

SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION,
May 3, 2010.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: On behalf of the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), the only national voluntary health organization working on behalf of the estimated 166,000 individuals who live with all forms of Spina Bifida and their families, I am writing to express our appreciation to you for introducing the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act of 2010. This legislation will provide much-needed support to pregnancy risk information services, which play a crucial role in educating women on how to reduce the risk of preventable birth defects, including Spina Bifida.

One of the primary goals of SBA is to increase awareness of the importance of folic acid consumption among the 65 million women in the United States of child-bearing age. The risk of Spina Bifida and other serious birth defects can be reduced by up to 70%, if women of childbearing age consume 400 micrograms (400 mcg) of folic acid (a B-vitamin) every day. Grants funded under the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act of 2010 will help ensure that women who are considering becoming pregnant have access to information on the importance of folic acid supplementation, as well as other key steps they can take to ensure a healthy pregnancy.

SBA thanks you for recognizing the importance of pregnancy risk information services. If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

CINDY BROWNSTEIN,
President and Chief Executive Officer.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY,
ASTHMA & IMMUNOLOGY,
Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
Hon. MICHAEL BURGESS,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. DELAURO AND MR. BURGESS: On behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, I write to express strong support for legislation you will introduce to fund the national network of pregnancy risk information services that are currently severely underfunded. These services counsel pregnant and breast-feeding women on exposures to medications, chemicals, infections, and other risks to healthy pregnancy and healthy infants.

A pregnant or breast-feeding woman lives in fear of any exposure that might pose a risk to her pregnancy or her baby. This is because of the paucity of information on the impact of exposures to medications, chemicals, infections and illnesses during pregnancy and nursing. Some exposures can be avoided, but for women with chronic diseases such as asthma, epilepsy, hypertension, or depression, continued use of medication may be essential to the health of both the woman and her infant. Asthma affects about 8% of pregnant women—over 300,000 women per year. Some women simply discontinue their asthma medications during pregnancy out of fear of a potential birth defect. However, uncontrolled asthma may pose a greater risk of complicating the pregnancy. Our organization has initiated a major study of asthma drugs in pregnancy in collaboration with the nation's pregnancy risk information services. This study simply could not be done without the resources available through these services. Unfortunately, more than half of the pregnancy risk information services in the country have closed over the past decade, and those that remain have sustained severe funding cuts. The legislation you are introducing will increase support for

these important programs and assure that the vitally important counseling and research services they provide can be reinvigorated.

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology is the largest professional medical specialty organization in the United States representing allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals, and others dedicated to improving the treatment of allergic diseases through research and education. We thank you for your leadership in support of prevention and research related to birth defects and are pleased to offer the Academy's support for your legislation.

Sincerely,

MARK BALLOW, M.D.,
President.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1258, "Expressing support for designation of May 2010 as Mental Health Month."

Mental health issues pose a serious problem for the people of this nation. Roughly 57 million people in the U.S. suffer from some form of mental illness. These illnesses affect not only the quality of life of the individual, but also the health of our communities, families, and our economic stability. Untreated mental illness is the leading cause of lost productivity and absenteeism in the workplace, resulting in an estimated \$193 billion per year in lost earnings.

In addition to lost time and productivity, untreated mental illnesses far too frequently result in lost lives. In recent years, the suicide rate has been double the homicide rate; suicide is the third leading cause of death for people between 15 and 24. While the problem of mental illness and depression knows no demographic boundaries, suicide rates are particularly high among the elderly and Native Americans.

The challenges of mental illness impact our military as well. Roughly a quarter of our service members suffer either psychological or neurological disorders, including depression and PTSD.

I support the designation of May as Mental Health Month, and urge my colleagues to join me. We need to recognize that mental well-being is as important as physical well-being for our citizens, families, and communities, and that our failure, as a nation, to prioritize mental health care is a tragedy. We need to remove the stigma from mental illness and encourage people to seek assistance, promote public awareness of the problem, and improve access to appropriate services for our citizens.

HONORING HANDSON NASHVILLE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts by the

citizens of Nashville in response to the recent floods, and the critical role that HandsOn Nashville played in coordinating those efforts.

As my colleagues know, earlier this month water levels in Nashville reached 32 feet above normal and 12 feet above flood level, causing devastating damage. Eighteen people died, hundreds were rescued, and many of our city's most beloved and famous attractions were partially submerged. Entire homes were destroyed, and many families have been displaced. Property damage in Davidson County is now estimated at almost \$2 billion.

Most remarkable about Nashville's story, though, is the spirit of giving and volunteering shown in abundance by the people in Nashville during and after this crisis. With very little fanfare or media attention, people from all across Middle Tennessee got to work to help their neighbors in need.

In particular, I want to salute the team at HandsOn Nashville, led by Executive Director Brian Williams. Between May 2 and May 19, over 60,000 volunteer hours were donated to flood recovery by HandsOn Nashville volunteers. During that same period, 14,200 Nashville citizens came forward to serve in flood-related programming coordinated by HandsOn Nashville, serving in over 760 separate projects to aid flood victims.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in honoring HandsOn Nashville for their crucial contributions to the Nashville community.

VOTING AGAINST THE FY 2011 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I supported the version of the Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act that my colleagues and I on the House Armed Services Committee passed through Committee on May 19, 2010 by a unanimous vote of 59-0. The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" issue was never debated or considered by the House Armed Services Committee at all this year during consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act.

I associate myself with the remarks of Ranking Member BUCK MCKEON who stated that "The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff asked Congress to respect the process they developed to study the ramifications of repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell." He further stated that "we have a duty to honor that request and hear directly from our military personnel—and their families—before making a decision on a sensitive issue that directly affects them." I also agree with Chairman SKELTON's statement on this issue: "In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee this spring and in a recent letter, Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen asked Congress to defer any legislative action regarding 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' until after the Department of Defense completes its comprehensive review later this year. In a statement today, the Pentagon indicated that ideally, Secretary Gates continues to prefer that the Department complete this review before

Congress considers legislation. This is a reasonable and responsible request that I respect." He went on to say that "My position on this issue has been clear—I support the current policy and I will oppose any amendment to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' I hope my colleagues will avoid jumping the gun and wait for DOD to complete its work on this issue." I consider it an insult to our military leaders and service members for Congress to legislate change before the military's comprehensive study is complete.

Unfortunately, last night, during floor consideration, the House voted to attach an amendment to National Defense Authorization Act repealing the military's current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

I voted against this amendment and I can no longer support the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act if the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is included in the final bill. For the first time in my 20 years in Congress, I will be voting against the House approved version of the National Defense Authorization Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 13, 2010, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall vote No. 268 on the Halvorson of Illinois Amendment No. 38 to H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ELIZABETH A. "BETSY" MOLER

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Elizabeth A. "Betsy" Moler and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement. Betsy has been a preeminent voice on energy policy throughout her career and her knowledge, thoughtfulness, and kindness will be sorely missed.

Betsy began her career of public service in the office of Senator Mike Gravel of Alaska where she started out as a staff assistant. She went on to serve on the staff of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as Counsel for both Chairman Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson of Washington and Chairman J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana. During her time on the Committee, she was the principal staff member responsible for all natural gas issues and helped craft the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. While on the Committee, Betsy became a resource not only to the Chairmen, but also to the other members of the Committee.

In 1988, at the urging of all nineteen members of the Committee, President Ronald W. Reagan nominated her to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC. She was reappointed to the Commission by Presidents George H.W. Bush and William Jefferson Clinton. President

Clinton designated her to serve as the Commission's Chair in 1993. Betsy is the longest serving member of FERC and the only member appointed by three different Presidents. During her tenure as Chair of FERC, Moler led the effort that resulted in the successful restructuring of both the interstate natural gas industry under Order No. 636 and the wholesale electricity industry under Order Nos. 888 and 889. These latter landmark orders required utilities to open their transmission lines on an equal access basis to their competitors, which ushered in a new era of robust competition in wholesale electricity markets. This achievement is perhaps Betsy's greatest professional legacy.

President Clinton again turned to Betsy to serve, this time nominating her to be Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, DOE. While at DOE, she was the principal architect of the Clinton Administration's Comprehensive Electricity Competition Act, which was presented to the Congress in June 1998.

In 2000, Betsy joined Exelon Corporation, formerly Unicom, to head the Washington, DC office where she served as Executive Vice President, Government & Environmental Affairs and Public Policy. In this last position, Betsy remained a vital resource to those concerned about energy policy, testifying before Congress and FERC on numerous occasions. Most importantly, Betsy remained available to share her wise counsel with those seeking to improve our nation's energy and environmental laws. We thank her for her service and many contributions.

RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR OLEH SHAMSHUR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of the United States, please let me express appreciation to Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, his Excellency Oleh Shamshur.

Since his appointment in December of 2005, he has worked tirelessly to strengthen ties between our two countries. As a co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with the Ambassador.

Ambassador Shamshur was integral in the re-establishment of normal trade relations between our countries and the signing of the Trade and Investment Cooperation Agreement. With his help the United States and Ukraine signed an Agreement on Strategic Cooperation in December 2008, which has fostered democratic growth, transparency, and freedom in Ukraine. In addition, it has established goals to cooperate on concrete issues such as military, energy, and scientific cooperation. During the Ambassador's tenure great steps were taken to strengthen Ukraine's energy security and ensure its progress towards European integration.

Ambassador Shamshur worked with the Ukrainian-American community to ensure that the victims of the 1932–33 famine-genocide were given the honor they deserve. He understands that history demands truth. Properly securing a nation's past positions it forward to

the future—an important undertaking often undervalued by diplomats and leaders. In addition, he has taken steps to grow Ukrainian-American exchange programs in order to promote democratic values and strengthen the bond between our two nations.

We wish him, his wife Tetiana, and his daughter Tetiana all the best as their journey continues. I know Dr. Shamshur will continue to help Ukraine achieve the democratic freedoms she has fought for since achieving her independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. He is a wonderful representative of Ukraine and her people, a good friend, and a true statesman. Thank you, Ambassador Shamshur, for your service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday I missed the first four rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately I missed these votes because I was detained in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 306, on Agreeing to the Resolution—H Con. Res. 282—Providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses.

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 307, on Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Res. 1404—Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 308 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 1161—Honoring the Centennial Celebration of Women at Marquette University, the first Catholic university in the world to offer co-education as part of its regular undergraduate program.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 309, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 1372—Honoring the University of Georgia Graduate School on the occasion of its centennial.

AADITH MOORTHY OF PALM HARBOR, FLORIDA WINS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Aadith Moorthy, a 13-year-old eighth grader from Palm Harbor Middle School, which I have the privilege to represent, won the National Geographic Bee in our Nation's capital this week.

This is quite an accomplishment for this Pinellas County teenager, as this is one of our Nation's most difficult academic competitions. It took hours of studying and preparation time. Aadith says one of his keys to success was his writing down 20 facts at a time and memorizing them. As he got closer to the national competition, he upped his daily routine to writing and memorizing 50 facts a day.