

American families and small business owners—not the insurance companies—in control of their own health care; lowering costs for middle class and small business; holding insurance companies accountable to prevent denials of care and coverage, including for pre-existing conditions; strengthening Medicare and lowering prescription drug costs; creating up to 4 million jobs; and reducing deficit by largest amount in almost two decades. (Signed into law)

HEALTH CARE FOR 11 MILLION CHILDREN, to finally provide cost-effective health coverage for 4 million more children and preserve coverage for 7 million children already enrolled. (Signed into Law)

FDA REGULATION OF TOBACCO, granting the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products, the #1 cause of preventable U.S. deaths, and to stop tobacco companies from targeting our children. (Signed into Law)

ENSURING SENIORS' ACCESS TO THEIR DOCTORS, by blocking scheduled 21% cut in Medicare physician payments through November 30, 2010 and also updating payments by 2.2%. (Signed into Law)

FOOD SAFETY, to fundamentally change the way we protect our food supply; close gaps exposed by recent food-borne illness outbreaks; give the FDA new authorities. (Passed by House)

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT, guaranteeing access to lifesaving medical services, primary care, and medications for low-income patients with AIDS and HIV. (Signed into Law)

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS/HOLDING BP ACCOUNTABLE

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT, historic legislation to create 1.7 million jobs (with the Recovery Act); help free us from funding terrorism with our dependence on foreign oil; reduce the carbon pollution causing climate change; keep costs low for Americans; will not increase the deficit. (Passed by House)

RESPONSE TO BP OIL SPILL, a bill providing a comprehensive response to BP oil spill—eliminating the \$75 million cap on the liability of oil companies, restoring the Gulf Coast and protecting local residents, imposing new safety requirements and strengthening oversight of offshore drilling, and protecting whistleblowers in offshore drilling industry who report safety violations. (Passed by House)

Just hours after a Committee hearing during which I asked BP America's President whether chemical dispersants they were using to break up the oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico are safe, the EPA ordered BP to choose a less toxic chemical. The Washington Post reported the EPA ordered the change following a hearing by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee at which I questioned BP's use of hundreds of thousands of gallons of chemical dispersants.

SPILL ACT, to reform maritime liability laws to ensure that the families of those killed or injured in the BP Oil Spill and other such tragedies are justly compensated for their losses. (Passed by House)

BP OIL SPILL COMMISSION SUBPOENA POWER, to give subpoena power to National Commission on BP Oil Spill to ensure that it cannot be stonewalled by BP or others in its search for spill's causes. (Passed by House)

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT, the most significant conservation bill in 15 years, strengthening tourism and rural economies with more than 2 million new acres of wilderness and parks. (Signed into Law)

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & GOVERNMENT REFORM

BUDGET BLUEPRINT, creating jobs with investments in health care, clean energy and

education; cutting taxes for most Americans by \$1.5 trillion; cutting Bush deficit by more than half by 2013. (Action Completed)

BUDGET ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION, setting a limit on discretionary spending for FY 2011 that requires spending cuts of \$7 billion below the President's budget and \$3 billion below Senate. (Action Completed)

STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO, to restore 1990s law that turned record deficits into surpluses, by forcing tough choices; Congress must offset new policies that reduce revenues or expand entitlements. (Signed into Law)

IMPROPER PAYMENTS ELIMINATION, to help identify and eliminate improper federal payments, as well as recover lost funds that federal agencies have spent improperly. (Signed into Law)

WEAPON SYSTEMS ACQUISITION REFORM, cracking down on Pentagon waste and cost overruns in the acquisition of weapon systems, increasing oversight and competition. (Signed into Law)

REFORMING OTHER DOD ACQUISITION, cleaning up DOD acquisition spending for the 80 percent that is for services and other non-weapons items, saving taxpayers an estimated \$27 billion a year. (Passed by House)

DISCLOSE ACT, to fight a corporate takeover of our elections, requires them to disclose they are behind political ads; bans foreign-controlled corporations from putting money in U.S. elections. (Passed by House)

NATIONAL SECURITY/TROOPS AND VETERANS

FY 2010 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION, authorizing 3.4% troop pay raise, strengthening military readiness and military families support, focusing our strategy in Afghanistan and redeployment from Iraq. (Signed into Law)

I travelled to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Kuwait, and UAE to visit with troops, and receive updates from U.S. military leaders and NGOs.

FY 2011 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION, increasing hostile fire and imminent danger pay; extending TRICARE dependent coverage up to age 26; and strengthening counterterrorism. (Passed by House)

REPEAL OF DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL, to provide for the repeal of this outdated policy, contingent on the certification that military review completed and that repeal would not impact readiness. (Signed into Law)

IRAN SANCTIONS, significantly strengthening sanctions against Iran, including imposing sanctions on foreign entities that sell refined petroleum to Iran or assist Iran in its domestic refining capacity. (Signed into Law)

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM & TRANSPARENCY ACT, a top priority of veterans' groups, authorizing Congress to approve VA medical care appropriations one year in advance to ensure reliable and timely funding and prevent politics from ever delaying VA health care funding. (Signed into Law)

I authored and introduced the Veterans Administration Claims Modernization Act. This law streamlined the VA benefits application process. It was based on problems I heard directly from the experiences of local veterans as well as national VSOs. The law was called "the most sweeping reform of the VA in a generation" by the Times Herald Record.

I successfully advocated for a VA rule change to create an automatic service connection for veterans diagnosed with PTSD after serving in combat. This change dramatically streamlines the process for veterans to receive appropriate care and compensation.

Implemented the post-9/11 GI Bill to provide for a college education for returning veterans.

FY 2010 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION-VA APPROPRIATIONS, strengthening quality health care for 5 million veterans by investing 11% more for medical care, benefits claims processors, and facility improvements. (Signed into Law)

CAREGIVERS AND VETERANS OMNIBUS HEALTH SERVICES, landmark legislation providing help to caregivers of disabled, ill or injured veterans, and improving VA health services for women veterans. (Signed into Law)

AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS, providing long overdue disability benefits to more than 150,000 Vietnam veterans and survivors for exposure to Agent Orange. (Signed into Law)

SECURITY FOR AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

FY 2010 HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS, strengthening security at our ports and borders and on commercial airlines, giving first responders tools to respond to terrorism. (Signed into Law)

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT, giving law enforcement resources to prevent and prosecute hate crimes against Americans based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. (Signed into Law)

BORDER SECURITY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS, providing \$600 million to enhance security at the Southwest Border, including funding 1,200 additional Border Patrol agents, 500 additional CBP officers, and additional FBI, DEA, and ATF agents for the border region; paid for by visa fees. (Signed into Law)

I visited the border patrol in Arizona to view the situation first hand and obtain a better understanding of the situation they face.

COPS ON THE BEAT, putting an additional 50,000 cops on the street over the next 5 years. (Passed by House)

CHEMICAL & WATER SECURITY ACT, to increase security and safety of the nation's chemical plants and water facilities vulnerable to terrorist attacks and the millions of Americans that live nearby. (Passed by House)

TRIBUTE TO A REPEAL GREEN TUCKER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with sorrow that I inform the House of the death of Mrs. Avis Green Tucker, a distinguished Missouri citizen from Warrensburg, in the 4th Congressional District. Avis Green Tucker was not just my own long-time friend. She was one of Missouri's most highly respected newspaper publishers. She was a willing volunteer frequently called to important service by Missouri governors from both political parties. And she was a particularly inspiring role model among women leaders in our state.

Avis and her husband, William Tucker, bought the Daily Star-Journal in 1947 and the paper stayed in the Tucker family for some 60 years, until its sale in 2007 to another distinguished Missouri newspaper family, the Bradleys of St. Joseph. Bill Tucker was serving as publisher in Warrensburg when he died of a heart attack in 1966. Avis took over as one of the few female daily newspaper publishers in the Midwest. She once said: "I decided I was going to run this paper. I was going to try. I told everyone that I had more nerve than ability, which was the truth." But that was a typically reticent and humble statement from a

woman whose abilities were quite remarkable. Those abilities were widely recognized. In 1982, Avis became the first female president of the Missouri Press Association. That was just one of many “firsts” achieved by Avis Tucker, including serving as the first female president of the Missouri Associated Dailies organization, and becoming the first woman inducted into the Missouri Press Association Hall of Fame. She received the National Newspaper Association’s McKinney Award, given to a woman who “exhibited distinguished service to the community press.” Just this past May, Avis became chair emeritus of the Missouri Press Association’s Foundation Board, which she helped found and fund.

She served not only as one of the state’s rare female publishers, but in other leadership roles, particularly at our mutual alma mater, the University of Missouri. Mizzou’s world-famous School of Journalism honored her with its Honor Medal in 1976. And in 1972, Avis became the first woman president of the University of Missouri’s governing body, the Board of Curators. Her service as a curator has particular significance for me, since she was appointed to succeed her late husband as a curator upon his death. And Bill Tucker had been appointed to succeed my father, Isaac Newton Skelton III, upon his passing. In Missouri, one of the highest honors one can achieve is being named to help guide our land-grant state university, and this is an honor that has been treasured by both the Skelton and Tucker families.

Avis Green Tucker will be remembered fondly by all who had the privilege of knowing her, including me. When she passed away at age 95 on Friday, December 17th, 2010, she had lived a life that was exemplary. Her leadership was superb, her newspaper’s readers and her community were well-served, and her place in Missouri journalism and public service is secure. Avis is survived by two nephews, Bob and Richard Green. I know members of the Congress will join me in paying tribute to the life, achievements and service of Avis Green Tucker, and in extending our condolences to her family and friends.

EMPTY CHAIR IN OSLO FOR LIU XIAOBO

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, in the theatrical adaptation of Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables*, Marius sings a haunting song—Empty Chairs and Empty Tables—an expression of agony at the loss of his idealistic comrades, gunned down on a barricade.

“There’s a grief that can’t be spoken,” he sings, “there’s a pain that goes on and on. Empty chairs and empty tables, now my friends are dead and gone . . .”

“Here it was they lit the flame . . . Here they sang about tomorrow and tomorrow never came . . . from the table in the corner they could see a world reborn . . . And they rose with voices ringing. I can hear them now . . . Empty chairs and empty tables, where my friends will meet no more . . .”

When prisoner of conscience Liu Xiaobo, Nobel Peace Prize winner for 2010, learned

that he was selected, he wept and dedicated his prize to the martyrs of the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre.

Throughout China today, families and friends know heartbreaking loss and the agony of empty chairs and empty tables—where young, brave, idealistic democracy activists were gunned down, bayoneted, or beaten to death by Chinese government troops and secret police. Both before and since Tiananmen, Chinese men and women have sacrificed their freedom—even their lives—in the struggle for faith and liberty. Yet the struggle for freedom, rule of law, and respect for human rights continues despite the enormous cost to individual Chinese men and women.

At Oslo a couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of witnessing the conferring of the Nobel Peace Prize on Liu Xiaobo’s empty chair—empty because this courageous non-violent man of principle languishes in a lonely prison cell, serving an eleven-year sentence for promoting democracy in China, most recently through Charter 08, a human rights manifesto. In a stunning revelation of Beijing’s weakness, fear, and moral deficiency, even Liu’s wife and friends were barred from attending the Nobel ceremony.

Amazingly, at his government show trial in 2009, Liu expressed absolutely no malice toward the dictatorship that so cruelly mistreats him—and millions of others like him.

He said, “I have no enemies and no hatred. None of the police who monitored, arrested, and interrogated me, none of the prosecutors who indicted me, and none of the judges who judged me are my enemies . . . Hatred can rot away at a person’s intelligence and conscience. Enemy mentality will poison the spirit of a nation, incite cruel mortal struggles, destroy a society’s tolerance and humanity and hinder a nation’s progress toward freedom and democracy. That is why I hope to be able to transcend my personal experiences as I look upon our nation’s development and social change, to counter the regime’s hostility with utmost goodwill, and to dispel hatred with love.”

The Nobel Peace Prize ceremony has come and gone. And, I would note parenthetically, it was an honor to join you in Oslo, Madam Speaker, as well as Representative David Wu and numerous Tiananmen Square alumnae—Chinese men and women who peacefully demonstrated for freedom in 1989—including Yang Jianli, Chai Ling, Bob Fu, Fang Zheng, and Kaixi Wuer. It is now more important than ever that all of us who treasure freedom, democracy and human rights empathize more, pray more and do more to expose and combat the cruelty and the crimes committed on a daily basis by Beijing.

The brutality and violence that were witnessed by all the world in 1989 at Tiananmen continues unabated today, especially in the gulags—laogai—and detention centers throughout China, where people are systematically tortured, sometimes to death, particularly Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghurs, Tibetans, Christians, and democracy activists.

The brutality and violence of unrestrained dictatorship has—and continues to be—unleashed against hundreds of millions of Chinese women and children—victims of the barbaric one child per couple policy, a cruel policy that has made brothers and sisters illegal and relies on forced abortion—a crime categorized as a “crime against humanity” at the Nazi war crime trial at Nuremberg.

As a result of the one child per couple policy, an estimated 100 million girls are missing—dead through sex-selective abortion—which is a gender crime of unimaginable depravity and has made China a magnet for sex trafficking. Chai Ling—one of the heroes of Tiananmen—has launched All Girls Allowed—an NGO that appeals to Beijing, the world, and especially mothers in China to protect the girl child in the womb.

And finally, even the Internet has been turned into a tool of repression and surveillance by the secret police.

The selection of Liu Xiaobo as the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize laureate obliges us to undertake sustained scrutiny and meaningful action.

Indifference or silence or feigned ignorance concerning the Chinese government’s appalling and massive human rights violations simply isn’t an option.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 21, 2010. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

H. Res. 1771, Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules—rollcall No. 657—“yea”.

H.R. 6540, Defense Level Playing Field Act—rollcall No. 658—“yea”.

H.R. 5116, America COMPETES Reauthorization Act—rollcall No. 659—“yea”.

H.R. 2142, GPRA Modernization Act of 2010—rollcall No. 660—“yea”.

H.R. 2751, FDA Food Safety Modernization Act—rollcall No. 661—“yea”.

H.R. 3082, Making Appropriations for Military Construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010 and for other purposes—rollcall No. 662—“yea”.

H.R. 6547, Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act—rollcall No. 663—“yea”.

BLACK: THE DOMINANCE OF UNETHICAL BANKING

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today I am inserting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a recent blog post by Professor William Black from the Associate Professor of Economics and Law at the University of Missouri—Kansas City. Professor Black has focused on white collar crime and routing out of fraud in our financial system, both in practice and as a field of academic study. Professor Black’s answers on this CNN blog give direction to our work on cleaning up our financial system of the criminals while protecting those who follow the law. As this Congress