

It is time to understand that preserving, protecting, and defending our auto industry doesn't just solve a Michigan problem, it solves an American problem, and it defends jobs in every community in our great Nation.

It is a shame, Madam Speaker, that we had to learn this lesson on the backs and the livelihoods of another 40,000 of our fellow Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BERKLEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1715

EMBRACE MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Today I want to recognize some actions in my home State. Last week Maine became the fifth State in the country to embrace marriage equality.

Same-sex couples live all over our State in loving, committed relationships, raising families and growing old together, yet they have not been afforded the rights and responsibilities that come with marriage. Last week our legislature took a major step towards correcting that injustice.

In the week leading up to the vote, thousands of people filled the Augusta Civic Center to testify on the marriage equality bill. People came from all over our State, men and women, straight and gay, young and old, couples and single people. Many of them waited hours for their turn to speak. When they got to the microphone, the overwhelming majority said it was time for Maine to recognize same-sex marriage.

Maine moved the country one step closer to federally recognizing and protecting the right for two people, regardless of their gender, to be married. Maine has always been an independent State with a forward-looking legislative body and citizens with common sense.

I stand here today to congratulate my home State on the passage of this landmark victory.

The landmark victory didn't come easily or without long debate. Many personal journeys began and ended with this lengthy discussion.

My daughter happens to be the Speaker of the House, and she shared her own personal story, which, with pride, I would like to share a few of her words which reflected our family's feelings. She said, when she got up to testify, "This issue was brought home for me two summers ago when my husband and I were married. Our island pastor was on a trip abroad and unavailable to perform our wedding ceremony. My

husband and I wanted to be married by someone we knew and trusted. We asked a good family friend to perform our wedding; we knew his tone, his presence, and his sense of humor would be perfect. He was honored to do it, and we immediately got to work planning the ceremony. Throughout the preparations for the wedding, he gave us honest and valuable advice about the joys and challenges of a lifetime of commitment to another person. He gave us some of the best advice either of us has ever received about marriage.

"As we drove away from our wedding rehearsal, all of us happy and relieved that everything seemed to be going well, my friend said to me, 'I am honored to perform your wedding. It is going to be great. But it is important to understand that you and Jason have the right to do something very special, and it's a right that I don't have. The friend that married us is a gay man who has been living in a committed and loving relationship with the same man for more than 30 years.

"I was struck in that moment that a person whom I respected and trusted, a person as close to me as some of my dearest relatives, a person whose relationship was a model for trust, compassion, longevity, was legally denied a right and status that my husband and I were about to be granted. There is nothing fair about giving some committed couples in Maine the right to the legal responsibilities and privileges of marriage and denying it to others."

That was my daughter, Hannah, the Speaker of the House's story, and one that held great meaning to my family and to so many of us across Maine as we considered the plight of many of our friends in committed relationships who haven't been allowed the right to make it legal.

When the deliberation ended at the public hearing and it was time to vote, many of Maine's State legislators found themselves in new territory. As Governor Baldacci made clear just after signing the marriage equity bill into law, he said, "In the past, I opposed gay marriage while supporting the idea of civil unions. I have come to believe that this is a question of fairness and of equal protection under the law, and that a civil union is not equal to civil marriage."

Madam Speaker, as we in this body consider the future of issues of equality, it is important that we all take a moment to reflect on the history that was made in Augusta, Maine, this month. Eighty-nine State representatives, 21 State senators, and one Governor put themselves on record supporting fairness and equality, and one more State voted to do the right thing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. QUIGLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORTENBERRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING NEUMANN COLLEGE ACHIEVING UNIVERSITY STATUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable institution of higher education focused on developing graduates, who understand that true reward comes not only through acquiring knowledge, but also the use of that knowledge in the service of others.

In the fall of 1965, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia opened Our Lady of Angels College, based in both liberal arts and Franciscan traditions, with just 115 female students in Aston, Pennsylvania. In 1980, male students were admitted for the first time and the board of trustees approved changing the college's name to Neumann as a tribute to the significant role former Bishop, and now St. John, Neumann played in the order's early formation.

Forty-four years later, through the tireless efforts of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and their many supporters, the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania is home to a new university. On April 30, the Pennsylvania Department of Education recognized more than 2 years of research, planning, applications, and campus

evaluations by issuing a certificate of authority to elevate Neumann College to university status.

The process of converting from a college to a university is lengthy and complicated, requiring the addition of full undergraduate studies in the arts and sciences, professional graduate programs, a doctoral program, and cultural programming open to the community. Neumann College's visionary and perseverant leaders, President Rosalie Miranda and Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Sister Marguerite O'Beirne, OSF, have worked tirelessly with the entire Neumann staff to make the conversion possible.

In addition to schools of business and nursing, Neumann offers a college of arts and sciences, as well as six graduate and two doctoral programs. What sets Neumann apart from other colleges and universities is its unparalleled ability to educate its students outside of the classroom through programs that sharpen social awareness and ethical concern, which I have observed myself.

As Dr. Miranda so eloquently writes of Neumann, "We will give you the opportunity to experience the reality that learning and living are one; that education is truly the combination of the intellect, the body, the heart, and the soul, and that education is about relationships, going deeper into your being to discover the special gift of yourself and all creation that surrounds you."

As part of its mission, Neumann University has a very strong minority recruitment program. Neumann works aggressively to see that a values-based private education is affordable to as many young men and women as possible. Neumann imbues each student with the notion that learning is a life-long process.

Achieving university status marks the culmination of a remarkable transformation for Neumann. It is a living testament of the decency, hard work, and absolute commitment of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, today I acknowledge the 8,327 living alumni, the 3,037 current students, and the 507 faculty and staff, board of trustees, and President Miranda especially on achieving their goal of advancing Neumann University as a recognized institution of higher education in the Catholic Franciscan tradition. I commend their dedication to making ours a better community, Nation, and world with so many better students and people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REVISIONS TO THE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS AND BUDGETARY AGGREGATES ESTABLISHED BY THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009 AND 2010 FOR THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, under section 423(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 13, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a revised 302(a) allocation for the Committee on Appropriations for each of the fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Section 423(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 13 permits the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust discretionary spending limits for overseas deployments and other activities when these activities are so designated. Such a designation is included in H.R. 2346, a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes. A table is attached.

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS—APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION

[In millions of dollars]

	BA	OT
Current allocation:		
Fiscal Year 2009	1,391,471	1,082,540
Fiscal Year 2010	1,220,843	1,269,745
Change for H. R. 2346 overseas deployment and other activities designation:		
Fiscal Year 2009	90,745	0
Fiscal Year 2010	24,989	34,888
Revised allocation:		
Fiscal Year 2009	1,482,216	1,082,540
Fiscal Year 2010	1,245,832	1,304,633

THE PROGRESSIVE MESSAGE
FROM THE PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, let me welcome America and the rest of the world to the Progressive Caucus Special Order hour. We would like to call it "The Progressive Message."

And the Progressive message is something that the Progressive Caucus does every week to project a Progressive vision for America; not a reactionary vision, not a status quo vision, but a vision of America as we believe that it could be, can be, that all men and women are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Progressive Caucus and the Progressive message, tonight, are here to come to bring a message to the people about where we are going, where we have been. And tonight's topic is "Why I'm a Progressive."

Why I'm a Progressive; here's why. We are going to talk about it tonight, and it's going to be good. And to help us get kicked off on this subject of why I am a Progressive, I want to yield to

the gentlelady from the great State of California, who is also one of our co-Chairs, LYNN WOOLSEY.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I would like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota and the gentleman from Colorado for being here, and the gentlewoman is going to be here, too.

Mr. ELLISON. From the great State of Maine.

Ms. WOOLSEY. She just announced to us the great progressiveness of her family and her State. Believe me, I honor you. Thank you for being part of this.

Progressive liberal, liberal Progressive. I mean, how often have we been chastised for being liberals? So we changed the word to "progressive." It means exactly the same thing to me. I am proud if people call me a liberal, and I am proud to be a Progressive, because it is the same thing.

And what does that mean to all of us? What does it mean to me? Why do I want a label? Why do I care?

You know what? It's because I can count on Progressives, the people that I know to be Progressives, to put out their hand when somebody needs help, and that means here, as legislators, to know that our job is to work for those who have less, who maybe have come upon hard times and need a short-term lift. That's why I supported a welfare system that had a floor to it, that would actually help poor people so they didn't fall through the net.

And I am also going to say one more thing about being a Progressive. A Progressive, to me, knows that organized labor made the difference in this country in bringing a middle class to the United States of America, a class where families could work, could afford to buy their own home, could send their children to college and at the same time pay into their own retirement system so they could be independent when they retired, and, oh, what a concept, have health care.

So that's what Progressive values are to me and that's what being a Progressive is about, having the values, having the concerns, having the empathy for others and knowing that it isn't about us. We work for everybody in this country.

Mr. ELLISON. We have been here on the House floor together before, and at that time in the past you shared one of your own personal stories about what motivated you toward Progressive politics.

□ 1730

But leave it to say that the gentlelady from California, our co-Chair, LYNN WOOLSEY, came to Progressive politics not just because of something she read in the book, but because of the life that she lived that helped her understand what the importance of Progressive politics are all about.

I yield back to the gentlelady. Is that right?

Ms. WOOLSEY. That is absolutely true. But I have to tell you, when I was