

to take unlimited corporate money and make unlimited political expenditures.

The DISCLOSE Act would strengthen disclosure of election ads and would force corporate CEO's to stand by their ads by appearing on camera to say that he or she "approves this message."

This bipartisan legislation would control the flood of special interest money into America's elections. Powerful special interests and their lobbyists should not be able to drown out the voices of the American people with their pocketbooks.

The DISCLOSE Act would establish touch disclosure requirements for election-related spending by big oil corporations, Wall Street and other special interests, so the American people can follow the money and see clearly which special interests are funding political campaign activity and trying to buy representation in our government. This legislation would also prohibit foreign entities from manipulating the outcomes of American elections and help close other special interest loopholes.

Further, the DISCLOSE Act would ensure that social welfare organizations with membership of 500,000 or more, stand by their political ads and prohibits them from using corporate dollars for campaign purposes, while respecting privacy of their contributors.

I believe that people need to know who is paying to influence their elections.

According to a recent Washington Post-ABC poll, the American people agree. Eight in ten Americans opposed the high court's ruling, including seven out of ten Republicans, and 72 percent favored congressional action to curb the ruling.

Congress should act now to pass this important bill.

I strongly support the DISCLOSE Act and urge my colleagues to do the same.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to communicate my support for designating the week of May 2, 2010 as "National Physical Education and Sport Week." America faces an obesity crisis, and this problem is particularly harmful to our children. The childhood obesity rate has more than tripled since 1980, and today the CDC places the rate at approximately 17%. This crisis, however, does not affect all children equally. It disproportionately affects children from racial/ethnic minority groups and from low-income families. Although only 16% of Caucasians aged 12–19 are obese, 24% of African Americans and 21% of Hispanics are obese. Obesity in childhood is particularly troubling given that obese children often develop many diseases in their youth that typically occur in adults, such as Type II diabetes. Frequently, these children also develop risk factors for cardiovascular disease, including high cholesterol and high

blood pressure. Furthermore, obesity in childhood increases the likelihood of obesity and its associated health problems in adulthood, including coronary heart disease, stroke, and cancer. In addition to the negative health effects of childhood obesity, the crisis also proves costly to the health care system. It is estimated that childhood obesity costs the U.S. approximately \$3 billion a year, and this number will only grow worse if we fail to correct this problem.

Although many factors contribute to the increased obesity of our children, including the lack of nutrition in many children's diets, a key variable is that the American life style has changed to be more sedentary both in school and at home. Physical activity during the school day is restricted much more now than in the past. Only 15% of middle schools and 3% of high schools offer all their students physical education three or more days a week. Many schools offer PE only once a week, with recess seen as an extra rather than a key part of child development. In the past, children played outside for hours after school, but active outdoor time is now much rarer. A 2009 study found that children ages 8–18 watch an average of three hours of television a day. Although these factors affect all children, they are intensified for minority and low income children. Schools in low income areas often cut physical education to one day a week to focus on reading and math. Minimum wage jobs rarely offer the flexibility needed to get kids to sports practices and events; doing so is even harder when public transportation is necessary. Some communities lack safe places to play outdoors, so children engage in more sedentary activities inside. Frequently, low income communities lack grocery stores and options for fresh produce. We must work to reemphasize the importance of physical activity, so that each child has an equal chance at living a healthy life.

We cannot allow this unwholesome future to become the destiny of America's children. Let us instead face this problem, and help these children. We can begin to fight this epidemic by recognizing the importance of physical education and sport in children's lives. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1373.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the special order topic of financial reform. I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE for bringing this issue to the floor tonight. I would also like to thank CBC Chair BARBARA LEE for her leadership on continuing to shine the light on important issues that matter to the CBC and our constituents as well as the Nation as a whole.

It is past time that we take strong action to reform our financial system to ensure that we

have strong measures in place to best prevent the economic crisis that we have been experiencing over the last few years. We had years without accountability for Wall Street and the Big Banks under President Bush and congressional Republicans which cost the people of this Nation 8 million jobs.

We will: Rein in Big Banks and their Big Bonuses, put an end to bailouts and the idea of "too big to fail," and create a consumer financial protection agency to protect and empower consumers to make the best decisions on homes, credit cards, and their own financial future.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer afford to let the fox watch the henhouse. For eight years, President Bush and congressional Republicans looked the other way as Wall Street and the Big Banks exploited loopholes, gambled your money on complex schemes, and rewarded failure and recklessness. America's families and small businesses paid the price. We lost 8 million jobs and \$17 trillion in retirement savings and Americans' net worth.

This Congress and President Obama have made tough choices and taken effective steps to bring our economy back from the brink of disaster. The Recovery Act has already saved or created up to 2.8 million jobs and much of the TARP has been paid back. And now we are taking another key step forward with a final agreement on the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

As we rebuild our economy, we must put in place commonsense rules to ensure Big Banks and Wall Street can't play Russian Roulette again with our futures. Wall Street may be bouncing back, but we know from experience they're not going to police themselves.

Common-sense reforms that hold Wall Street and the Big Banks accountable will:

End bailouts by ensuring taxpayers are never again on the hook for Wall Street's risky decisions

Protect families' retirement funds, college savings, homes and businesses' financial futures from unnecessary risk by CEOs, lenders, and speculators

Protect consumers from predatory lending abuses, fine print, and industry gimmicks

Inject transparency and accountability into a financial system run amok

WHAT'S IN THE LEGISLATION?

Creating a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency to protect families and small businesses by ensuring that bank loans, mortgages, and credit cards are fair, affordable, understandable, and transparent. We currently have rules that keep companies from selling us toasters that burn down our homes. We should have similar rules that bar the financial industry from offering mortgage loans to people who can't afford repayment.

Ending predatory lending practices that occurred during the subprime lending frenzy.

Shutting down "too big to fail" financial firms before risky and irresponsible behavior threatens to bring down the entire economy.

Ending costly taxpayer bailouts with new procedures to unwind failing companies that pose the greatest risk—paid for by the financial industry and not the taxpayers.

Tough new rules on the riskiest financial practices that gambled with your money

and caused the financial crash, like the credit default swaps that devastated AIG, and common sense regulation of derivatives and other complex financial products. Includes a strong "Volcker rule" that generally restricts large financial firms with commercial banking operations from trading in speculative investments.

Tough enforcement and oversight with:

More enforcement power and funding for the Securities and Exchange Commission, including requiring registration of hedge funds and private equity funds

Enhanced oversight and transparency for credit rating agencies, whose seal of approval gave way to excessively risky practices that led to a financial collapse

Reining in egregious executive compensation and retirement plans by allowing a 'say on pay' for shareholders, requiring independent directors on compensation committees, and limiting bank executive risky pay practices that jeopardize banks' safety and soundness.

New protections for grocers, retailers and other small businesses facing out-of-control swipe fees that banks and other credit and debit card issuers charge these businesses for debit or prepaid-card purchases. As a result, merchants stand to save billions.

Audits the Federal Reserve's emergency lending programs from the financial crisis and limits the Fed's emergency lending authority.

RETIREMENT OF NURSE LESLIE GOLDBERG

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Leslie Goldberg, R.N. who is retiring tomorrow after 20 years of service as a nurse with the Attending Physician's Office here at the Capitol. Leslie is well known and loved by all who work in the Cannon House Office Building—Members and staff alike. She's run the Cannon Health Unit for most of her time on the Hill and she personifies service and caring.

Leslie graduated from the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn and first worked as a nurse at New York University Hospital in neurosurgery. She went on to work at the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents and then did insurance physicals for eight years prior to joining us on Capitol Hill.

She started with the Office of the Attending Physician in November 1990, and has taken excellent care of us ever since. She makes sure we get our flu shots, helps us find doctors, and tells us when we need to go home so we don't make others around us sick.

The nurses are also on call at numerous events where Members of Congress are in attendance. They are on hand for the Memorial Day Concert, the annual State of the Union, the inauguration ceremonies. They work long hours and are here whenever Congress is in session—no matter how late. Overtime is the norm for Leslie and her colleagues.

Until Speaker PELOSI made a lactation room available for nursing mothers returning to work, hundreds of new moms could tell you of

the time they spent in the Cannon Nurse Station with Leslie's full support. She has a photo wall of children to attest to this—with moms bringing in updated photos each year as their children grow up. My chief of staff is one of those moms and is very grateful for all of Leslie's help over the years.

Now, Leslie is turning to a new phase in life. She has two grandchildren on the way and she plans to be an active grandmother in their lives. She'll also be able to do more traveling and dedicate herself to volunteer priorities.

For someone who has spent her career caring for others, it is time for Leslie to get to care for her family and herself. We wish her all the best and thank her for her long, dedicated service to Congress. We'll miss her.

ADVANCED IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES (AIT)

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I recently read with interest an article by Ralph Nader discussing his concerns with the Transportation Safety Administration's (TSA) use of "whole-body imaging" scanning machines. These machines, now called "Advanced Imaging Technologies" (AIT), allow TSA screeners to search for security risks by looking under passengers' clothing in a particularly privacy intrusive inspection.

I share many of Mr. Nader's concerns, and include a copy of article from www.commondreams.org for the record. Last summer I worked with many of my colleagues in the House on both sides of the aisle to pass an amendment to the TSA Authorization bill which addressed some of the problems with the TSA's use of these AIT machines. Our amendment prohibited the use of AIT for mandatory primary screening at airports, required the TSA to give passengers the option of a pat-down search, and prohibited TSA from storing, transferring, or copying AIT images of passengers.

These technologies need not invade Americans' privacy so intrusively in order to secure our flights and passengers effectively. After the failed Christmas Day bombing attempt, which AIT may or may not have helped prevent, I renewed my call for the inventors and manufacturers of AIT machines to enhance privacy protections to permit broader deployment of these technologies without the trade-off to Americans' rights of privacy.

Some AIT manufacturers have responded with scanners with "auto detection" capabilities, which reduce the costs and risks of error associated with human screeners. These scanners also produce images that go beyond merely blurring faces to blurring the outline of the scanned passenger's body. As I observed last December, these technologies have already been deployed in Amsterdam at the very airport from which the Christmas Day bomber traveled to the United States. My staff has seen these machines in action, and I feel the TSA should look seriously at whether these enhanced scanners could replace the

privacy intrusive scanners currently deployed in airports across America.

I hope my colleagues will join with me in discussing the security and privacy issues surrounding AIT, and the concerns raised by Mr. Nader and others. We all want air travel to be as safe as possible, but this can be accomplished without sacrificing our privacy and dignity, and that of our fellow Americans.

[From www.commondreams.org, June 24, 2010]

NAKED INSECURITY

(By Ralph Nader)

If you are planning to fly over the 4th of July holiday, be aware of your rights at airport security checkpoints.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has mandated that passengers can opt out of going through a whole body scanning machine in favor of a physical pat down. Unfortunately, opting for the pat down requires passengers to be assertive since TSA screeners do not tell travelers about their right to refuse a scan. Harried passengers must spot the TSA signs posted at hectic security checkpoints to inform themselves of their rights before they move to a body scanning security line.

Since the failed Christmas Day bombing of a Northwest Airlines flight by a passenger hiding explosives in his underwear, TSA has accelerated its program of deploying whole body scanning machines, including x-ray scanners, at airport security checkpoints throughout the United States. Scanning machines peak beneath passengers' clothing looking for concealed weapons and explosives that can elude airport metal detectors. So far, TSA has placed 111 scanners at 32 airports. They expect to have 450 scanners deployed by the end of the year at an estimated cost of \$170,000 each.

Privacy, civil rights and religious groups object to whole body scanning machines as uniquely intrusive. Naked images of passengers' bodies are captured by these machines that can reveal very personal medical conditions such as prosthetics, colostomy bags and mastectomy scars. The TSA responded by setting the scanners to blur the facial features of travelers, placing TSA employees who view the images in a separate room and assuring the public that the images are deleted after initial viewing.

Yet, a successful Freedom of Information Act lawsuit by the Electronic Privacy Information Center against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) uncovered documents showing that the scanning machines' procurement specifications include the ability to store, record and transfer revealing digital images of passengers. The specifications allow TSA to disable any privacy filters permitting the exporting of raw images, contrary to TSA assurances.

It begs logic that the TSA would not retain their ability to store images particularly in the event of a terrorist getting through the scan and later attacking an aircraft. One of the first searches by the TSA would be to review images taken by the scanners to identify the attacker.

The Amsterdam airport is using a less intrusive security device called "auto detection" scanning which generates stick figures instead of the real image of the person and avoids exposing passengers to radiation. Three United States Senators recently wrote to DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano urging her to consider these devices. (<http://bit.ly/bJFn5K>)