

He is offering his community an expert team of personnel that have completed over 4,000 procedures per year—retaining the recognition of being the fastest growing, advanced, and most diverse pain management practice in New York. With locations in Brooklyn and Queens, Dr. Gladstein's practice serves over 2,500 patients from all five boroughs as well as outside of New York City and all walks of life, ethnicities and religious backgrounds.

Being in practice for over 8 years, Dr. Gladstein has gained the trust and respect of the community by providing the most advanced care in the field. Their patients receive quality care in an accredited state of the art office and ambulatory surgery facility. To this end, the entire skilled staff follow one simple philosophy: pain is an individual struggle and requires a unique and personal approach to manage. This approach allows Dr. Gladstein and his staff to personalize their attention to patients in a unique way.

Over the past years, Dr. Gladstein's achievements have been recognized by his peers and patients alike. He is a recipient of multiple Patient's Choice Awards, Consumer Research Council of America Awards as well as multiple teaching awards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments of Dr. Mark Gladstein.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Jim Gullett, Sr., was born in Camden, Alabama between 1850 and 1852 in slavery, his life has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, the Gullett Family has produced many well respected citizens and their matriarchs and patriarchs of the family are pillars of strength not only for their families, but for our nation as well; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have many members of the Gullett family, including Mrs. Adrienne Clark one of our most beloved citizens in our District who resides in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Gullett family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Gullett family in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim Friday, July 15, 2011 as Gullett Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of July, 2011.

NON-IMMIGRANT NURSES VISA REAUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1933—To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements for admission of nonimmigrant nurses in health professional shortage areas.

A number of hospitals with unique circumstances experience a great difficulty in attracting American nurses. Hospitals serving mostly poor patients have special difficulties. Some hospitals in rural areas do also. For example: St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center is located on the South side of Chicago in the Englewood Community. It is the only remaining hospital in an area with a census in excess of 100,000 and the patient base is almost entirely poverty care or charity care. St. Bernard almost closed its doors in 1992, primarily because of its inability to attract health care professionals, most importantly registered nurses.

H.R. 1933 reauthorizes the program for an additional three years. The number of visas that may be issued in each fiscal year cannot exceed 300. An alien may be admitted for three years and this stay may be extended once for an additional three years (the possibility of an extension is new with H.R. 1933). Furthermore, H.R. 1933 allows an H-1C nurse to be able to switch employment between any of the 14 H-1C-eligible hospitals. This prevents those nurses here through this program to have some flexibility in their employment options in the event they run into any hardship at the hospital where they are employed.

The Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act, signed into law in 1999 created a new H-1C temporary visa program for registered nurses. The program was modeled after the expired H-1A temporary nursing visa program but limited the number of visas that could be issued to 500 a year and only allowed in-need hospitals who met certain criteria to petition for alien nurses. To be able to petition for an alien, an employer had to meet four basic conditions. First, the employer must have been located in a health professional shortage area as designated by the Department of Health and Human Services. Second, the employer must have had at least 190 acute care beds. Third, a certain percentage (35 percent) of the employer's patients must have been Medicare patients. Fourth, a certain percentage (28 percent) of patients must have been Medicaid patients.

Employers had to make certain attestations pertaining to payment of a wage which will not adversely affect wages and working conditions of similarly employed registered nurses; payment of wages to aliens at rates paid to other registered nurses similarly employed by the facility; taking timely and significant steps designed to recruit and retain U.S. nurses in order to reduce dependence on nonimmigrant nurses; absence of a strike/lockout or lay off of nurses; notice to workers of its intent to petition for H-1C nurses; percentages of H-1C nurses to be employed at the facility; and placement of H-1C nurses within the facility.

This is a common sense employment-based immigration program that fills a desperate

need in some of our nation's neediest hospitals. This program is very limited in who is admitted to work in this country, but fulfills a gap in our healthcare system.

The Department of Labor has determined that the following hospitals are eligible for the program, some of which are located in Texas: Beaumont Regional Medical Center, Beaumont, TX; Beverly Hospital, Montebello, CA; Doctors Medical Center, Modesto, CA; Elizabeth General Medical Center, Elizabeth, NJ; Fairview Park Hospital, Dublin, GA; Lutheran Medical Center, St. Louis, MO; McAllen Medical Center, McAllen, TX; Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, MD; Mercy Regional Medical Center, Laredo, TX; Peninsula Hospital Center, Far Rockaway, NY; Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Lumberton, NC; Southwest General Hospital, San Antonio, TX; St. Bernard Hospital, Chicago, IL; and Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen, TX.

The Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999 was enacted as a four-year program (beginning on the effective date of implementing regulations) on November 12, 1999. The program expired in 2005 and was reauthorized in 2006 for an additional three years. The program expired in December of 2009 (but some H-1C nurses remain who received approval for three-year stays before this date). The Department of Labor reports that 499 nurses received visas under the program in fiscal year 2007 as did 110 in fiscal year 2008.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting passage of this landmark legislation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. RONALD BERNSTEIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Ronald Bernstein, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and former Councilman for Valley View, Ohio.

Mr. Bernstein was born in Cleveland, Ohio before his family relocated to Valley View. He graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School in 1954 and served in the United States Army soon after.

After completing his service with the Army, Mr. Bernstein sold Oldsmobiles, Fords, and Chryslers for various auto dealers—which led to the introduction of Joanne Kenley, who he would later marry. He and Joanne raised three sons and have eight grandsons and a granddaughter.

At the age of thirty-three, Mr. Bernstein was elected to Valley View's City Council, where he served for twenty-four years. While serving as a Councilman Mr. Bernstein helped develop the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He also worked hard to reduce polluted runoff from Garfield Heights. Councilman Thomas Perk remembered Mr. Bernstein as "a fighter for the people."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Ronald Bernstein, who as Councilman was instrumental in improving the City of Valley View and always stood on the side of those he represented.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. OLEG
SMURYGIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Oleg Smurygin for his continued contribution to the health care initiatives of his community.

Mr. Smurygin was born to a middle class Jewish family to Yuriy and Bella Smurygin on April 7, 1966, in Kiev, Ukraine. He attended school in Kiev from 1973 until 1983, when he was recruited to into the army for 2 years. Mr. Smurygin served as a Sergeant in the army from 1985 until 1987 under Special Forces by the border of China, Khabarovsk City. Once Mr. Smurygin was discharged in 1987, he attended the University of Kiev, where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in the Arts in 1991.

In 1992, Mr. Smurygin and his family decided to relocate to the United States as refugees. He supported his family working at Victory Memorial Hospital in Brooklyn, New York as a full time regular security guard. With more experience, Mr. Smurygin was promoted to shift supervisor and eventually to Director of Security in 2006. Spending over 10 years at Victory Memorial Hospital, he was awarded Victory Memorial Hospital 10-Year Award of Excellence.

When the Victory Memorial Hospital closed its doors in 2009, Mr. Smurygin headed to the PAIN Institute as a Business Manager.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Oleg Smurygin.

OPPOSITION TO THE HOUSE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND UNDERLYING CUTS TO NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the underlying bill, and specifically the cuts it makes to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These entities provide support, resources and education that inspire, cultivate and foster creativity across the nation. Investing in the arts is an investment in our future, an investment in our cultural heritage as a nation, and an investment in our economy.

In my district of Sacramento, California, there are currently 1,600 arts-related businesses that employ almost 6,000 people. These businesses play an imperative role in sustaining the economic vitality of the Sacramento region.

Similarly, the non-profit arts sector is an important part of our nation's economy and the National Endowment for the Arts is uniquely positioned to fund projects and activities that preserve jobs threatened by the decline in philanthropic support as a result of the financial collapse. The non-profit arts sector generates \$166 billion annually and supports al-

most six million full-time jobs across the country.

The NEA has a 40 year proven history of investment throughout our nation, an investment that stimulates local economies, creates livable communities, and supports tourism. In fact, cultural tourism alone contributes \$192 billion annually to our country's economy.

Just this past spring, the NEA, the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission and I co-hosted a grants workshop in Sacramento providing local organizations, artists, and galleries with the information they need to apply for and win federal grants. Over 100 people attended.

I have seen firsthand the impact of NEA grants in my district. For example, in May, the NEA generously provided \$20,000 to the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra for their educational outreach series.

Similarly, for close to 50 years the NEH has been providing grants and opportunities for lifelong learning. In the last four years alone, the National Endowment for the Humanities has invested \$48.5 million in California institutions to preserve our cultural heritage. Yet the bill before us today cuts each of these already underfunded agencies without any regard to the effect that will have on our nation's students, museums, artists, or culture as a whole.

Both the NEA and the NEH support organizations on the local level and allow them to take their programs to the next level. In fact, for every federal dollar invested in the arts, local agencies are able to leverage seven dollars in private donations. The federal government provides the seed money and the artists, curators, and historians make it grow.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of potential amendments to make additional cuts to these agencies, and I urge my colleagues to oppose those efforts and oppose this legislation.

DICKS AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2854, THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2012 INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Representatives DICKS, THOMPSON, FITZPATRICK, and HANABUSA to H.R. 2584, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. H.R. 2584 contains language that would prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) from enforcing the most important parts of the Endangered Species Act. The FWS would be unable to list any new species as endangered, unable to designate as protected any habitat that is critical to species' survival, and unable to upgrade any species from threatened to endangered status.

This amendment would reverse this dangerous and short-sighted policy. It would allow the FWS to protect any of the over 260 "candidate species," species that the FWS has already determined warrant additional protection, and to upgrade the status of these species to endangered.

This amendment is not only vital for wildlife, but also for us. Many of these species play keystone roles in highly complex ecological systems on which we depend for clean water, clean air, arable soil, and healthy food. Biodiversity is a resource that can be tapped into; the complexities of organisms, only some of which have even been identified, can help us find cures for cancer and other diseases. A recent study by Dr. Felicia Kessing concluded that losses in biodiversity tend to increase the rate at which diseases are transmitted.

Willingly allowing endangered species to go extinct is irresponsible and imposes limitations on our nation's ability to progress. Species loss is forever. I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern regarding the loss of life in Syria. In Hama, the site of massive anti-regime protests, dozens of innocent citizens chanting for freedom and democracy have been ruthlessly murdered by Syrian security forces under orders from the Syrian regime led by President Bashar Assad.

This heartless attack came on the eve before the Islamic Holy Month of Ramadan, which only makes this assault on the Syrian people all the more despicable. Assad has yet again failed to understand that the Syrian people are no longer afraid. Violence will only further convince the Syrian people that Assad is no longer their legitimate president.

Assad has ruled with an iron fist for too long. During this uprising, Assad has made fake reforms designed to give the world a false impression that he is a reformer. Reports of inhumane torture of innocent men, women, and children clearly show that the last thing he is interested in is reform. The Syrian people have spoken: they want the Assad regime to fall. I therefore reiterate my call for Assad to step down, before any more innocents are murdered.

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD KAGAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Howard Kagan for his support and dedication to serving Brooklyn and its youth through public advocacy and educational programs.

Mr. Kagan was born in Brooklyn, NY, and was the fifth of five children. He graduated from Brooklyn College where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree and later received his Master of Science Degree from Brooklyn College. For several years Mr. Kagan taught English and Math at the Middle School level as he has certification in General Education and Special Education. Working in the education field, Mr. Kagan has held the responsibility of being a teacher, educator and special