

REPEALING THE JOB-KILLING HEALTH CARE LAW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add one more story to this debate to help illustrate why the Affordable Care Act is so important. One of my constituents recently wrote to tell me that his 19 year old son has a rare liver disease and that his only hope is a transplant. Under the new healthcare reform law, he is now able to keep his son on his insurance plan to age 26. His household would be out of luck without healthcare reform as last year his son's health care costs exceeded \$120,000.

It is stories like these that are the essence of why passing health reform was so important. It provides protections to ensure that someone like my constituent can access health care and not face exorbitant personal costs when an illness strikes.

I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this repeal legislation and hope we can all work together to find ways to move our country forward.

THE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce the High School Athletics Accountability Act. As opportunities for girls and women to participate in sports and athletics have been made increasingly available, women's participation has grown exponentially. Over three million high school girls now participate in organized sports, as opposed to 294,015 in 1971 before Title IX was enacted. Athletic participation has brought with it confidence and camaraderie among young women, giving them memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

Despite our progress, persistent attacks against equality for women's sports require that we continue to protect the rights our nation's young women deserve. Currently high schools are not required to disclose any data on equity in sports, making it difficult for high schools and parents to ensure fairness in their athletics programs. The High School Athletics Accountability Act requires that high schools report basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. The data will help high schools improve opportunities for girls in sports, and thereby help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys. Ultimately better information will encourage greater participation of all students in athletics.

Without information about how athletic opportunities and benefits are being allocated at

the high school level, female students may be deprived of their chance to play sports. For many young women, sports are often their ticket to higher education. A survey conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations indicates that female students receive 1.3 million fewer opportunities to play high school sports than do male students, which translate into many lost opportunities for athletic scholarships. Other studies show that student athletes tend to graduate at higher rates, perform better in school and are less likely to use drugs and alcohol. The New York Times recently highlighted research that found that the "increase in girls' athletic participation caused by Title IX was associated with a 7 percent lower risk of obesity 20 to 25 years later, when women were in their late 30s and early 40s." The study notes that while a 7 percent decline in obesity is modest, "no other public health program can claim similar success." Women athletes also tend to have more confidence, better body image, and higher self-esteem than female non-athletes—critical attributes that help them succeed throughout their lives.

We must give our schools the tools they need to identify inequities in their programs so that current and future generations of women can enjoy the benefits of sports.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to help girls move toward equality in athletics at every level and in every community across the Nation.

CONGRATULATING PAUL KARAFIOL ON RECEIVING THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EX- CELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Paul Karafiol, an educator at Walter Payton College Prep in Chicago, on receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Awardees are selected by a panel of scientists for their prowess in teaching pre-college-level science and mathematics. I am elated that Mr. Karafiol received this distinguished honor for the caliber of his teaching of math. His ability to convey mathematics concepts to students in clear and interesting ways provides a great benefit to Chicago, and the Presidential award is a well-earned recognition of his skill.

Mr. Karafiol is a Chicago native and Chicago Public School graduate. He received his bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Harvard University and his master's degree in Philosophy from the University of Chicago. Mr. Karafiol has always had a love for math. As a youth, he was on the Math Team at the Kenwood Academy. His first summer jobs involved working as a junior staff member in math programs for talented students held at

the University of Chicago, Hampshire College, and ENSAE in Toulouse, France. After teaching at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts for many years, Mr. Karafiol moved back to Chicago in 1997 to teach math at Providence-St. Mel, another wonderful school in Chicago. In 2000, he assisted in opening the math department at Walter Payton College Prep, becoming the Chairman of the math department in 2009. When you talk with Mr. Karafiol, his passion for teaching math is evident. He speaks of his excitement at understanding the connections among concepts and discovering surprises using numbers; it is this love of the subject that he shares with his students by creating environments in which they too can appreciate these learning revelations.

Walter Payton College Prep—the school at which Mr. Karafiol teaches—has an environment of continuous collaboration, reflection, and dedication to excellence. Through the commitment of Mr. Karafiol and the math department staff, Walter Payton College Prep was given the Intel Star Innovator award for the finest math and science program in the country. Over 150 schools competed in the Intel Schools of Distinction competition. Three schools were named as finalists in each of six categories: High School Math and Science; Middle School Math and Science; and Elementary Math and Science. Payton's math program was cited as the High School Mathematics winner; it also received the competition's grand prize—the Star Innovator Award. Mr. Karafiol notes that collaboration between the math and science departments at Walter Payton improve both departments' understandings of what math skills students need to be successful, when students need which skills, and how best to teach, reinforce, or remediate particular math skills. This joint process also helps Payton's math teachers gain new ideas about applications and contexts that they could integrate into their classes to improve mathematics learning. Impressively, over a quarter of the students at Walter Payton take five or more math courses before graduation. In addition to this rigorous set of core classes, many of the students at Walter Payton fill their electives with advanced placement statistics and/or university-level math courses: Over 99 percent of the student population scores as "Meeting or Exceeding" state math standards on the Prairie State Achievement Examination.

We have an obligation to the future of our Nation to assure every segment of our population has the opportunity to pursue careers in science and math. When children have an effective educator in these fields, they experience an excitement and understanding of math and science that increases their self confidence and interest in pursuing careers in science and mathematics. I celebrate with Mr. Karafiol and Walter Payton College Prep on the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Their dedication prepares students in Chicago to take an active role in making America a leader in math and science among the community of nations in the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "TAX
CODE TERMINATION ACT"**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, last night we gathered in this Chamber to hear President Obama deliver his State of the Union Address. I was particularly encouraged to hear the President say, "the best thing we could do on taxes for all Americans is to simplify the individual tax code." The President stated he was prepared to join both parties in simplifying our tax code. I join the President in calling for a simplified tax code, and I rise today to introduce the Tax Code Termination Act. This legislation can be the impetus for overhauling our tax system.

The fact is our current tax system has spiraled out of control. At a time when Americans devote a total of 7 billion hours each year to comply with the tax code, we need tax simplification. Today's tax code is unfair, discourages savings and investment, and is impossibly complex. The Tax Code Termination Act will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform. This bi-partisan legislation is simple. It will abolish the Internal Revenue Code by December 31, 2015, and call on Congress to approve a new Federal tax system by July of the same year.

While almost every Member would acknowledge that our tax code is no longer working in a fair manner for Americans, nothing has been done to create a more equitable tax code. Congress won't act on fundamental tax reform unless it is forced to do so. My bill will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform.

Once this bill becomes law, today's oppressive tax code would survive for only four more years, at which time it would expire and be replaced with a new tax code that will be determined by Congress, the President, and the American people. This legislation will allow us, as a Nation, to collectively decide what the new tax system should look like. Having a date-certain to end the current tax code will force the issue to the top of the national agenda.

Although many questions remain about the best way to reform our tax system, I am certain that if Congress is forced to address the issue we can create a tax code that is simpler, fairer, and better for our economy than the one we are forced to comply with today.

Whichever tax system is adopted, the key ingredients should be: a low rate for all Americans; tax relief for working people; protection of the rights of taxpayers and reduction in tax collection abuses; promotion of savings and investment; and encouragement of economic growth and job creation. Taxes may be unavoidable but they don't have to be unfair and overcomplicated.

Just like other programs that require reauthorization, the tax code must be reviewed to examine whether it is fulfilling its intended purpose and then Congress must make any changes that are necessary.

America's future depends on overcoming the handicap of the current tax code. There is widespread consensus that the current system is broken, and keeping it is not in America's best interest. I urge my colleagues to support

this legislation and end the broken tax system that exists today.

IN HONOR OF SGT. ZAINAH C.
CREAMER**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero who was a respected and dedicated officer in the United States Army. On January 12, 2011, our state and nation lost a great patriot when Sergeant Zainah C. Creamer, aged 28, was killed in the line of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sgt. Creamer died in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near her unit.

Sgt. Creamer was born in Texarkana, Texas, and graduated from Arkansas High School in Texarkana, Ark., in 2000. Although I never had the honor of meeting Sgt. Creamer, it is clear by the outpouring of praise from her friends and family that she was a special person who deeply loved her country and never hesitated to help those in need. I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of all Arkansans to her family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances for this devastating loss.

Sgt. Creamer was assigned to the 212th Military Police Detachment, Headquarters Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Va. She was a soldier for more than six years and was an Army dog handler serving her second deployment with the 2nd Battalion of the 502nd Infantry Regiment.

With her bravery and dedication to duty, Sgt. Creamer exemplified what it meant to be a U.S. soldier; she made this nation and her family proud. My deepest thoughts and prayers go out to all of her family and friends during this very difficult time.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Army Sergeant Zainah C. Creamer and her legacy, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces, and all of those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great country. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT D.
BUNTING**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Robert D. Bunting, who is retiring after 27 years of law enforcement service—21 and a half years of service to the City of Fairfield and five and a half years with the Calistoga Police Department. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Robert started his law enforcement career as a Police Officer with the Calistoga Police

Department. He was then hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on June 12, 1989. As an officer, he worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Firearms Instruction, and Field Training. Robert joined the Special Activity Felony Enforcement, SAFE, Team in 1992 and was promoted to Police Corporal on September 20, 2002.

On February 4, 2005, Robert was promoted to Police Sergeant and ultimately supervised a number of different teams including Violent Crime Suppression, Special Enforcement, and Patrol. Since being promoted to Police Lieutenant on May 9, 2008, he has served as the Commander for the Major Crimes Division, Patrol, and Public Information. Not only was Robert a capable and decisive leader but he also demonstrated resourcefulness, teamwork, and a devotion to duty which led to him receiving a Distinguished Service Medal in 2007. Additionally, he has received numerous commendations from community members, local businesses, and supervisors during his career.

Robert was a valued employee and leader of the Fairfield Police Department. His commitment to the community was unwavering. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired amongst his peers for his hard work, dedication and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Robert D. Bunting continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSI-
NESS DURING TENURE ON BUDG-
ET COMMITTEE**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following letters:

JANUARY 25, 2011.

Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI,
U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER PELOSI, This letter is to advise you that, effective today, I am taking a leave of absence from the Committee on Small Business until my tenure on the Committee on the Budget is completed. It is my understanding from Clause C of Rule 19 of the Democratic Caucus rules (referenced below) that I will continue to accrue seniority during the leave of absence, at the same rate as if I had continued to serve on the Committee on Small Business.

Rule 19, Clause C: "Any Member of the Committee on the Budget shall be entitled to take a leave of absence from service on any committee or subcommittee during the period he or she serves on the Budget Committee and seniority rights of such Member on such committee and on each subcommittee to which such Member was assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if such Member had continued to so serve during the period of the leave of absence."

Accompanying this letter is a letter from the Democratic Leader verifying that my seniority on the Committee on Small Business will continue to accrue during my absence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HEATH SHULER,
Member of Congress.