

THE OVARIAN CANCER
AWARENESS RESOLUTION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this important bipartisan resolution that will help to raise awareness of the warning signs for ovarian cancer. This is an important vote that, put simply, will save lives of women across the country.

While we have made considerable progress in recent years in the war against cancer, thanks to the hard work of biomedical researchers at NIH and elsewhere, ovarian cancer has been a stubborn enemy. It remains the fifth most common cancer among women, and one I myself suffered from 25 years ago. It causes more deaths than any other female reproductive cancer. More than 15,000 of our friends and family are expected to perish from it this year.

Perhaps the saddest thing about these grim numbers is that some of these deaths are readily preventable. We know that women who catch their ovarian cancer at an earlier stage are over three times more likely to survive the disease than those who do not. Sadly, over 60% of the women diagnosed with ovarian cancer between 1999 and 2006 fell into this latter category.

That's why it is so important that we pass this resolution, and continue to help raise awareness about ovarian cancer. Of course, there are other steps we should also take. We need to re-fund Johanna's Law this year, which, despite strong bipartisan support, was zeroed out in the 2011 budget. And we need to continue to support the congressional-directed medical research program for ovarian cancer research at the Department of Defense, which was cut by 20% in the House's 2012 Defense Appropriations Bill.

But today, we can do our part by standing up against ovarian cancer, and passing this resolution. Cancer is indiscriminate. It does not care about your age, your family, your sex, your race, your religion, or your political party. It reminds us that we are all human and vulnerable. And that we must all come together—man and woman, young and old, Democrat and Republican—to fight it on every front.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and to help put an end to deaths from ovarian cancer.

CONCERNS REGARDING "EX-
TRAVAGANT AND WASTEFUL"
SPENDING AT THE DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter that I sent to Attorney General Holder on the report by the Office of Inspector General on the "extravagant and wasteful" spending on conference planning and refreshments.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2011.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: I was deeply concerned to read the Audit of Department of Justice Conference Planning and Food and Beverage Costs, which was released today by the Office of the Inspector General. This report details the Acting Inspector General's finding that DOJ spent more than \$120 million on 1,832 conferences over two years, including "extravagant and wasteful" spending on food and beverages.

In one egregious example that occurred during your tenure as Attorney General, the Department spent \$16 on each of 250 muffins served at an Executive Office for Immigration Review conference. In another case, the audit found that neither the Office of Justice Programs nor the Office on Violence Against Women required event planners to track and report salary and benefit costs on contracts totaling more than half a million dollars.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that funds the Justice Department, I am troubled about the financial mismanagement that has taken place at the Department during the same period in which this country has weathered a severe recession and a tenuous economic recovery. It is clear that while American taxpayers were tightening their belts and making difficult financial decisions, the Department was splurging on wasteful snacks and drinks as well as unnecessary event planning "consultants."

Over the last year, the House Appropriations Committee has had to make difficult choices about deep spending reductions to reflect the austere budget environment. Appropriations for the Department were reduced by 2.8% overall in fiscal year 2011, and are reduced by another 3.4% in the House-reported bill for fiscal year 2012, a total reduction of more than \$1.7 billion over two years.

Clearly there is still more work to be done to address wasteful spending at the Department. I expect you and other Department officials to immediately address the OIG's recommendations, and renew efforts to root out and eliminate wasteful spending practices such as those detailed in this report.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Chairman, House Sub-
committee on Com-
merce, Justice,
Science and Related
Agencies.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RE-
STORING PROTECTION TO VIC-
TIMS OF PERSECUTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, to reintroduce the Restoring Protection to Victims of Persecution Act, a bill that would end the practice of barring asylum claims by those who have been in our country for more than a year.

In 1996, this one-year bar to asylum was enacted as a way to prevent fraudulent claimants from being granted asylum. Sixteen years later, there is no evidence to show that deadlines of this nature are effective in preventing fraud. Rather, the implementation of this law

has resulted in the return of refugees to countries where they face persecution because of their gender, religion, nationality, or political involvement.

Although the law includes exceptions to excuse those who are determined to have valid reasons for applying for asylum after one year, adjudicators routinely deny applicants who meet these exceptions. People who are attempting to care for their children, hide from their abusers, cope with past trauma, and deal with the challenges of surviving in a new country are repeatedly and arbitrarily denied asylum status because of missing the one-year deadline.

Once denied, an applicant has only two other possibilities for safety: to petition for withholding of removal or to seek protection under the Convention Against Torture. Both these forms of relief demand an applicant surmount a much higher standard of proof than asylum and do not allow reunification with family members or provide them permanency.

Everyone in Congress can agree that our immigration system is overwhelmed with a massive backlog of cases and in desperate need of reform. The one-year deadline only adds to this amassment of immigration cases and leads to government waste. More importantly, this law is hurting the very people we ought to be helping. This is a human rights issue that must be addressed as quickly as possible, and I implore my colleagues to support this desperately needed legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF MADISON AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Madison Area Technical College and to honor the education and enrichment this institution brings to the people of Wisconsin.

Madison College was founded in 1912 and quickly gained the reputation of a prestigious technical and community college. The technical school offers associate degrees, professional certificates, and specialized vocational training that reaches far beyond the walls of its main campus in Madison. The ability to receive specific training in 140 pertinent and growing career fields from a technical college is essential to the success of our community, especially in the tough economic times we find ourselves in today.

Madison College's vision is to transform lives, one at a time. This vision holds true from the Madison campuses all the way to each of the regional campuses in Fort Atkinson, Portage, Reedsburg, and Watertown. The skills students gain while attending the institution provide them with the tools to be successful in their future endeavors. The class size of only 20 students allows students and dedicated instructors to form a close bond, enhancing the educational experience.

The mission of the institution is to provide "accessible, high-quality learning experiences that serve the community." Madison College's affordable tuition, financial aid, and scholarship opportunities ensure students from all

backgrounds can receive the education they deserve. Further, the Transfer U program allows students to gain the first two years of general education requirements and continue on for a bachelor's degree at another college or university, including the University of Wisconsin—Madison. This program saves the student an average of \$11,000 in tuition each year. The technical college is also recognized as a state leader in delivering specialized training for future employees and nearly 90 percent of graduates find employment within 6 months of matriculation.

Not only does Madison College deliver a high-quality education to its students, but it also provides a fun and well-rounded college atmosphere. There are many student activities, campus events, and athletics that students can participate in to enrich their experience. Through its educational and community programs, Madison College serves approximately 42,000 people each year.

Madison College has effectively promoted its values of excellence, respect, and integrity over the past 100 years and will undoubtedly continue to do so in the future. I proudly join those across South Central Wisconsin, the entire state of Wisconsin, and this great Nation in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Madison Area Technical College and in thanking the many instructors, administrators, and students that make this institution such an outstanding place.

HONORING THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION STUDIES AT UC DAVIS OF DAVIS, CALI- FORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS) at the University of California, Davis. ITS-Davis is the world's leading university research center on sustainable transportation. Through research, education, outreach, and the use of advanced models and analytical techniques, the Institute develops business and public-policy strategies for a healthy transportation future.

When ITS-Davis was established in 1991, alternative fuels and vehicles were nowhere near commercial reality. California's Zero Emission Vehicle mandate had just been adopted. Hybrid cars were the stuff of dreams.

Founding director Dr. Daniel Sperling, a UC Davis engineering professor, wanted to build an academic institute where several academic worlds—engineering, social science and public policy—would merge; where modelers and lab technicians shared ideas with consumer-behavior and marketing experts; and where academia engaged with industry and government to craft creative real-world solutions to help transport people and goods to make the world a better place.

Today, the Institute is the world's leading university center on sustainable transportation. It has more than 60 affiliated faculty and researchers, 125 graduate students, and \$12 million in annual research funding. ITS-Davis has redefined transportation research with its

unique multidisciplinary approach encompassing transportation technology, fuels, basic science, human behavior and public policy.

At the core of ITS-Davis' success are its strong partnerships with the automobile and energy industries; governments here and abroad; and the environmental community. Together they integrate research with university and public education, for the benefit of all of us.

The Institute has been an innovative and inspirational leader in helping California and the nation envision, develop and implement pioneering public activities that unite transportation stakeholders in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Those include: California's Assembly Bill 1493, which required rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light-duty trucks (2002); the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB32), which set goals to cut emissions statewide to 1990 levels by 2020; the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (2007); the Sustainable Communities Planning Act (SB 375), intended to reduce the vehicle miles an average family travels (2008); the Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle Research Roadmap (2011); and the U.S. Low Carbon Fuel Standard, which is now nearing completion.

Throughout, the Institute has been an essential partner to our federal agencies, working on cleaner systems, fuels and vehicles with scientists and policy planners at the U.S. Departments of Transportation, Energy and Agriculture, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

We also benefit from the Institute's work as forum leader and collaboration builder. Earlier this month, ITS-Davis hosted the 13th biennial Asilomar Conference for the U.S. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. This is the highest-caliber international conference dedicated to transportation-sector energy issues. The Asilomar meeting exemplifies how the Institute's inclusive approach creates the basis for constructive long-term dialogue.

Our country's transportation future shows great promise, in part because of what ITS-Davis has accomplished over the past 20 years. After 100 years of reliance on the internal combustion engine, today we see hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles everywhere, with plug-in electric vehicles coming up fast. On the horizon are vehicles powered by biofuels, electric batteries and hydrogen; intelligently planned cities where walking replaces driving; and transit networks that let us travel between communities quickly and cleanly.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time for us to congratulate and thank the faculty, students, staff and supporters of the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis, who have done so much to ensure that our transportation options are sustainable and secure. We wish them continued success in their second 20 years.

RECOGNITION OF DR. CYNTHIA D. STARR

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to recognize Dr. Cynthia D. Starr and

her contributions to the medical field and the New Jersey community. On October 29, 2011, Dr. Starr will be honored by Warren Hospital at their 30th annual Foundation Gala for her forty years of dedicated service to her community in the field of hematology and oncology.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Dr. Starr graduated from the Chicago School of Medicine prior to an internship, residency, and fellowship at Montefiore Hospital in Bronx, New York where she mastered internal medicine, hematology, and oncology. Dr. Starr then continued her career in private practice and as an active member on the Warren Hospital staff in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, where she has specialized in hematology and oncology for the past four decades. Additionally, Dr. Starr is a consulting staff member to Easton Hospital in Easton, Pennsylvania and a founding member of the Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice.

During her time at Warren Hospital, Dr. Starr has served as Chairperson of the Warren Hospital Tumor Board and Chairperson of the Warren Hospital Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. She continues to serve as Chairperson of the Warren Hospital Cancer Committee and as a member of the Warren Hospital Transfusion Committee. Her recognition on October 29th will be the latest of several honors Dr. Starr has been bestowed throughout her career. She has been elected President of Warren Hospital Medical Staff, elected by colleagues and patients as Warren County Home Care Physician of the Year, and she is a recipient of the First Clinical Instructor of the Year Award for the Warren Hospital Residency Program. In 2001, Warren Hospital opened its new Cynthia D. Starr Breast Care Center in honor of her service to the hospital's field of oncology.

It is with the highest esteem that I congratulate Dr. Cynthia Starr on her upcoming honor, as well as her accomplished career. Dr. Starr is a prime example of how one individual's dedication and service can positively impact an entire community.

CONCERNS REGARDING THE COL- LAPSE OF FEDERAL PRISON IN- DUSTRIES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter that I sent to Attorney General Holder on the closure of additional Federal Prison Industries factories and warn of the gradual collapse of this important work program for prison inmates. I urge the attorney general to take immediate action to bolster the program.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2011.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General, Department of Justice, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: As you know, on September 13, 2011, the Federal Bureau of Prisons announced the closure of UNICOR operations at eleven institutions and the reduction of personnel at two other institutions. These actions are expected to result in the elimination of 74 staff positions and 325 inmate jobs. Unfortunately, this is a result of the UNICOR Board of Directors'