

Under current law, members of the military who are convicted of offenses under the military justice system do not have the legal right to appeal their cases to the U.S. Supreme Court.

It is unjust to deny the members of our Armed Forces access to our system of justice as they fight for our freedom around the world.

They deserve better.

As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, a long-time advocate for servicemembers, and a representative of San Diego, one of the largest military communities in the nation, I feel an obligation to fight to ensure that the members of our military are treated fairly.

Current law weights the playing field in favor of the government, granting the automatic right to Supreme Court review to the Department of Defense whenever a servicemember wins his or her case, but denying servicemembers that same right when the government wins a conviction against them in almost all situations. This is just unfair.

I believe strongly that it is fundamentally unjust to deny those who serve on behalf of our country in the military one of the basic rights afforded to all other Americans.

I hope that you will stand with me in support of this legislation to attain equal treatment for those who fight for us.

IN HONOR OF 2011 USO GALA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 2011 United Service Organizations (USO) Gala, as it honors the Spirit of the USO Award Recipient, Spirit of Hope Award Recipient, heroes from the U.S. Armed Forces, and the volunteers who support them around the world.

The United Service Organizations, in its 70th year of existence, is a non-profit organization which endeavors to offer comfort and hope to the United States armed forces, both at home and abroad. With more than 150 centers worldwide, the USO offers support to millions of Americans.

When it began during World War II, the USO provided support to the troops in a number of different ways, most famously through the entertainment of the troops while away from home. Though initially dissolved in 1947, it was revived during the Korean War and has been an active organization ever since. "Bringing a touch of home to our troops," the USO continues to do good, boosting the morale of our troops at home and abroad, thanks to donations and volunteers.

The legacy of the USO is continuous and expansive. For current service members at home and abroad, veterans and for the families of the fallen, the USO provides millions of men and women with care. Its various programs provide a wide range of services for service members, including games, care packages, the "mobile USO," free phone cards and a program which enables those stationed abroad to record a DVD of themselves for their family members. In addition to all of this, the USO continues its celebrity tours, providing entertainment to the troops.

The 2011 USO Gala, "70 Years Young," will feature entertainers from USO celebrity entertainment tours, and recognize a special volunteer and honorees from each branch of the armed force. This year's Service Member's of the Year include Corporal David J. Bixler of the U.S. Army; Sergeant Lucas J. Chaffins of the U.S. Marine Corps, Senior Airman James A. Barynard of the U.S. Airforce, Aviation Survival Technician Christopher R. Austin of the U.S. Coast Guard, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Chad R. Regelin of the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the USO does for the men and women who risk so much for us.

H.R. 2250 AND H.R. 2681

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, the American people can breathe easier—well, perhaps that's the wrong choice of words—the American people should be thankful to the leadership of the House for pursuing the pollution agenda they have clamored for these many months.

After legislative successes that have included begrudgingly passing Continuing Resolutions to fund government operations, the House turned this week to the top national priority of relaxing pollution controls for cement kilns and hamstringing the EPA's ability to crack down on harmful emissions from industrial boilers.

I wonder why it has taken so long to get these critical bills to the floor. In my district on Long Island, I'm often mobbed by constituents demanding more mercury in our air. And clearly economists agree it's the silver bullet we need to jumpstart the economic recovery.

Perhaps the majority believes that clean air is choking our recovery and the economy is drowning in drinkable water.

But, in all seriousness, we are pursuing this pollution agenda while failing to deal with the real issues stifling job growth, things like a shortage of credit for small businesses, unfair currency manipulation by China and stagnant consumer demand.

So, Mr. Speaker, how about instead of passing a bill to make it easier for cement kilns to pollute, let's do something real, like put construction workers to work using cement to rebuild our nation's infrastructure.

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENYAN CONSTITUTION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, last August we witnessed a flowering of freedom in Eastern Africa. On August 5, 2010, Kenya endorsed a brand new constitution, which guaranteed all Kenyan citizens the rights to security, housing, food, life, freedom from discrimination and the freedom of expression, among others. I rise

today to recognize the recent anniversary of this constitution's adoption, and to congratulate the Republic of Kenya on this remarkable step forward.

Despite being home to the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize—Wangari Maathai, who sadly passed away last month—Kenya had long treated women as second-class citizens. In the past, female candidates for office in that country have had to carry knives and wear extra garments to fend off the possibility of politically-motivated rape.

But the new constitution has dramatically altered the status of women in Kenya. Among the over 40 new reforms is a non-discrimination clause outlawing bias on the basis of sex, pregnancy or marital status. Additionally, women can own and inherit land, and matrimonial property is protected during and after the termination of marriage. Customary law (a traditional practice that has come to be accepted as law), which is inconsistent with the constitution, is now void.

This document does much to protect the rights of women within Kenya. But as anyone who lives in a democracy knows, such constitutional mechanisms must be followed by meaningful actions and constant vigilance to actually become reality.

The nation of Kenya is facing many trials at the moment. The crisis in the Horn of Africa is killing, starving or displacing over 13 million people. Drought conditions have persisted in the region. Food insecurity is affecting 3.75 million people, excluding refugees, in Kenya, and 4.3 million men, women, and children there desperately require humanitarian assistance. At its peak, Kenya and Ethiopia saw nearly 1,000 people a day arrive at refugee camps to escape the famine in Somalia. Sexual violence against women in these already overcrowded refugee camps is on the rise.

There are no easy solutions to this crisis, and we in the United States must step up and do our part to help alleviate this suffering as well. Nonetheless, in face of these adversities, it is heartening to see Kenya's men and women move forward together, as equals and as partners. By empowering Kenyan women and rejecting gender-based discrimination, the new Kenyan constitution has paved the way for a brighter future for the Kenyan people.

IN HONOR OF HIS BEATITUDE PATRIARCH BECHARA PETER RAI, PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH FOR THE MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of His Beatitude Patriarch Bechara Peter Rai, Patriarch of Antioch for the Maronite Catholic Church, and welcome him to the City of Cleveland on October 11th, 2011.

With more than three million members worldwide, the Maronite Catholic Church is among the largest Eastern-rite sects of the Roman Catholic Church and is especially prominent in Lebanon. The parish of Cleveland's St. Maron Church will be hosting Patriarch Rai as he visits Cleveland next week. St.

Maron Parish is the largest Maronite Catholic community in the Mid-West.

Patriarch Rai was born on February 25, 1940 in Himlaya, Matn District, Lebanon. On July 31, 1962 he entered the Mariamite Maronite Order. Five years later, on September 3, 1967, Patriarch Rai was ordained a priest and almost immediately began working on Arabic transmissions of Vatican Radio. In 1975, he earned a PhD in canon and civil law.

On July 12, 1986, Patriarch Rai was consecrated as auxiliary bishop of Antioch and on June 9, 1990 he was appointed bishop of Byblos. He was elected Secretary of the Maronite Synod in 2003. He was the recipient of the National Order of the Cedar award in 2007. In 2009, he was appointed President of the Lebanese Episcopal Commission for the Media. On March 25, 2011 Patriarch Rai was elected Patriarch of the Maronite Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in welcoming His Beatitude Patriarch Bechara Peter Rai, Patriarch of Antioch for the Maronite Catholic Church to City of Cleveland.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2681 AND
H.R. 2250

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, every week the Majority makes a new attempt to roll back environmental rules that protect the health of our citizens and the health of our environment in favor of big polluters. This week the Majority has brought to the floor two bills that according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would collectively mean 32,500 more premature deaths, 19,500 additional heart attacks, and 208,000 asthma attacks that otherwise would have been avoided. This is unacceptable.

Instead of working on legislation to increase employment and create new jobs or legislation that would support critical infrastructure needs of public schools and roads, the Majority is bringing to the Floor two pieces of legislation that would delay the implementation of long overdue air pollution standards. Even though such standards are required by the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, these bills would put off the cleanup of mercury and other toxic pollutants from cement kilns, incinerators, and industrial boilers, as well as make permanent changes to the Clean Air Act that weaken health and science-based standards. The facilities targeted by this legislation are some of the largest sources of U.S. mercury pollution, a powerful neurotoxin known to be dangerous to pregnant women and to impair children's ability to think and learn.

The EPA rules are scientific and data driven. These bills would defy science in favor of the regulatory option that is most beneficial to industry, even if another option is feasible, cost-effective, and offers better public health protections. For example, H.R. 2250 would nullify rules that require industrial boilers and incinerators to reduce their emissions, and yet, estimates for the emission reductions required by the rules would yield \$10 to \$24 in health benefits for every dollar spent to meet the standards. The savings from lower health care

costs and higher worker productivity mean tens of billions of dollars more in net benefits and will result in lower rates of illness and death.

At the start of the 112th Congress, the Majority put in place rules requiring that all legislation be offset by new authorizations but that rule is disregarded in these bills. In other words, these bills are not paid for. H.R. 2250 and H.R. 2681 would nullify existing EPA rules and require EPA to start the rulemaking process over again—a process the Congressional Budget Office estimates would result in \$1 million in discretionary spending by EPA.

I oppose these bills that would increase toxic air pollution, cost lives, drive up health care costs, and fundamentally weaken future standards under the Clean Air Act. We must protect our communities from toxic polluters.

Had I been present October 5, 2011, I would have voted "aye" on Amendments #1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21, to H.R. 2681.

H.R. 2250 AND 2681

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in 1990, the Clean Air Act Amendments required EPA to complete and issue regulations on hazardous air pollutants by 2000. This week, we considered two bills that would delay two regulations for at least another six years—with no deadline for EPA to complete these regulations and giving industry no deadline to comply. Enacting these bills combines continued air pollution with true regulatory uncertainty.

H.R. 2250 and H.R. 2681 targeted regulations that would reduce emissions from two of the dirtiest industries in the country—cement kilns and industrial boilers—when most other industries already adhere to similar Clean Air Act regulations. Together, the two regulations eliminated by these bills would save 9,100 American lives every year and yield \$17 to \$43 in health care savings for every dollar spent reducing emissions under the new standards. Both bills require EPA to throw out work it has already completed and start over. Both bills add to the deficit and fail to comply with the Republican cut-go policy. Both bills gut EPA's authority to require the most protective standard (MACT—Maximum Achievable Control Technology) and replace it with a requirement to select the least burdensome standard, specifically including "work practice" standards, which are merely a requirement to keep equipment in working order. Both bills sacrifice public health to private industry profit.

I strongly oppose both H.R. 2250 and H.R. 2681. Unfortunately, I was unable to be in Washington on October 6, 2011 to vote against them. Had I been able, I would have voted against both H.R. 2250 and H.R. 2681.

HONORING CROWLEY COUNTY
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Centennial Celebration of Crowley County, Colorado.

When the State of Colorado was accepted into the United States in 1876, this portion of Southeast Colorado became known as Otero County.

In August of 1911, Crowley County became officially incorporated in the State of Colorado. It took its name from Joseph H. Crowley, a Senator in the Colorado State Legislature.

Crowley County began to flourish with a rich agricultural economy. The plentiful land attracted many to settle in Crowley.

Numerous farmers and ranchers came to Crowley because of ample grasslands for grazing livestock as well as soil able to produce wheat, corn, alfalfa, and sugar beets to name a few.

Many successful ranchers and farmers continue their steadfast love of the land and provide a vital base of revenues and jobs for the Crowley Community. Since 1911, the economic base has added new jobs and industries.

The people of Crowley County continue to be resourceful and seek new ways to drive their economy and the county continues to move forward.

Crowley County continues to hold onto the values that were here 100 years ago. These values, a sense of community, pride, and hard work are still evident today.

It is with this sense of community and pride that I am honored to recognize Crowley County's historic 100 year anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF PULASKI DAY
2011

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Polonia Foundation of Ohio and the Department of Ohio Polish Legion of American Veterans as they unite the community in remembrance and celebration of General Casimir Pulaski, for his legacy and dedication to the people of Poland and United States of America.

Born on March 4, 1747 in Warzka, Poland, General Pulaski achieved great military success in Poland with his focused leadership and strategies in fighting the Russian forces in Poland. By 1777, General Pulaski had become one of the most renowned cavalymen in Europe and was actively recruited by Benjamin Franklin to assist in the American quest for liberation.

Sympathetic to the American cause, General Pulaski sailed to America and was made head of the newly formed American cavalry during the Revolutionary War. General Pulaski had a deep level of commitment to the American cause and spent his own money to feed and equip his troops. General Pulaski was involved in many significant battles during the