

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rules package proposed by the new Republican majority in the House.

The very first vote in the 112th Congress reveals the extent of the Republicans' fiscal hypocrisy. The new House rules create a huge loophole that allows Republicans to pass billions in additional tax cuts without finding savings elsewhere in the federal budget. These rules are a major step backward in our effort to solve the federal budget crisis. No Member who votes for this fiscally reckless rules package is serious about deficit reduction.

The public backlash against the new Republican rules started days before today's vote. In a December 29, 2010 editorial titled "Deficit Hypocrisy," the New York Times said the new rules proposed by the incoming majority "will codify the Republican fantasy that tax cuts do not deepen the deficit."

The bi-partisan Committee for a Responsible Budget expressed "serious concerns" about the Republican rules package saying that "because many of these new rules would apply to only the spending side of the budget (replacing rules that applied to both the tax and spending side), this new rules package could actually weaken, rather than strengthen, our ability to deal with the debt."

By exempting the cost of tax cuts and the repeal of the health care reform law from budget restrictions, the Republican majority makes it clear that they embrace—not oppose—deficit spending. H. Res. 5 enables Republicans to return to their discredited economic policies of the past decade that exploded deficits with tax cuts, two wars and a huge new prescription drug entitlement program all financed with borrowed money.

What the Republicans do oppose and promise to cut are the investments that strengthen American communities and support the most vulnerable citizens in our Nation. Under the new rules, the American middle class will be forced to live with less while the wealthy and special interests have it all. In the weeks ahead, Republicans will target America's middle class with unsustainable cuts to education, transportation, public safety, clean energy and advanced research and technology. The Washington Post editorial board said that the rules reflect "about as upside-down a set of priorities as can be imagined."

I reject the skewed priorities expressed in this rule package. I refuse to abandon America's families and communities when they most need the support of their government. And I will continue fighting for the federal investments our communities need to compete in the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOL FOOD RECOVERY ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this legislation is to make clear that schools participating in the school lunch program are legally allowed to donate excess food to local food banks.

In 1996, Congress passed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act, which protects donors who give to food banks in good faith from all liability except in cases of gross negligence or intentional misconduct. This landmark law has allowed businesses and civic organizations to donate critically-needed food to local food banks and food pantries.

Despite this law, many schools and school districts have been hesitant to donate excess food from school lunches, primarily due to a misperception that U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations don't allow for excess food to be donated.

Loudoun County, Virginia, in Congressman FRANK WOLF's district, has expressed these reservations. That is why Congressman WOLF, an original cosponsor of this bill, reached out to work with me to help address this issue. I'm sure there are many other examples in congressional districts across the country.

This is unfortunate as excess food is being thrown away rather than provided to food banks to support those in need. In many cases, students who rely on school lunches also rely on support from local food banks.

The purpose of this bill is straightforward: to keep excess school food out of the garbage and get it into food banks. The bill will clarify that schools and school districts are permitted to donate excess food and that they are covered under the Good Samaritan Act when doing so.

HONORING NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL, THE NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER AND THEIR OUTSTANDING PARTNERSHIP FOR LIFE-SAVING BLOOD DONATIONS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the New York Presbyterian Hospital and the New York Blood Center for their outstanding partnership to increase life-saving blood donations in our nation's greatest city. Thanks to donations from thousands of New Yorkers from all walks of life, this outstanding collaborative effort has helped provide nearly 14,000 blood donations over the past five years, representing an immeasurable contribu-

tion to saving and improving the quality of countless lives. The outstanding leadership of both Dr. Herbert Pardes, the Chief Executive Officer of New York Presbyterian Hospital, and Dr. Christopher Hillyer, the Chief Executive Officer of the New York Blood Center, have helped make this joint initiative so extraordinarily successful.

Under the leadership of Dr. Pardes, New York Presbyterian Hospital has done a spectacular job of encouraging its employees to donate blood. As a result, it is the largest hospital donor group in New York City and the third largest donor group in Manhattan. The hospital has increased the number of donations it generates every year for at least a decade. Each pint donated saves three lives. Last year, it generated more than 3,500 donations through its various blood drives, saving more than 10,000 lives. And for the first five months of this year, donations are up 50% over the same period last year. Blood donated by New York Presbyterian Hospital is distributed by the Blood Center to more than 200 hospitals in the greater New York metropolitan area.

Established in 1964, the New York Blood Center (NYBC) has become one of the nation's largest non-profit, community-based blood centers. For more than forty-five years, it has provided donated blood, transfusion products and services to nearly 200 hospitals in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. In 2009, the NYBC set a personal record after receiving nearly 3,500 blood donations. It is also home to the National Cord Blood Center, the world's largest public cord bank. The Cord Blood Center provides adults and children with life-threatening illnesses with stem cell transplants from unrelated donors.

New York hospitals need a diverse range of blood donations to match the diverse nature of New York's population. With the help of the participation in blood drives of New York Presbyterian Hospital's diverse employee population, the Blood Center is able to ensure that local hospitals have blood available to serve patients with sickle cell anemia and other diseases that disproportionately affect minority communities.

One of New York City's most respected health care institutions, New York Presbyterian Hospital is the product of a partnership that was formed in 1998 between The New York Hospital, founded in 1771, and The Presbyterian Hospital, founded in 1868. As a merged institution, New York Presbyterian Hospital has provided first rate medical care to untold numbers of New Yorkers. With two affiliated medical schools, New York Presbyterian is recognized as one of the greatest academic health centers in the world. With more than 13,000 employees and 2,298 patient beds, the hospital is ranked among America's best by U.S. News and World Report. It has centers of excellence in AIDS care, digestive diseases, gene therapy, preventive medicine, reproductive and fertility medicine, vascular medicine and others. The William Randolph Hearst Burn Center is the largest

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and busiest burn center in the country. New York Presbyterian is also the first hospital to establish special centers and programs for women's health.

The most important reason for the success of New York Presbyterian Hospital's blood drive is the strong support of senior officials at the hospital. From the lowest clerk to Dr. Pardes himself, blood donation is part of the culture at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the New York Blood Center, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Dr. Herbert Pardes and Dr. Christopher Hillyer for their enormous contributions to New York's health care system. Their collaboration has saved innumerable lives. New York Presbyterian Hospital and the New York Blood Center serve as an example of our nation's health care system at its best.

FALL RIVER FIRE CHIEF FORD DOCUMENTS IMPORTANCE OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important things this Congress should be doing in 2011 is to continue the assistance we have provided to local communities, hard hit by a recession that they had no part in bringing about, so that they can maintain the essential public services necessary for the safety of their citizens.

Earlier this week, I received a letter from the Fire Chief of the City of Fall River, Paul Ford, which explains exactly how important this is. I ask that Chief Ford's eloquent, persuasive letter, noting the lifesaving role played by the SAFER grant, be inserted here, and I hope that our colleagues will be instructed by it.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS,
OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF,
Fall River, MA, December 23, 2010.
Congressman BARNEY FRANK,
558 Pleasant Street #309, New Bedford, MA

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FRANK: As you are aware, the Fall River Fire Department has received a SAFER award which has allowed us to rehire laid-off firefighters and hire 46 new firefighters, bringing our compliment up to 2008 levels. This return of staffing levels has allowed us to reopen Engine 6, Engine 9, and Heavy Rescue 1.

The previously laid-off firefighters were assigned to fire companies on September 26, 2010, the start of the SAFER grant performance period. The new firefighters graduated from our training academy on December 17, 2010 and were assigned to individual fire companies on December 19, 2010.

Let me take this opportunity to share with you the following story to illustrate how the SAFER grant has had an immediate impact on protecting property and saving lives as a result of adequate fire staffing:

On the morning of December 21, 2010, a fire was reported in one of the city's congested south-end residential neighborhoods. Upon arrival, Acting District Chief David Levesque was confronted with a six family, brick and wood structure, with fire showing in one first floor apartment. The fire had exited out into the interior stairway and was

traveling upwards toward the second floor. Initial reports indicated that a person was trapped on the third floor.

Taking command of the fire scene, A/DC Levesque initiated a coordinated, combined fire attack and rescue operation. Engine companies were ordered to attack the fire on the first floor and check for extension and protect the second floor. Heavy Rescue 1 was immediately sent to the third floor for rescue operations.

Rescue 1, which had previously been out of service due to reduced staffing, had a crew of three firefighters. This included Acting Lieutenant Matt Camara and Firefighter Mark Medeiros, both of whom were laid-off and returned through the SAFER grant. The third Medeiros, both of whom were laid-off and returned through the SAFER grant. The third member was Probationary Firefighter Glen Edington, also a SAFER awardee, serving his first tour of duty with the Fall River Fire Department.

Upon entering the structure and making their way to the third floor, all three members began a primary search of that floor. PFF Edington, utilizing a thermal imaging camera, located the victim lying on the floor. He and FE Medeiros followed their training, quickly removed the victim from the apartment, and descended down two flights of stairs to awaiting medical rescue crews. At the time of this writing, while in critical condition, the victim is alive.

If this fire had taken place prior to the funding of the SAFER grant, neither they nor any Heavy Rescue crew would have been on scene that morning. The outcome for that victim and her family could have been much different.

Furthermore, the additional staffing afforded to this department allowed us to continue to protect the rest of the city's citizens without calling in emergency overtime firefighters or utilizing the increased mutual aid responses we had come to rely on. This mutual aid, while appreciated, was further reducing the firefighting forces in those communities due to our decreased staffing levels.

This situation is a clear example of why adequate staffing is so vital to the mission of the fire service in general, and specifically to this city and department.

I thank you, on behalf of the citizens of this city and the members of this fire department, for your support with this much needed grant opportunity.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. FORD,
Fire Chief.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE DR. MARY MARANGOS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Dr. Mary Marangos, a longtime activist in the Hellenic American community and dedicated congressional staff member who passed away last month after a valiant struggle with breast cancer. A career educator and public servant, Mary Marangos touched the hearts and bettered the lives of countless individuals from all walks of life.

As the Member of Congress representing Astoria, New York, home to the largest population of persons of Hellenic descent anywhere

in the United States, I have depended on Mary Marangos to serve as my eyes and ears in that thriving, bustling community for the last seventeen years. In addition, Dr. Marangos represented me at an international conference held in Cyprus and Greece in 2002, which was fitting, as she had been active in the Cyprus Liberation Movement since the island's illegal occupation in 1974.

Mary Marangos was a whirlwind of activity in the Hellenic-American community of our Nation's greatest city, leading me to bestow upon her the nickname "the Greek Cannonball." She was active in and helped organize events for countless organizations such as the Panpaphian Association and the Women's Issues Network of the Pancyprrian Association. She worked closely with local organizations such as the Greek-American Homeowners Association, the Cretan Association, and the Federation of Hellenic Societies on important activities such as citizenship and voter registration drives. She proudly accompanied me as we marched each year in the Greek Independence parade on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, and was deeply involved in every aspect of the life of the Hellenic-American community, from being a booster of Greek-American soccer clubs to supporting arts and the humanities to increasing awareness and appreciation of the splendors of Greek civilization, past and present.

Mary Marangos' dedication to public service and helping others started much earlier than her tenure as a congressional staff member. She was an educator, administrator and coordinator at the vocational/alternative high school level in the New York City public school system, serving as a coordinator of the GED program at the Vocational Training Center at LaGuardia Airport. She coordinated the AIDS Prevention Program on the high school level, training teachers on how to teach HIV prevention and holding conferences on the epidemic. Dr. Marangos also fostered staff development initiatives for elementary school teachers and administrators.

A graduate of New York City public schools, Mary Marangos earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the New York State Education Department, a Master's Degree in high school administration and supervision from Fordham University, and a doctorate in International-Intercultural Developmental Education from Florida State University under a full fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education.

Mary Marangos was the loving and devoted daughter of Pantelis Marangos from Kalavassos, Cyprus and Despina Kyriacou from Lesvos, Greece and Cyprus. She was devoted to them and steadfast in her care of both in their later years.

Dr. Marangos has been an important leader of the Hellenic American community. Her assertiveness, intelligence, willingness to help are only a few of the characteristics that make her such a special person. Time and time again she has gone out of her way to help members of our community in need. She truly epitomizes the spirit of the Hellenic American woman—strength of character, activism, intelligence and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my esteemed colleagues join me in paying tribute to the late Dr. Mary Marangos for her extraordinary contributions to the civic life of our Nation.