

all Americans, Democrats have chosen to pass a trillion dollar bill that would raise Americans' taxes, create a massive new tax burden, and do little to address the problems in our current health system. The frightening reality for the American taxpayer and anyone who will need health care in the future is that the Democrats are hiding the true costs of these bills and doing so in ways that will be disastrous to our Nation's long-term fiscal health. Instead of creating another absurdly expensive government program, we should work to make health care affordable and accessible for everyone.

I strongly believe that there are a number of measures that all of us, regardless of party affiliation, support that will bring down costs and improve access to care for all Americans. These are not new ideas—they are, however, ideas that are critical to implementing real, affordable and effective health reform. First, we must pass effective medical malpractice reform. We should end the practice of banning the purchase of insurance across State lines, and we should pass legislation to allow small businesses to band together through associations to buy health care coverage. I also support provisions that prohibit insurers from denying coverage to those people with pre-existing conditions. Further, we need to do more as a country to focus on prevention and early intervention. As a dentist, I have seen the benefits of prevention and early intervention. We should be focusing more on how to prevent disease or treat it early when it is most cost-effective and the outcomes are best.

Unfortunately, the Democrats' health reform bill fails to accomplish these goals. I am disappointed that President Obama and Speaker PELOSI have chosen to ignore the clear message from the American people by supporting a massive government takeover of our health system. Americans deserve REAL reform—not a partisan, gimmicky bill that will cost trillions of dollars and do little to improve care.

REGARDING AMERICA'S STRONG BONDS WITH ISRAEL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to reaffirm the strong bonds between Israel and the United States. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East. We share the same values, the same commitment to education, the same commitment to development, the same commitment to helping others.

Israel is situated in a dangerous neighborhood, with many of its neighbors overtly calling for its destruction. I was pleased to hear both President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton reaffirm America's close ties to Israel and our commitment to Israel's security in recent days. And I hope that this signals a desire to reduce the appearance of a rift.

During Vice President BIDEN's recent trip to the Middle East, Palestinian leaders participated in naming a public square for Dalal Mughrabi, the terrorist who led the most devastating attack in Israel's history. In 1978, Mughrabi and her cohorts hijacked a bus and murdered 37 innocent civilians, including 13 children and an American citizen.

Further, during Vice President BIDEN's visit, senior Fatah leaders, including Mahmud Dahlan, called on Muslims to protect the Temple Mount from the Jews, during the dedication of the reconstructed historic Hurva Synagogue located in the Jewish quarter 500 yards from the Western Wall and not on Temple Mount. President Obama has condemned the rioting that resulted, as was appropriate. I hope America will also take a strong stance against Palestinian leaders who foment violence.

As long as Israelis fear a third intifada and worry about the safety of their families, they will be far less likely to participate in peace talks in which they know they will be asked to take risks for peace. Israelis have already taken risks for peace—they withdrew from Lebanon, they withdrew from the Gaza Strip, they signed peace treaties with Jordan and Egypt, they abandoned the city Yamit in the Sinai desert, and they have released hundreds of terrorists, many of whom have had blood on their hands and many of whom have returned to their terrorist activities.

I believe very strongly that both the Palestinians and the Israelis would benefit from a real, lasting peace agreement and I hope talks will soon resume. But they will not resume if the Palestinians believe they will gain more by not talking. And they cannot resume if Israel feels that its existence or its people are being threatened. In previous administrations, there were direct talks. Today, the best we can hope for are proximity talks. I urge the administration to take every possible action to quell the tensions between the U.S. and our great friend, Israel, and to create an atmosphere in which both the Palestinians and the Israelis feel comfortable about resolving their differences.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of maintaining a warm relationship with Israel, our strong ally and good friend.

A TRIBUTE TO AMOTE SIAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Amote Sias, for her commitment and contributions to education and the New York City community.

Amote Sias is the founding principal of Brooklyn Collegiate, a College Board School, located in the Ocean-Hill section of Brownsville, Brooklyn and services 575 students in grades 6 through 12. She is a visionary leader who is passionate about her students and staff having and being the best.

Principal Sias started her career in education as a teacher in 1982 in Nassau County Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) as a Math and Social Studies teacher and department chairwoman. She transferred to New York City Board of Education to be able to give back to her community. From 1985 to 1999, she taught grades kindergarten through twelfth in various subjects including, English, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Computer Science. From 1999 to 2001, she was the Leadership Development Coordinator for Brooklyn and Staten Island High Schools

(BASIS). As the Leadership Development Coordinator, she was responsible for training principals, teachers, students, and parents in the areas of leadership, conflict resolution, cultural competence and team building. Because of her dedication and effective leadership, she advanced on to become the Director of Community Engagement for the new small schools of Brooklyn High Schools Superintendent and New Visions for New Schools Organization.

After the reorganization of the Department of Education in 2003, Principal Sias was asked to take on the position of Project Manager of Region 5 for the creation of new small schools within boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. This responsibility included recruiting and organizing the prospective school teams, training the teams, engaging the community in the process and serving on the committee which recommended the schools to be selected. In the midst of her work, Dr. Kathleen Cashin, Regional Superintendent of Region 5 afforded her the opportunity to become a principal at EBC of Public Service High School in East New York. While working as principal of EBC, Principal Sias wrote a proposal which was approved for the creation of Brooklyn Collegiate, which opened in September 2004. In June of 2008, Brooklyn Collegiate celebrated its first graduating class with seventy four percent of all seniors graduating and eighty-five percent of those students attending college.

Simultaneously working for the Department of Education, Principal Sias has served as an adjunct professor of English at Long Island University Brooklyn Campus for four years and rose the rank of Associate Professor. As an ordained minister since 1999, she pastors The Church without Borders and Assistant Pastor of Provision of Promise Miracle Family Worship Center located at 347 Rockaway Avenue in Brownsville, Brooklyn. She has received numerous awards and honors including "Principal of the Year," 2008–2009. She was the host of "Words of Wisdom for Daily Living" a daily radio program on WLIR, 1190AM. As a well rounded individual, Principal Sias has a passion for the things of God and enjoys traveling, reading and playing sports.

She firmly believes "we can and we will succeed!"

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Amote Sias.

A TRIBUTE TO CAROLE RODENBUCHER, 29TH CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2010

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carole Rodenbucher of Temple City, California. Each year in March, to recognize Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

In 1985, when her son Ryan was at Young People's Village Preschool, Carole started volunteering by attending all off-site outings and working on the first ever Camellia Parade float entry. Since 1988, Carole has served as the Parent-Teacher Association, PTA president at Emperor Elementary School and at Temple

City High School, TCHS. She also held several PTA executive board positions and chairmanships. She served on the Emperor School Site Council for two terms (two years each) as chairman and secretary.

Carole volunteered as Den Leader for Cub Scout Pack 169; Webelos Leader; Den Leader Coach; and Tiger Cub coach, secretary, treasurer, and committee chairman (seven years). She was also on the Lucky Baldwin Round Table Staff and Scout Expo, Pow Wow, Cub Scout, and Webelos Day Camps both at Trask and Cherry Valley. The most fun she had was teaching "Cooking with Carole" for three years at Camp Trask. She also served as the assistant to the Webelos Day Camp Director at Camp Trask for five years.

In 1999, Carole was a chaperone for the TCHS trip to Germany, and in 2003, 2004, and 2005, Bob and Carole were chaperones on the TCHS Washington DC trips. In 2003, Brett was part of the State Department exchange program with Russia, and the family had a Russian exchange student live with them. In 2005, Carole joined Friends of Foster Children, San Gabriel Valley. She has served as a director; secretary; Ways and Means; chaired the 2009 luncheon; and for Sugar Plum acted as secretary and Outside Groups Coordinator as well as volunteered on several committees.

Carole, her husband Bob, and her two sons Ryan and Brett have coordinated the Camellia Festival Grandstand Seating for the last twelve years. Carole is the General Chairman for 2010 and was Assistant General Chairman in 2009. Carole was in charge of the TCHS Grad Night Ram Discount Card in 2000 and 2004, helped on the game booths for Grad Night 2004, and continues to volunteer at Grad Night celebrations.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Carole Rodenbucher. The entire community joins me in thanking Carole for the meaningful impact she has had on the 29th Congressional District.

HONORING FLORIDA PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Florida Parent Teacher Association, PTA on receiving the 2010 Outstanding Advocacy Awards. Their advocacy efforts at state, local and individual levels were recognized because of their dedication, leadership and sustained efforts to positively affect child related policy, regulation and legislation. This association serves a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students throughout Florida.

As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, the PTA reminds our country of its obligations to children and provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child while

providing the best tools for parents to help their children be successful students.

It is important to recognize that Florida PTA is being honored for their efforts while facing proposed education budget cuts. The state PTA formed a coalition with major education groups during these efforts. Unfortunately, Florida ranks near the bottom in the country in school funding. But, Florida PTA's initiatives created sustained advocacy and generated new-found enthusiasm for parents and local PTAs to work together for education funding for Florida children. Advocates sent more than 3,000 letters of protest to the Florida Governor and state legislators, held regular conference calls with regional and local PTAs, developed an advocacy toolkit, and held one of the largest rallies at the state Capitol steps. As a result of Florida's PTA efforts, Florida legislators did not reduce education funding as proposed.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Florida Parent Teacher Association for their outstanding achievement. The dedicated involvement from parents throughout Florida reflects a strong commitment to public education and community service. I offer my strong support for Florida PTA and their dedicated volunteers.

IN RECOGNITION OF TALLADEGA COLLEGE'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WINNING THE 2010 USCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the Talladega College Men's Basketball team who recently won the 2010 USCAA National Championship.

On March 7th, the Tornados defeated Southern Virginia 65-56 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. This is their second consecutive National Championship win. The Tornados finished the season with a record of 18-15. The Talladega College Tornados are led by Head Coach William Brown and Assistant Coach Randy Pulley.

All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply proud of these talented young Alabamians. I'd like to congratulate the team, coaches and Talladega College on this outstanding achievement for the second straight year.

A TRIBUTE TO KATYA RATTRAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Katya Rattray for her commitment to social service and her years of service in the Brooklyn community.

Katya Rattray's story is that of the quintessential American immigrant experience. Katya Rattray was born in Georgetown Guy-

ana of mixed race parentage and spent her early years in Guyana and Nassau, Bahamas before immigrating to the U.S. almost three decades ago.

Tragedy struck with the passing of her father Patrick Thorne, a sworn land surveyor, while she was still a teenager. She and her family, mother Eslyn Thorne and brother Maxim Thorne, immigrated to the United States in search of a better future.

Katya deferred her studies and worked in retail and administrative services in the legal and banking industries in New York to help support her mother and younger brother. Throughout this period however, she kept her eyes on the goals of resuming her education and giving back to her community as best she could.

Upon resuming her studies, she excelled at Rutgers University where she double majored in sociology and women's studies. She became a Mabel Smith Douglass Honors student focusing on racial justice in the U.S. and the plight and struggles of young women of African descent in the period leading up to and through the Civil Rights movement.

She later went on to achieve a masters in business administration with a dual specialization in marketing and logistics from the University of Miami and embarked on her career in the private sector as an international management consultant focusing on issues facing minority communities.

Katya also served a brief stint as a political campaign manager, before joining the executive management of Brooklyn Child and Family Services, Inc. (BCAFS), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-based organization that receives millions in public and private grants. She has served as both the Interim Executive Director and the Head Start and Early Head Start Program Director. She oversees a full range of early educational and comprehensive social services to over 800 families in a predominantly low-income population where many are African American, Latino and immigrant. BCAFSS has been a provider of community-based education, social and other supportive services in the Bedford Stuyvesant, Fort Greene, Flatbush, Bushwick, Brooklyn Heights, Williamsburg and surrounding Brooklyn neighborhoods since 1963.

Under her leadership, Ms. Rattray has engineered a significant transformation to the operations of the program and drastically increased its operating efficiency, program outreach and education outcomes; no small feat in these trying times.

She has achieved an almost one hundred percent enrollment in the program that is unprecedented in this history of the organization, community partnerships have dramatically increased, and once again a Policy Council from the community is vibrant and engaged in helping the agency, all hallmarks of the Head Start ethos.

Under Ms. Rattray's stewardship, Brooklyn Children and Family Services is once again poised to become a beacon in the 10th Congressional District of New York.

Katya is married to her soul mate, Ken Rattray, an international management and technology consultant, and together they have three wonder children, Kyra, Kenneth Patrick (KP), and Kalyan.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Katya Rattray.