

World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC, where she will participate in daily educational activities focused on leadership.

Ashley's academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential make her a worthy participant. She should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Sabrina will use the skills she gains from People to People International as tools for the betterment of her community and our nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Sabrina on this monumental achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I regrettably missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 173—"yea."

MARCH 8TH, 2010 BOSTON GLOBE
EDITORIAL: "FDA LAX ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit an editorial published in the Boston Globe on March 8, 2010, entitled "FDA Lax on Conflicts of Interest." This editorial highlights the potential conflicts of interest inherent in the FDA's recent selection of Committee Members for their newly established Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee, TPSAC. I understand the committee is responsible for advising the FDA on a broad range of topics, including nicotine levels in cigarettes and the development of reduced risk products.

I opposed H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Control Act when it passed through the Democrat-led Congress in the summer of 2009 before being signed into law. The bill, which provided the FDA with the authority to regulate tobacco products, defies logic and I have been monitoring the development of these new regulations carefully. Earlier this month the FDA finally announced the members they selected to serve on TPSAC. Alarming, as the Boston Globe editorial explains, two of the scientists selected as committee members have direct financial ties to the companies who could benefit from the recommendations they will be tasked with making. Having committee members who stand to gain financially from their own recommendations is unacceptable and represents disturbing conflicts of interest. This action and the resulting conflicts of interest are extremely threatening to the tobacco industry—an industry that provides hundreds of thousands of jobs in North Carolina and throughout our nation.

This Administration likes to talk about high ethical standards and transparency but we have yet to see those lofty promises put into action. The Administration can take its first step towards this goal by eliminating these conflicts of interest and ensuring the FDA takes the utmost precaution against selecting such members in the future.

FDA LAX ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

[From the Boston Globe, Mar. 8, 2010]

The Food and Drug Administration has done far too little to avoid conflicts of interest among those who serve on its scientific panels and advisory boards. The latest example came last Monday, when the agency appointed to a tobacco advisory committee two scientists who have financial ties to companies that sell smoking cessation products.

One of the scientists, Jack Henningfield, makes most of his income from a consulting company that has GlaxoSmithKline, which makes Nicorette gum, as a client, according to a Wall Street Journal report. The other, Neil L. Benowitz, formerly worked as a consultant for GlaxoSmithKline and still consults for Pfizer, which makes the quit-smoking drug Chantix.

It could be worse. The pair of scientists could have financial ties to cigarette makers—which would violate federal law since the two will vote on recommendations for how to regulate the tobacco industry. But no matter how honorable the individuals involved, there's a clear danger when those who decide whether menthol cigarettes should be banned and whether smokeless tobacco products are safe also stand to profit from the sale of products that help people quit smoking.

It's encouraging that the FDA asked the scientists to disclose their financial ties to the drug companies. The reason for their appointment is the same scientific expertise they also offer to the pharmaceutical industry. But the agency must justify why the nine voting members of the committee could not be selected from the many scientists who do not have such ties.

If the two scientists are indeed the best that can serve the committee, they should not be allowed to vote on whether particular tobacco products can come to market unless they agree not to receive profits related to smoking-cessation aids. In addition, the FDA, which promised to screen all panel members for conflicts of interest before each meeting, should make the criteria and results of those screenings public while the panel meets and before any of its recommendations become national policy.

HONORING SHERIDAN MOTTET

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Sheridan Mottet, a very special young lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. Sheridan was recently invited to attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC, where she will participate in daily educational activities focused on leadership.

Sheridan's academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential make her a worthy participant. She should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Sheridan will use the skills she gains from People to People International as tools for the betterment of her community and our nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Sheridan on this monumental achievement.

HONORING MR. OTTO IGNACIO COELHO, SR.

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, Congressman COSTA and I rise today to honor the life of our dear friend, Mr. Otto Ignacio Coelho, Sr., a long time resident of Hilmar, California. Mr. Coelho passed away at the age of 92. Mr. Coelho was a strong leader of the community and served on numerous Portuguese organizations. Although a native of Tulare, California, he made Hilmar his home. He was one of six children born to Pauline and Pedro Coelho who immigrated to the United States from Terceira, the Azores in Portugal.

Otto was raised on the family dairy until his family moved to Monterey. His father was a fisherman and Otto worked for a time selling the fish his father and brother caught. Otto eventually returned to the Central Valley and the dairy industry. On September 3, 1938, Otto married the love of his life, Alice Branco, whom he had known since childhood. Otto was involved in the dairy industry until the 1960s, after which time he did custom farming and later was active in farm equipment sales for N&S Tractor Company.

After retirement, Otto became even more involved in the Pentecost celebrations he had loved since a child. He was a member of the Dos Palos DES Stevinson Pentecost Association, Nossa Senhora do Rosario of Hilmar, and Our Lady of Fatima Los Banos. He greatly enjoyed making the rounds to collect for Festa celebrations throughout the valley, and proudly kept his route books. He was a member of the SES. Otto was also deeply devoted to his Catholic faith, and was a long-time member and officer of the YMI at Holy Rosary St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hilmar, where he lived since 1965. He also belonged to the Knights of Columbus and was active in Casa da Azores in Hilmar.

Otto and Alice raised four children, Otto Jr. (Claudette) of Madera, Gilbert (Carol) of Firebaugh, Tony (Phyllis) of Delaware, and Susan Mattos of Newman. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. He is also survived by his sisters, Mercedes Martins of Watsonville, Nira Jean Perry (Joe) of Hollister, and Lee Coelho (Nancy) of Lemoore.

Otto Coelho was a pillar of our community. His strong sense of faith, family, and community speak volumes for generations to come. It is our honor to recognize Otto Coelho and to honor his legacy at this time. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family on their loss.

HONORING MARISA GARITZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Marisa Garitz, a very special young

lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. Marisa was recently invited to attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC, where she will participate in daily educational activities focused on leadership.

Marisa's academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential make her a worthy participant. She should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Marisa will use the skills she gains from People to People International as tools for the betterment of her community and our Nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Marisa on this monumental achievement.

HONORING SOUTH DAKOTANS FIGHTING WIDESPREAD FLOODING

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many South Dakotans who have helped fight the effects of widespread flooding throughout the northeast and southeast portions of the state in recent weeks.

About one month ago, South Dakota faced the threat of significant damage and cost due to flooding. The northeast and southeast portions of the state had high water tables and the winter's snow was beginning to melt. That meant rising water on our rivers and creeks and a danger of flooding that threatened our agricultural economy, roads and homes.

But South Dakotans didn't flinch in the face of these developments. Instead they banded together as they always do and developed plans to mitigate the worst of the dangers and deal with the smaller inconveniences.

County emergency managers worked with state officials from the Department of Public Safety and Office of Emergency Management. Red Cross volunteers worked with mayors of small towns. The National Guard mobilized to help the city of Aberdeen, and the Civil Air Patrol scouted flood damage from the air. Local law enforcement officials and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department, patrolled and offered assistance to those in danger. And neighbors worked with and for each other, filling sandbags to protect their homes and their communities.

Our federal partners did their share as well. The Federal Emergency Management Agency helped train state Office of Emergency Management staff in the weeks before the heaviest flood activities and has already begun assisting the state in planning for recovery operations. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stepped up with a levee project to protect the city of Watertown, completing it on time and amidst concerns over flooding.

Today, I am proud to report that, while the danger is not entirely past and there remains much recovery work to do, South Dakota once again has come together to successfully meet a challenge head on.

We still have some roads closed, dozens of homes suffered some flooding damage and it may be some time until we can determine the

extent of the damage. But we have, so far, avoided the kinds of catastrophic damage that was feared.

Madam Speaker, I remain proud as ever to represent the people of South Dakota and their enduring ability to rise to whatever challenge they must. I offer my sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to limit the effects of this flooding.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3590, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and H.R. 4872, The Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010. These severely misguided bills authorize \$1.2 trillion in new mandatory spending over the next decade, impose costly unfunded mandates on States, increase taxes on small businesses and families by more than \$500 billion over ten years, and provide a clear path for federal funding of abortions.

Both President Obama and Speaker PELOSI have talked about the "historic" nature of their health care legislation. While they claim to be acting upon the unrealized goals of a century of past Presidents and Congresses to expand health care access to all Americans, the real history that's being made by the passage of the legislation is less inspiring. Rather than seeking a national consensus to forge a truly historic, and badly needed reform of American health care, the President and the Speaker instead cynically crafted alone a one-sided, purely partisan bill that ignores the desires of the majority of the people.

Unlike the Social Security and Medicare Acts which enjoyed strong bipartisan support in their day, the President and the Speaker's health care legislation, which will impact nearly one-sixth of the economy, did not see one single Republican vote in support of their effort. Furthermore, 34 members of their own party joined Republicans in opposing this blatant power grab, dressed up as health care reform.

The reason for this lopsided vote is clear. The Democrat health care plan facilitates a backdoor takeover of American health care. The Federal Government would force small businesses and even individuals to buy health coverage or face stiff penalties. This mandate may well be unconstitutional and, in many states, including my State of Alabama, there are already attempts to challenge this in court.

This \$1.2 trillion health care scheme will increase federal deficits by \$59 billion over the next ten years, while inflicting a painful combination of Medicare cuts and tax increases, affecting millions of seniors, families and small businesses.

Ironically, the elderly—the most vulnerable to high medical costs—will suffer the loss of \$200 billion from the popular Medicare Advantage program, upon which over 170,000 Alabama seniors rely. In all, a total of \$500 billion will be taken from Medicare to pay for the broad health care expansion.

But that's not all. This bill will also, for the first time, levy Medicare taxes on investment

income. It imposes a new tax of 3.8 percent on unearned income.

Small businesses would also be forced to provide a government-approved level of coverage or face a \$2,000 penalty per employee. Businesses already providing coverage would face the same penalties if the government deems the coverage "unaffordable."

What's more, individuals would also have to buy government-approved insurance—whether they want it or not—or face fines. The IRS will become the health care enforcement agency, hiring up to 16,000 new workers to ensure that everyone buys federally approved coverage.

The Democrat health care bill will also place an unfunded mandate on States to expand Medicaid rolls. In my State, it will move an additional 400,000 people into an already cash-strapped Alabama Medicaid program. Alabama will have to come up with an additional \$61 million annually to sustain this mandatory expansion of Medicaid, which will cost State and Federal taxpayers a total of nearly \$1.1 billion a year. As Governor Bob Riley recently said, "I am deeply concerned that sustaining this level of coverage would translate into a substantial tax increase on the people of Alabama."

Equally troubling is this health care bill's green light for the federal funding of abortions. Despite the President's Executive Order barring the use of any Federal funds for abortion, there is no permanent prohibition over using Federal funds to pay for abortions. Whatever deal Rep. BART STUPAK and his group think they may have struck with the President, it does not carry the force of law. Executive orders are signed by the President and they can be revoked by the President—and frequently, they are.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have been shut out of the President's and your health care bill from the beginning. We offered to sit down and start from scratch to write a bill the American people could actually support, including the ability to buy insurance across State lines, give small businesses the power to pool coverage, and address liability lawsuit abuse. The Congressional Budget Office said the Republican health care plan would increase access to care, lower premiums by up to ten percent and reduce the Federal deficit by \$68 billion over ten years. Sadly, this kind of real reform was all but ignored by the administration and the Congress.

This is truly a sad day for this House and for our country. Americans wanted and deserve so much more than a cynical push for bigger government. I am committed to supporting efforts to fix this badly flawed legislation and replace it with true health care reform that Americans can support.

HONORING DELANEY NELSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Delaney Nelson, a very special young lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. Delaney was recently invited to attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC, where she will participate in daily educational activities focused on leadership.