

federal funding for illegal immigrants to receive health care coverage?

Yes, 81.17%
No, 11.12%
Unsure, 5.99%
No Response, 1.71%

7. Should Congress raise taxes to pay for health care reform legislation?

Yes, 16.47%
No, 74.73%
Unsure, 7.04%
No Response, 1.76%

8. Should Congress pay for health care reform legislation by cutting Medicare by \$500 billion as proposed in the House bills?

Yes, 7.48%
No, 83.32%
Unsure, 7.44%
No Response, 1.76%

9. Should Congress require individuals to purchase health care insurance or face a tax penalty?

Yes, 17.02%
No, 73.54%
Unsure, 7.77%
No Response, 1.68%

10. Do you believe that the \$787 billion economic stimulus spending bill approved by Congress earlier this year has created jobs?

Yes, 15.32%
No, 73.67%
Unsure, 9.48%
No Response, 1.53%

11. Given the continued increase in unemployment, should Congress enact a second stimulus spending bill this year?

Yes, 13.31%
No, 72.66%
Unsure, 12.36%
No Response, 1.67%

12. Should the President approve the recommendation of General Stanley McChrystal to deploy some 40,000 more troops to Afghanistan?

Yes, 49.60%
No, 32.53%
Unsure, 16.04%
No Response, 1.83%

13. Would you be willing to pay higher fuel and energy prices to reduce the production of greenhouse gases?

Yes, 23.59%
No, 64.03%
Unsure, 10.52%
No Response, 1.86%

14. Should Congress be required to post major legislation online at least 72 hours before it's voted on in the House or Senate?

Yes, 85.08%
No, 5.90%
Unsure, 7.16%
No Response, 1.86%

15. Should Congress extend the \$8,000 federal first-time homebuyer's tax credit (the credit is set to expire on November 30, 2009)?

Yes, 48.66%
No, 41.21%
Unsure, 8.34%
No Response, 1.79%

16. Should Congress consider passage of a second Cash for Clunkers program?

Yes, 13.43%
No, 78.75%
Unsure, 6.27%
No Response, 1.56%

17. Should Congress provide additional bailout funds for U.S. automakers and financial institutions?

Yes, 2.88%
No, 90.71%
Unsure, 4.82%
No Response, 1.58%

18. The federal National Debt is currently over \$11.9 trillion and is projected to increase by more than \$9 trillion over the next ten years. To balance our account, Congress should:

Reduce government spending and eliminate programs, 83.30%

Increase taxes to pay for existing government programs, 13.43%

No Response, 3.27%

19. Should the federal government be required by law to have a balanced budget, as the Florida state government and most other states are required to do?

Yes, 79.64%
No, 9.18%
Unsure, 9.38%
No Response, 1.81%

20. Which do you believe would do more to create jobs and stimulate the American economy?

Increased government spending and new government programs, 13.21%

Reducing taxes on private business (the U.S. business tax rate is the 29th highest of the world's 30 largest economies), 81.37%

No Response, 5.43%

21. The Federal Reserve had refused to disclose to the Congress which companies have been given trillions of dollars in bailout money. Should the Fed be subject to a full and complete audit of its actions?

Yes, 94.54%
No, 1.71%
Unsure, 2.24%

22. Should suspected terrorists be transferred from the prisons at Guantanamo Bay to federal prisons in the United States?

Yes, 20.62%
No, 67.22%
Unsure, 8.21%
No Response, 3.95%

23. Should amnesty for those here illegally be included in immigration reform?

Yes, 12.23%
No, 74.12%
Unsure, 9.69%
No Response, 3.96%

24. The measure of the cost-of-living for Social Security recipients is predicted to increase from 2010 to 2011, yet recipients are not likely to receive a cost-of-living adjustment the next year. Should Social Security recipients receive an increase in their benefits for 2012?

Yes, 74.86%
No, 10.60%
Unsure, 10.70%
No Response, 3.84%

25. Should the U.S. continue pursuing a missile defense shield in Europe?

Yes, 51.27%
No, 27.68%
Unsure, 17.19%
No Response, 3.86%

26. Should economic sanctions continue against Iran?

Yes, 78.87%
No, 7.27%
Unsure, 10.07%
No Response, 3.78%

was a member of the San Diego Board of Education, as my Council Representative for five years when I was a member of the San Diego City Council, and in numerous roles in many of my campaigns, including Finance Director for two of my Congressional Campaigns. When one of my early campaigns showed practically a zero in donations for an entire summer month of fundraising, I called on her, and the contributors returned. Throughout the years, she has been my go-to person when I need something done and done right.

Upon reflection, I believe that her most important contribution has been to provide a consistent and friendly voice to the people we are serving, knowing many by name. She gives them what they are asking for—either the answers they need or information about who can help if we are not the right office to call. A visitor or caller never goes away without assistance.

Sharon's work over the years has included legislation that addresses people's needs: education, gay and lesbian, health, labor, Native American, senior citizen and Social Security, religion, art, welfare, women, and veterans issues. She was my sole staff person for the House of Representatives Veterans' Affairs Committee (VA) for fourteen years. She has met with constituents and lobbyists, answered mail, prepared my statements for the VA and the House and talking points for speaking engagements, prepared bills for introduction in the House, and written press releases. In fact, she has done almost everything in my office, from the duties of staff assistant to executive assistant to administrative assistant, as needed—just not systems administration.

She has taken a keen interest in how micro-credit and microenterprise can help many people in our country, travelling to Bangladesh to learn about the Grameen Bank in Dhaka, founded by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus.

She has helped me prepare for many of the awards and recognitions I have received, for example, the 2009 Gusi Peace Prize I was recently awarded in the Philippines and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award I received from the National Education Association in 2003. Her supporting role in my work on the issues important to my Filipino constituents was critical to my selection as a recipient of the Legion of Honor, the highest civilian award given by the Philippines, presented by then-President Fidel Ramos.

Sharon has also prepared the nominations I have made throughout the years for winning entries, for example in the Victory Against Hunger Award sponsored by the Congressional Hunger Center, the Private Sector Small Business Award from the Asian American Business Roundtable, the Congressional Angels in Adoption Awards from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, the Ethics Award from the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation, and my nominations for the White House Conference on Aging. For each of the seventeen years we have been in Washington, she has been the DC staff person in charge of trip arrangements to Washington for the winning students in the annual Congressional Arts Competition. She has greeted our Congressional Pages and has handled the ticket requests for Presidential inaugurations.

She has joined with me in many of our accomplishments. She was with me when we

IN TRIBUTE TO SHARON SCHULTZE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and contributions of my Senior Legislative Assistant, Sharon Schultze.

On Monday, January 11, 2010, Sharon retired after seventeen years of service in my Washington Congressional office. In and of themselves, these years are enough to qualify her for special recognition, but she also served as my Assistant for four years when I

talked with VA Secretary Jesse Brown about the need for a Veterans' Home in Chula Vista, California. She was at the table when we spoke to VA Secretary Principi about providing medical equipment and supplies to the Veterans Hospital in Manila. She helped to bring a Community Based Outpatient Clinic to Imperial County, California and the Miramar National Cemetery to San Diego, California, with a groundbreaking scheduled for January 30, 2010.

Her important legislative achievements include passage of several bills for veterans, including a bill to provide a posthumous Purple Heart to the families of every prisoner of war who died while in a prison camp, a bill to provide compensation to World War II Merchant Mariners who were excluded from the original GI Bill benefits, and legislation to restore equity and promised benefits to the Filipino World War II veterans who were deprived of both by an act of Congress in 1946.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Sharon for 26 years of working together, learning together, and achieving together. As a former history professor, I believe that we have changed a small piece of history.

CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA'S ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY BILL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against Bill No. 18, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009, which will soon be considered for passage by the government of Uganda. This proposed legislation criminalizes and punishes homosexuality, thereby endangering the lives of all Ugandans and threatening their civil and human rights. This is outrageously discriminatory and deeply troubling.

The Anti-Homosexuality Bill was introduced as a Private Member's Bill by Ugandan Member of Parliament David Bahati of the National Resistance Movement Party on April 29, 2009. Following adoption, it was published in the Uganda Gazette on September 25, 2009, according to the procedural rules of the Ugandan Parliament. A vast majority of governments throughout the world, including the United States, continue to deny full civil rights and protections to their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, LGBT, citizens. However, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill takes this to a deadly extreme.

This legislation condemns HIV-positive citizens, including minors, who engage in consensual homosexual acts to death and sentences citizens who engage in consensual homosexual acts to life imprisonment. The Anti-Homosexuality Bill also seeks to persecute LGBT citizens living abroad by extraditing them for acts committed outside Uganda, including those who are also dual citizens of Uganda and the United States. Furthermore, this legislation requires known homosexuals to be reported to the authorities within 24 hours; failure to do so would result in a jail term of up to 3 years. This applies to Ugandan nationals and dual citizens living abroad, as well as any person who witnesses such an act within

Uganda, regardless of whether they have legal ties to the Ugandan nation. Finally, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill requires that its provisions override any commitment to international agreements or protocols that recognize the rights of LGBT persons to the extent of the inconsistency between the two. As a responsible member of the international community, the United States cannot condone such a bill becoming law.

The Anti-Homosexuality Bill legislates against the fundamental democratic right of freedom from fear of physical harm by one's own government. This legislation would undermine the government of Uganda's commitment to democracy at a most basic level, significantly damage its relations with the international community, and risk inciting greater hate-motivated violence within Uganda itself. Its mere existence almost certainly will lead to violence against individuals who either are LGBT or are rumored to be LGBT, their families, and community leaders in their places of worship, homes, schools, and businesses.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about the consequences that this bill would have on public health in Uganda as it attempts to combat HIV/AIDS. The stigmatization of homosexual identity and behavior continues to stymie efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in the United States and abroad. The bill's criminalization of homosexuality will undoubtedly discourage individuals from having the open and honest discussions about their sexual health and behavior that are crucial to lessening the spread and burden of this infection.

I commend President Obama and State Secretary Clinton for denouncing this bigoted legislation and am pleased to acknowledge that their sentiments have been publicly shared by the European Union, Canada, and other nations and international human rights groups. In addition, I also applaud those Ugandans, including Senior Advisor to President Museveni, John Nagenda, who have spoken out in opposition to this bill and urge them to fight it when Uganda's parliament enters discussions on the matter in February or March of this year.

I am further encouraged by Secretary Clinton's commitment to protect "the rights of the LGBT community worldwide" and will continue working to ensure that sexual orientation and gender identity not constitute the basis for criminal penalties, harassment, or discrimination. It is my fervent hope that Congress will show a similar commitment to its own LGBT citizens as it is called upon to repeal discriminatory legislation such as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Defense of Marriage Act.

Madam Speaker, I unequivocally condemn the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in the strongest possible terms and urge the government of Uganda to withdraw this bill and support the inalienable human rights of all people.

CONGRATULATING RODNEY KAY

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rodney Kay, named my State's 2009–10 "Assistant Principal of the Year" by the Georgia Association of Sec-

ondary School Principals. Rodney, head of Curriculum and Instruction at Heard County High School in Franklin, will represent the Peach State well when he competes for the national title in March.

Rodney won this award after serving as an administrator for only two years. This recognition so early in his career demonstrates the passion and commitment he brings to educating young people. His leadership, combined with the talents of all the fine educators at Heard County High, quickly brought demonstrable results. The school has achieved new records in test scores, and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement named Heard County as one of only nine schools to attain "platinum" status in the 2008–09 school year.

Rodney's win was not only well-deserved, but it also had the additional benefit of bringing positive attention to Heard County students' accomplishments, said Principal Rusty Sowell. "It is a tremendous honor to be selected, and it speaks for itself with the things he has done and helped us achieve," Sowell continued.

This success might derive from Rodney's team player approach with teachers. Rodney knows first-hand the challenges as well as the joys that come with serving directly in the classroom. Before his promotion to assistant principal at Heard County, he worked as a Spanish teacher for 13 years in his hometown of Carrollton.

As a Member of Congress, I greatly appreciate efforts to honor the outstanding public servants who dedicate their lives to enlightening the next generation of Americans. Our teachers rank among our greatest resources. They put their own hearts on the line for students facing educational hardships or troubled home lives. They also know the triumph of seeing students learn, overcome obstacles, achieve academic excellence and go on to successful college and professional careers.

Rodney Kay obviously has approached this calling with fervor and passion—and with an eye on a higher purpose. "I believe I am in the school to serve teachers and students, and I have been placed on this Earth to serve God and others," Rodney said.

We appreciate that service from Rodney and his fellow educators. On behalf of the people of Georgia's 3rd District, I congratulate him on this honor and wish him the best of luck as he advances to the next level.

RECOGNIZING STEELE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHARLOTTE, NC

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize Steele Creek Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Steele Creek Presbyterian was founded in 1760, and this year, they celebrate their 250th anniversary as a church community.

As one of the oldest churches in our area, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church is a cornerstone in the Charlotte community. Its membership is dedicated to the service of others, whether by providing food to area shelters, manpower to local Habitat for Humanity