

and foster Americanization; to promote scholarships; and encourage better education and to perpetuate the achievements of their pioneer forefathers in the Golden State.

As president, Rosemarie served the Clubs' membership and communities of California with exemplary service. Her dedication led to expansion of the Clubs' charitable services and programs, including organizing blood drives, coordinating fundraising efforts for polio and cancer research, and assisting candidates for U.S. citizenship. During Rosemarie's tenure, the Clubs also awarded approximately 157 deserving students of Portuguese descent with \$500 scholarships for higher education.

Prior to her service as state president, Rosemarie served in several capacities to help advance the Clubs' mission, including assuming the role of president of the Club's Fresno County Chapter from 1992 to 1993. Through her chairmanship on program and fundraising committees, Rosemarie was also highly instrumental in fostering awareness of the Club's founding principles including supporting scholarship and education, Americanization, and participation in civic affairs in the local community and across California. In addition to her years of service with the California Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California, Inc., Rosemarie has successfully attended to the needs of her household, her career at Children's Hospital Central California, and her duties as an active member of the Portuguese Lodge SPRSI and Clovis Hills Community Church.

Rosemarie lives by the conviction that "It is up to us to keep our heritage alive so it will not perish." Her leadership and dedication is highly commendable and should serve as an example for all of us to follow. I ask my colleagues to rise with me to honor Rosemarie Duerta Huggins for her many contributions and countless efforts that have kept the Portuguese legacy vibrant in communities across California and our great nation.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RICHARD FIELDS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing legal professional and one of my mentors, Judge Richard Fields.

Judge Fields is being honored on February 10, 2011, by the Center for Heirs Property Preservation with the Commitment to Justice Award. Although I cannot be there in person due to Congressional obligations, I cannot allow this occasion to pass without adding my personal recognition of this remarkable man.

Judge Richard E. Fields has a story not unlike that of many African Americans born in the segregated South. He was born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina to parents who spent their youth working in the fields, unable to earn more than a fourth grade education. Yet that didn't stop them from wanting a better life for their son.

Judge Fields left home in 1940, and went to West Virginia State College, now University, where he earned a BS in Business Administration. In 1944 he entered the Howard University Law School and graduated with a law degree in 1947.

Two years later, Judge Fields returned to his hometown and became the first African American to open a law office in Charleston since the early 1900s and he had the distinction of becoming the first black litigator.

After distinguishing himself over two decades as an outstanding legal advocate, he was elected in 1969 as a Municipal Judge for the City of Charleston. He served in that position until 1975, when he was elected Judge of the Family Court of Charleston County. Five years later, he was elected Judge of the Circuit Courts of South Carolina where he remained until his retirement in 1992.

In retirement, Judge Fields has been very active in the legal community. He was a member of the Committee to Establish the School of Law and now serves on the Advisory Committee to the Charleston School of Law which was established in 2004.

In 1952, Judge Fields joined the Claflin College, now University, Board of Trustees, where he served for more than 50 years. In 1992, the Richard E. Fields and Myrtle E. Fields Scholarship was established at Claflin to provide financial assistance to students of merit.

Throughout his career, Judge Fields has served on numerous boards and committees in both the public and private sectors. In 1980, he along with several businessmen, established the Liberty National Bank, and he served on its Board of Directors for a number of years.

After returning to Charleston to practice law, Judge Fields resumed his membership in historic Centenary Methodist Church. He was elected Treasurer of that congregation in approximately 1950, and held that position for more than 50 years. He has been the Church's delegate to the South Carolina Annual Conference for more than 50 years. In 1970, Judge Fields was elected to the General Board of Finance and Administration, the corporate body of the Church.

He has been honored by the local chapter of "100 Black Men" and by the American Board of Trial Advocates which established "The Richard E. Fields Civility Award" to be given annually to a judge or attorney embodying his high standards of decency, civility, and equanimity. West Virginia State University also honored him in 2009 as the Alumnus of the Year.

In addition to all his public accolades, I must add my personal commendation to Judge Fields. I often recount the story of when I was a young man just out of college intent on changing the world from my place in Charleston, Judge Fields gave me advice that I will never forget. He reminded me of the story of the three little pigs and the wolf that huffed and puffed and couldn't blow their brick house down. Judge Fields equated the obstacles that had been built to keep African Americans out to the brick house. He told me, "You got to get inside. You can't change things from outside no matter how well-meaning you may be." Judge Fields words helped me to define my political philosophy, and that is how I have come to build a career as a public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the transformative work of The Honorable Richard Fields. His life story is an example of overcoming obstacles with integrity and leadership. He continues, through his work with the Center for Heirs Property Preservation, higher education insti-

tutions, his church and his legal profession, to promote opportunity and justice for all. Judge Fields is a South Carolina and a national treasure, who is very deserving of this recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SBIR ENHANCEMENT ACT, THE SBTT ENHANCEMENT ACT, AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce three bills that will strengthen the existing Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Program by increasing the percentage of federal funding that goes to these important programs and increasing the size of the grants, which have significantly declined in real value since they were last authorized. The bills are H.R. 448, the Small Business Innovation Enhancement Act; H.R. 447, the SBIR Enhancement Act; and H.R. 449, the SBTT Enhancement Act.

Small companies, like Cellular Biotechnology, Oceanit, and Archinoetics in Hawaii are a source of great innovative talent. However, too many great ideas never come to fruition because small entrepreneurial firms lack the resources they need to test an idea and bring it to fruition. The Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer, SBTT, Program have proven track records.

The SBIR Program, for instance, has awarded some \$16 billion in awards since 1983. Some 1.45 million people are employed in SBIR firms and these firms have 450,000 employees with graduate degrees in engineering and science—more than all U.S. academic institutions combined.

However, the number of new firms entering into the SBIR program has declined drastically in recent years. Part of the reason is the difficulty in applying for grants and the fact that the grant maximum amount for Phase I of the program was limited to \$100,000. My bill doubles that amount to \$200,000. Phase I funding is used to explore the scientific, technical, and commercial feasibility of an idea or technology.

Phase II funding, previously limited to a maximum of \$750,000, is increased to \$1.5 million in my bill. Phase II awards are given to companies that successfully complete phase I and can be used for R&D work as the developer moves to commercializing their invention.

The Small Business Technology Transfer Program or SBTT is very similar to SBIR, but the grants are specifically designed to fund public/private collaborations between nonprofit research institutions and small businesses that want to develop commercial applications for technologies developed by those institutions. The SBTT program uses the same Phase I and Phase II funding formula as SBIR. Eligible nonprofit research institutions include U.S.-based nonprofit colleges or universities, domestic nonprofit research organizations, and federally funded R&D centers. The University of Hawaii would be an eligible institution for SBTT grants.

Last year, when the House prohibited Members of Congress from seeking earmarks for private companies, I worried about the effect this would have on small high technology companies in Hawaii and throughout the country. I've been so impressed by the innovative scientists and engineers I've met and have proudly sought earmarks in the past to further their work. In the absence of earmarks, I believe that strengthening the SBIR and SBTT programs is our best chance to provide the opportunities these creative entrepreneurs need to create new businesses and products that will provide good jobs, strengthen our economy, and improve our quality of life.

In his State of the Union address last night, President Obama highlighted the importance of encouraging private sector innovation to spur economic growth and exports. Passing my bills to strengthen SBIR and SBTT would be a good first step.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ASSESSMENT ACCURACY AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, as Congress considers the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act this year, we have an obligation to listen closely to the students, parents, and educators that we represent to ensure that our efforts result in responsible and pragmatic improvements. While we have made great strides in the areas of assessment and accountability over the last nine years, this reauthorization provides a critical opportunity to learn from our experiences and fine-tune the law.

One example of a lesson my constituents have learned, and have vigorously shared with me, is that we should be encouraging states to move towards better assessment models. As I have met with educators over the past several years, one of the primary concerns that I have heard is that the state assessment fails to provide information of value to educators and administrators. Even more disturbing, it often takes four to six months before scores are returned to schools, which leaves little or no time for teachers to use the information to address student performance before they advance to the next grade.

However, I believe there is a sensible solution that Congress can adopt to address these concerns and give states more options in assessment design. Today, Rep. DAVID WU and I are introducing the bipartisan Assessment Accuracy and Improvement Act of 2011 to give states the option to use adaptive testing as their statewide assessment measuring reading, math, and science to fulfill No Child Left Behind requirements. I believe that this legislation will give states the ability to truly track the academic growth of every child and provide more accurate information to teachers, parents and school administrators through the use of an adaptive test.

For those who may be unfamiliar with adaptive testing, it is a test that changes in response to previously-asked questions. For example, if a student answers a question correctly, the test presents a question of in-

creased difficulty. If a student answers incorrectly, the test presents a question of decreased difficulty. As you can see, an adaptive test customizes itself to a student's actual level of performance with a great degree of accuracy.

Giving states the flexibility to use an adaptive test and to ask questions outside of grade level will improve the accuracy of student assessment and enable educators to target appropriate instruction for each child based on performance at, above, or below grade level. In addition, using an adaptive test over time will allow accurate measurement of the performance growth of each individual student.

In Wisconsin, hundreds of school districts currently use their own funds to participate in adaptive testing in addition to the state assessment required by NCLB. Educators and administrators appreciate the diagnostic information it yields and the efficiency that it provides. I believe that school districts nationally are already "speaking with their wallets" by spending scarce resources to voluntarily participate in this testing because it provides valuable information that the state assessment does not.

Additionally, 30 states are currently participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, SBAC, one of the two state assessment consortia to receive funding under Race to the Top. SBAC is developing a research-based computer adaptive test aligned to the common core standards. This legislation will ensure that these states will be able to fully utilize the capabilities of this next assessment.

Mr. Speaker, adaptive testing is one of the keys to putting the 'child' back into No Child Left Behind. I hope that our colleagues will join us in this pragmatic and responsible improvement to the law as we work towards a bipartisan reauthorization this year.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 242

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, for the last few years, national forests throughout California have been in the process of implementing the Forest Service's 2005 Travel Management Rule, TMR. As a result, many national forests have proposed to reduce off-highway vehicle, OHV, access by 90 percent or more, in addition to restricting use on so-called maintenance-level 3, ML-3, roads by classifying them as "highways."

Throughout the travel management process, recreational users and local governments provided substantive documentation and comments to address safety issues and other concerns with this flawed policy. Despite the best efforts of these elected officials and pro-access groups, their comments were all but ignored as the Forest Service moved forward with the TMR. For these reasons, and given the significant economic damage this rule will cause to recreational communities throughout California, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 242, to restrict funding to the Forest Service to continue implementing the TMR in the State of California until the agency develops a more balanced and workable OHV policy.

Repeated requests for the Forest Service to change course within its own authority have gone unanswered. This legislation will help ensure that this agency is being held accountable to the public it is required to serve instead of using their tax dollars to restrict access to their Federal lands. I would encourage you to support H.R. 242.

JOB CREATION, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND DEBT REDUCTION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as the 112th Congress goes to work on the policies and actions needed to move America forward, Democrats continue to make job creation, economic recovery and debt reduction the top priorities. Unfortunately, the first actions by the new Republican Majority are not consistent with these priorities.

These goals should be accomplished in a way that is aligned with the needs of working families—what will generate good jobs for working people; what will ease the burden for middle class families; what will create long-term economic growth for everyone. Democrats measure everything Congress does by these goals.

In the 37th district of California, things are improving, but unemployment and foreclosure rates are still well above the national average; this is the time to keep moving forward with policies tailored to help working families. Now is not the time to move backwards to policies that got us into this recession in the first place.

The Republicans have employed a lot of rhetoric about jobs and the economy; however, their first actions in control of the House show no follow through. The initial issues being pursued by the GOP are:

The repeal of Health Care Reform. Republicans knew the repeal would go nowhere in the Senate, but still insisted upon wasting valuable time that could have been spent on job creation.

The Republicans have offered what they call a "Budget Resolution"—but what should be called a "Budgetless Resolution" because it contains no numbers, no specifics and, worst of all, no ideas for job creation or economic recovery.

The Budgetless Resolution is a one-page document that makes the vague goal of reducing federal spending to 2008 levels. This budgetless resolution opens the door to reckless slashes in funding to programs that are critical to our fragile economic recovery.

In California alone, Republicans' blind budget slashing would cut 237 million from Title I funding for poor students. The cuts would leave over 332,000 poor students in California without additional academic support that helps them perform to their full potential in school and, ultimately, achieve their dreams and goals; this does not help us stay competitive in the global marketplace. And this is just one example of Republican cuts in one area in one state. Imagine the damage that Republicans' across the board, reckless cuts will do to our economic recovery.

This is not the smart way to manage the budget. It is worse than arbitrary; it is like