

commitment to keep our promise to our nation's more than 2 million military personnel and their families, reservists, and 23 million veterans.

I have said it before, but I am proud to note again that this committee has a strong history of working in a bipartisan way to produce a bill that recognizes and supports the needs of our active duty service members and our veterans.

The legislation includes a total of \$127.8 billion in both discretionary and mandatory funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs—an increase of \$8.7 billion over last year's level. In this bill, discretionary funding alone equals \$58.3 billion, which is \$1.85 billion above the FY 2011 enacted level. This bill also provides full funding of \$69.5 billion for mandatory VA programs.

Since January 2007, Congress has increased funding for veterans' health care and other services by \$30 billion (over 70%). While I would like to give more resources to Veterans Affairs, even in these tough economic times, I am pleased that we are building on the progress made by the Democratic Majority in the last two Congresses. Importantly, this bill also includes provisions to increase spending oversight at the VA—making sure that the VA uses their increase in funding responsibly and appropriately is critically important for our nation's veterans and their families.

The bill protects the health and well being of our veterans by preserving the advance appropriations for medical care already provided for fiscal year 2012 and providing the mandatory funding for disability, rehabilitation, education, and housing benefits. This bill also includes sufficient resources to fully implement VA homeless assistance programs, including the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem, the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development—Department of Veterans Affairs Supported Housing programs.

I commend the Chairman and Ranking Member for their hard work in ensuring that this bill is another significant step in fulfilling the promise our country made to leave no veteran behind.

I urge my colleagues to support final passage of H.R. 2055.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF PARMA COMMUNITY GENERAL HOSPITAL

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Parma Community General Hospital. In June 2011, Parma Community General Hospital will be celebrating 50 years of service. Their mission has been to provide excellent, personalized care incorporating their core values of integrity, community partnership, commitment and stewardship, collaboration and teamwork and individual growth and development.

In August 1961 the hospital was founded. Within a few years it was fully accredited and joined the Cleveland Hospital Council. Parma Community General Hospital is a successful, not-for-profit, community hospital. It is a state-of-the-art facility in a close-to-home, friendly, community setting.

The hospital has grown extensively, adding floors and new Intensive Care and Coronary Care units in the 1970s and several medical office buildings in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1982 the hospital expanded health education programs by opening the Health Education Center. In the 1990s they added the ElderCenter Adult Day Care which was designed as an alternative to nursing homes and a Child Care Center for hospital employees and the public. It has an award-winning Home Health Care program, and an EMS Education Program that has endeavored to meet the region's safety needs for the past 25 years.

In the 1990s, Parma Hospital grew further, adding the Pain Center, expanding the inpatient Acute Rehabilitation Center, modernizing the Small Wonders Maternity Center and adding the Behavioral Center for Older Adults, a geriatric psychiatric unit. Parma Hospital won its first of numerous awards for excellence in orthopedics the year before the 1999 opening of The Heart Center, a cardiovascular intensive care unit that would garner its own array of awards, including the 100 Top Hospitals for Cardiovascular Care more than once and the fastest heart attack care in the region throughout the Code STEMI program.

The past decade brought the addition of outpatient oncology care in a community setting and the opening of Residential Seasons of Life Hospice on Pleasant Valley Lake. Parma Hospital also enlarged its Emergency Department, adding an innovative Doc at the Door program for efficient triage, and built a new Intensive Care Unit. Outpatient radiology services were brought to both Ridge Park Square in Brooklyn and WellPointe Pavilion, offering outpatient services. Other specialized patient care areas include: physical, occupational, speech and respiratory therapies, laboratory and radiology, the Bariatric Center, inpatient and outpatient care and surgery, inpatient care floors including oncology, medical and surgical, inpatient rehabilitation unit, diabetic counseling and sports medicine.

In 2010 Parma Community General Hospital President and CEO Terrence G. Deis was named to the list of top Hospital and Healthcare Industry Leaders to Know. Mr. Deis is proud that the hospital, with nearly 2,000 employees, has flourished as a community partner and credits the hard work and integrity of the employees, management and medical staff with the success of Parma Community General Hospital.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of Parma Community General Hospital's 50th anniversary and in honor of those past and present whose unwavering dedicated service will be the legacy of Parma Community General Hospital.

#### COMMENTS ON H.R. 3, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING ABORTION

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2011*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding Abortion bill. This bill prevents women who have private insurance plans from receiving comprehensive sexual health coverage even in cases when their health is in danger.

It is extremely clear that Republicans are waging a war against women's rights by pushing a radical agenda that will primarily hurt poor and low-income women. An agenda like this only further proves that the Republicans are not interested in jobs and repairing our economy but instead more interested in divisive social issues that will not move this economy forward.

Women and families need affordable and accessible health care more than ever before. This blatant assault on women's health needs to stop. As elected officials, it is our duty to ensure that all rights, including women's rights, are not violated through policies that only further limit access. We have to stand up and fight for the preservation of the rights for all women by defeating this bill.

#### QUICK FACTS FROM ACLU

Who does H.R. 3 penalize? Bearing in mind the rationale underlying the tax code's treatment of medical expenses, as described above, a close examination of the Smith bill's tax provisions reveals that it serves to punish certain segments of the population.

Women: It should go without saying that the effects of the Smith bill will disproportionately fall on women, as women are the ones who are most likely to spend funds on abortion procedures. However, the Smith bill does not punish women exclusively. Many men purchase insurance policies that cover their spouses and dependents, and many use the funds considered in the Smith bill to pay expenses for abortion procedures for their spouses and dependents.

Low and middle-income people: The Smith bill would penalize low- and middle-income taxpayers. As described below, taxpayers who would be entitled to a subsidy for insurance purchased on an exchange would not be eligible for such a subsidy if the insurance plan offered on the exchange included coverage for abortion procedures. Thus, while wealthier taxpayers whose employers provide insurance premium subsidies would likely suffer no penalty to enroll in a plan that includes coverage for abortion procedures, taxpayers who must buy insurance on an exchange would lose a significant subsidy, and in all likelihood be effectively precluded from obtaining insurance with coverage for abortion procedures.

Small businesses: The Affordable Care Act provides for a tax credit for small businesses (businesses with 25 or fewer full-time employees) to encourage the provision of health insurance for their employees. The Smith bill's provisions would deny small businesses this tax credit if they were to offer insurance policies that covered abortion procedures. In all likelihood, this would have the effect of eliminating coverage for abortion for employees of small businesses.

Tax-Exempt Organizations: As described below, tax-exempt organizations are also eligible to receive the small business credit for the provision of health insurance (the credit is taken against employment tax payments). At a time when individuals are scaling back on charitable giving, small charities that would be eligible for the small business tax credit can use all the help they can get. The Smith bill would deny these organizations a crucial tax incentive, without which many of these charities would not likely be able to bear the cost of providing health insurance to their employees. Such a crucial incentive should not be dependent upon whether the organization provides insurance coverage that covers abortion procedures.

H.R. 3 rewrites long-standing tax laws and policies to impose a new penalty on millions of Americans (Section 303): H.R. 3 rewrites long-standing tax laws to penalize a single,

legal, medical procedure: abortion. It would end certain preferential tax treatment for medical expenses and insurance premiums where abortion is involved.

Specifically, under the bill: Individuals eligible for the health coverage tax credit or who receive benefits from the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation would not receive a credit on the premiums paid for insurance that covered abortion; small business employers who make a qualified non-elective contribution to purchase a health insurance plan that includes coverage for abortion would not receive a small business tax credit provided under the health care law; individuals could no longer claim the itemized deduction for unreimbursed medical expenses that exceed 7.5% of their adjusted gross income; individuals who make tax deductible contributions to a health savings account (HSA) would be required to include in income any amounts paid out of an HSA when those proceeds are used for expenses relating to an abortion; any individual who uses funds from a health Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA) for an abortion would now be required to include those funds in their gross income for the taxable year; amounts distributed to an employee from a Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRA) account for purposes of reimbursing the employee for funds spent for abortion would be included in the employee's taxable income;

IN HONOR OF MR. MICHAEL  
CATANZARITE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Michael Catanzarite, a prominent businessman, community leader, and a proud father. Mr. Catanzarite is being honored as a 2011 Father of the Year nominee by the Father's Day Council of Northeastern Ohio and the American Diabetes Association.

Mike Catan is a successful businessman, born and raised in northeast Ohio. His father, Pat Catan, was an entrepreneur who began both the Darice craft products company and a chain of Pat Catan's craft stores. Mike has followed in his father's footsteps and serves as Co-Chief Executive Officer of Darice Inc.

Mr. Catan has also been an active community leader. In 2002, when he found out that Strongsville High School's athletic field had fallen into disrepair, he spearheaded efforts to raise money to build a brand new stadium. Pat Catan Stadium opened only 83 days after ground was broken, and the facility is a boon to the community. Mr. Catan has also been known for his volunteer work; in 2009, he led a team including family and friends in building a new home for a Strongsville family whose two young daughters had been diagnosed with a very rare genetic condition. Mike Catan, along with many other volunteers and donors, worked to create a home that would meet the life-long needs of the two young girls. These are only a few examples of Mr. Catan's commitment to improving the community.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Mr. Michael Catan, whose children nominated him 2011 Father of the Year. His dedication to improving the community for his children and all citizens of northeast Ohio is awe-inspiring. I wish Mike Catan the best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF CITY OF LAS VEGAS COUN-  
CILMAN GARY REESE

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2011*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of the mayor Pro Tem of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, Gary Reese.

Gary Reese was first elected to the Las Vegas City Council representing Ward 3 on June 6, 1995, and is currently serving his fourth term. Councilman Reese was appointed Mayor Pro Tem on November 16, 2000.

Councilman Reese has accomplished many things for the City of Las Vegas. From 1995–2011, Councilman Reese facilitated 19 community and recreational centers, 10 transportation projects, eight fire stations, eight expansion and beautification projects, the Fremont Street Experience, Neon Sign Museum, a water reclamation center, and a police area command station.

As the owner of the Plaza Barber Shop and former chairman of the Las Vegas Planning Commission, Gary Reese is a well-known figure in the Las Vegas community. Prior to establishing the Plaza Barber Shop, which has been in operation since 1963, Councilman Reese worked at the Nevada Test Site.

Councilman Reese currently serves as a vice chairman on the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Committee on Fiscal Affairs. He is also a member of the Las Vegas Centennial Board of Directors and Executive Committee and was recently appointed to the board of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. He has also served on the Southern Nevada Health District Board for more than 13 years.

In addition to his work on the Planning Commission, Councilman Reese has served on the City's Board of Zoning Adjustment, Southern Nevada Enterprise Consortium and the Real Estate and Recommending Committees. His concern for citizen interest is manifested through his past involvement with the City's Citizens Advisory Committee on Downtown Development and the Senior Citizens Advisory Board. Councilman Reese has also served as a member of the City's Liquor/Tavern License Committee and the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to recognize the accomplishments of Councilman Gary Reese.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
JOHN MICHAEL KICK

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Officer John Michael Kick, the first Cleveland police officer to lose his life in the line of duty.

Officer Kick was a lifelong Clevelander of German descent. He joined the Cleveland Police Department upon its formation in 1866.

His colleagues described Officer Kick as a "quiet, faithful, brave and fearless officer."

On the night of May 13th, 1875, Officer Kick accompanied his fellow officers as they investigated a suspicious group who were thought to be behind several robberies that occurred in Cleveland. Officer Kick located the perpetrators and began to follow them, along with some fellow police officers and eventually tracked them down. The officers were outnumbered three to six, yet they continued on with their duties.

Officer Kick and his fellow colleagues confronted the suspects, inquiring about their names and occupations. After a loud shouting match, the group of criminals quickly drew their revolvers and began to open fire. The officers, including Officer Kick, drew their weapons and returned fire. During the crossfire, one round shot by the criminals struck Officer Kick in the chest and wounded him. Doctors attempted to save his life, to no avail. On May 15th, Officer Kick passed away. He left everything he owned to his mother, his wife and his three children.

Officer Kick will be remembered by the Cleveland community and the Nation. His name is inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the sacrifice that Officer John Kick made to ensure that Cleveland would remain a safe city.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2011*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that had I been present on June 13, 2011, for the vote series, I would have voted against the LaTourette and Sherman amendments and voted for the Amash amendment as well as the Veterans' Affairs Title. I was unable to be in Washington for the votes as I was attending the visitation service of a close family friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. STEVE  
CHARLES POPOVICH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Steve Popovich, a man of immense generosity, endless energy and a lifelong passion for music. This passion led him to play a vital role in launching the careers of The Jacksons, Michael Jackson, Santana, Bruce Springsteen, Mac Davis, Paul Simon, Engelbert Humperdinck, Tom Jones, Boston, Ted Nugent, Cheap Trick, Frankie Yankovic and Meat Loaf.

Mr. Popovich, who was born on July 6, 1942 in Nemacolin, Pennsylvania, moved to Cleveland, Ohio as a teenager. While he was considered a music-industry insider, he also continually reached beyond the mainstream to promote the music and musicians he knew