives, the promise of their lives is lost as well.

We give thanks for the life of John Pryor. We mourn his loss. We offer our prayers to his family.

CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, it was my honor today to be recognized by Global Action for Children with the Champion for Children Award. Launched in 2003, the Global Action for Children is a nonpartisan, results-oriented coalition dedicated to advocating for orphans and highly vulnerable children in the developing world. I intended to give the following remarks, but was unable to do so due to Congressional business. I would like to enter my remarks for this event into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

COMMENTS ON THE CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD

Good afternoon.

It is an honor to receive this award from Global Action for Children. Long after I am gone from Washington, if there is one thing people say about me, I hope it is "she was a champion for children."

I would like to thank Jennifer Delaney for all of her work and for the hard work of her staff. I first worked with Jennifer in 2003 on the original PEPFAR bill to secure funding for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children. Jennifer's dedication and commitment to fight for children around the world—and to build the partnerships necessary to be successful—is an inspiration. She is a tremendous resource for Members' offices and I am very proud to be here with her today.

I would also like to congratulate my colleagues from the Senate—Senators Lugar and Dodd—on their awards today. Their commitment to children is well known and I look forward to working with them in the 111th Congress to make the needs of our

planet's next generation a priority domestic and foreign policy issue.

I came to Congress eight years ago. During my time as in the U.S. House there have 80 million newborns and young children around the world have died from mostly preventable or easily treatable diseases—80 million children.

Four million mothers have died from pregnancy related causes, most of which could have been averted with access to basic healthcare.

Nearly 10 million more children will needlessly die across this planet from malnutrition, dirty water, treatable infections, and global apathy. This is a tragedy of enormous proportions that we can help to stop—we MUST help to stop.

For all the mothers and fathers in the room today, do you think a mother or father in Bangladesh, Zambia or Guatemala loves their newborn or toddler less than we love our children?

Every parent loves their children and wants them not only to survive but thrive and succeed.

In the 111th Congress, let us work together—policy makers, global health advocates and citizens—to make the policy improvements and funding investments to save the lives of millions more newborns, children and mothers.

Let us work to make child survival and maternal health the global health priority of this Congress.

As President-elect Obama looks at the foreign policy landscape there needs to be some major reforms in the manner in which development assistance is delivered.

We need a new comprehensive strategy and the tools to execute that strategy. We need to invest the hard earned tax dollars of our citizens in building a better world—a safer world—a more peaceful world. And, we need to see outcomes for our investments that can be demonstrated.

Here is an investment idea and an outcome I'd like to see this Congress act upon: How about investing a billion dollars to save the lives of a million newborns and children? Do you think the American people would support a billion dollar investment that saved a million young lives?

I think they would.

Congress, working hand-in-hand with the Obama Administration, needs to refocus our strategy for development assistance to focus on the basics. In addition to focusing on child survival and maternal health, we need to increase investment in agriculture development to reduce malnutrition, increase family incomes and reduce the demand for emergency food aid.

Let us help to expand access to clean water, preventing water born illnesses.

We must maintain our commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS while not backing away from the need to assist orphans and vulnerable children grow up healthy, productive and safe in their communities.

Finally, we need a foreign policy that recognizes that hundreds of millions of children around the world are confronting violence, absolute poverty, hunger and lives of misery on a daily basis.

Think of the children in Gaza, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Zimbabwe and how they are suffering. Their lives will forever be shaped by violence. We need to work to make the world safe for children and that means aggressive, smart diplomacy that works to prevent political crisis and conflicts. If we are truly a superpower we need not simply stand by and watch the escalation of violence and suffering, we must work to prevent it.

Let start making the world safer for children by advancing a child-based development

agenda—such as the emergency presidential initiative for the world's children being proposed by Global Action for Children here today. This is exactly the type of bold commitment the United States should and can make to the world's children.

Let me conclude by speaking about commitment. Every parent knows that bringing a child into this world means a commitment until that child becomes an adult. It means meeting the child's physical needs, creating a safe environment, sharing love and protecting your child from harm. This is universal across all cultures.

A similar type of commitment on the part of states to children is embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Yet, the United States, along with Somalia, are the only two nations on the face of the Earth which have not ratified this treaty, not formalized our commitment to our own children and the world's children. This is an embarrassment that I hope is addressed by the U.S. Senate this Congress.

Every child—where ever he or she is born—is a child of God and a blessing.

Therefore, every child should be recognized as possessing the human dignity and basic human rights we all share and we all expect for our own children. If this is in fact true and you believe it, and I know you do—then we've got lots of work to do.

Thank you all for making the world's children a priority and for recognizing that their rights and their well-being are as important as our own children's.

GET AMERICA MOVING AGAIN

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, today I am privileged to be joined by my good friend and co-chair of the Congressional Automotive Caucus, Representative FRED UPTON, in introducing the Get America Moving Again Act of 2009.

This bill is simple. It provides a tax credit of \$5,000 for any new vehicle purchased from January 1, 2009, until December 31, 2009. In order to prevent a large drop off in new car sales next year, the tax credit would be cut in half to \$2,500 starting on January 1, 2010. The tax incentive would then expire on December 31, 2010. In addition, the bill provides a tax credit of \$2,000 for any late model used vehicle purchase, as defined as 3 years old or less, from January 1, 2009, until December 31, 2009 so that automobile dealers are not saddled with unsellable used cars. This tax credit would also be cut in half to \$1,000 starting on January 1, 2010 and would also end on December 31, 2010. The tax credit would be limited for vehicles that cost under \$50,000 and would only be allowed for households with an adjusted gross income of \$250,000 or less. I am also working on a second alternative bill that will move this tax credit concept to a voucher system so that consumers can see the immediate benefit of this incentive at the point of sale of a vehicle.

Madam Speaker, I am introducing this bill today because we need to get people thinking now about ways to re-ignite consumer demand for vehicles. Our economy is in crisis today because of insufficient consumer demand for goods and services due to the fear in this country of making a significant purchase. All the economic stimulus plans that