

Perhaps most troubling about KORUS—FTA is the unintended economic boost it will give to China, currently South Korea's largest trading partner. Rules of origin provisions in the agreement are set far too low so that only 35 percent, less than half, of a product has to come from either South Korea or the United States.

Because such a small portion of a product must come from South Korea in order for it to ensure duty-free access to the United States, the majority of supplies can come from neighboring countries in Southeast Asia, such as China, or even other foreign trading partners, such as the European Union with which South Korea recently entered into a free trade agreement. The United States currently has a \$273 billion trade deficit with China, and we should not be in the business of helping China increase their exports with special access to our market.

Proponents argue that new, stronger customs provisions in the agreement prevent the transshipment of goods from China or other countries through South Korea. However, the fact of the matter is that these provisions are modeled off NAFTA, which stands as an example of failed free trade. U.S. Customs data shows that fraud has increased as a result of NAFTA, and there has been a decreased ability to intercept or deter illegal activity. These same failed policies should not be replicated in a new agreement.

We need to look no further than our previous free trade agreements to see the effects of these deals. In the 17 years since NAFTA, our trade balance with Mexico has gone from a \$1.4 billion surplus in 1994 to a \$97.2 billion deficit in 2010. South Korea is currently the seventh-largest trading partner of the United States, and the United States is South Korea's third-largest trading partner. Therefore, any agreement is sure to have significant effects on the U.S. economy and trade balance.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this agreement includes too many loopholes, carries too many unintended benefits for foreign competitors, and will result in U.S. job loss.

HONORING STATE
REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA MAJOR

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Honorable Sandra Major, on the occasion of her induction as a distinguished alumna of Mountain View High School.

Representative Major graduated from Mountain View High School in 1972. She has been a resonant voice for Susquehanna County, beginning with her service as Direct Assistant to the late Representative Carmel Sirianni, to her current position as State Representative for Pennsylvania's 111th legislative district. Representative Major was elected to the Pennsylvania State Legislature in 1995 and has served as Majority Caucus Chairman since 2007.

Representative Major has been a leading advocate for rural and agricultural communities. She is a member of the President's Advisory Council for Keystone College, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, and the National Rifle

Association. Furthermore, she has been recognized for her service with numerous awards, including the Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen Award, the American Legion Generals Medal of Excellence, and the Pennsylvania Landowner Association's Representative of the Year. Representative Major and her husband, Anthony Cerasaro, currently reside near Montrose, PA.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, the Honorable Sandra Major, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising her commitment to public service.

HONORING THE USS "CRUISER"
OLYMPIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since 1922, an American icon of the late 19th and early 20th Century, the USS *Cruiser Olympia*, rests majestically at Penn's Landing, in our District, along the Philadelphia waterfront of the Delaware River. The *Cruiser Olympia* is a National Historic Landmark, a National Historic Engineering Landmark, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is best known in history as the Flagship of Commodore George Dewey in his 1899 victory at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War, as well as being sent by the President to France in 1921 to return the remains of a World War I U.S. soldier for internment in the "new" Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. This first unknown soldier was laid in State in the Capitol Rotunda before beginning the final journey across the Memorial Bridge to Arlington Cemetery on November 10–11, 1921. It is one of the only warships of that era still afloat in the world! The *Cruiser Olympia* stood for the principles that make America the great Nation that it is, and is the sole survivor of a time in American history when these principles helped to define a Nation to the entire world.

Unfortunately, unless the American public and the U.S. Congress takes notice to preserve this national treasure for future generations, I am afraid our Nation might lose this great ship to old age and neglect. Unless it is placed in dry dock in Philadelphia, and its hull stabilized, we could lose this historic vessel. The *Cruiser* suffers from a combination of threats. It has not been placed in dry dock for maintenance in over sixty years. There are 62 openings along the hull near or at the waterline that permit water to enter the vessel, the steel is rusting, and the original wood has been slowly rotting and deteriorating, causing leaks into the interior. The land underneath the *Cruiser Olympia* also requires dredging as years of silt have built up underneath her, not allowing her to float free from her moorings. We simply cannot permit the *Cruiser Olympia* to disappear.

The legislation I am introducing today will be one of many efforts to restore and preserve the *Cruiser Olympia*. The bill permits the U.S. Mint, at no cost to the taxpayer, to design and offer for sale to the public a commemorative coin honoring the *Cruiser Olympia*, and that the sales of these coins will be utilized by the Friends of the *Cruiser Olympia* for dry-docking

and preserving the *Cruiser Olympia* as a ship museum. As a tax-exempt organization whose mission is to restore the *Cruiser Olympia*, I cannot think of any more worthwhile project to support. I understand that after its successful voyage to Manila Harbor, the U.S. Congress in 1899 struck a medal to present to each of the sailors and officers aboard the *Cruiser Olympia* to commemorate their victory in this engagement. This would be the first time in 112 years that the Congress would once again honor the *Cruiser Olympia*.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the bill and support its passage in the Congress so that we can begin the process to restore this great historic *Cruiser* so that present and future generations of Americans and visitors to our nation can view the *Cruiser Olympia*, walk its decks and envision a time years ago when it ruled the waves.

HONORING DR. JAMES EDWARD
BOWMAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. James Edward Bowman who passed away on September 28, 2011 at the age of 88. An American physician and specialist in pathology, genetics, and hematology, Dr. Bowman made invaluable contributions to the world of medical research.

Dr. Bowman was born on February 5, 1923, in Washington, DC After earning both his undergraduate and medical degrees from Howard University, he completed his residency in pathology at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Bowman served in the U.S. Army, serving as chief of pathology for the Medical Nutrition Laboratory at Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Denver.

Dr. Bowman has many "firsts" to his credit; he was the first African-American resident to train at Chicago's St. Luke's hospital, as well as the first tenured African-American professor in the University of Chicago's Biological Sciences Division. He was also one of the first to study the relationship between genetics and minority health which led to significant findings regarding sickle cell disease and other inherited diseases.

Later in his career, Dr. Bowman focused on the legal and ethical issues surrounding human genetics and mandatory screening tests. In 1972, he garnered national attention when he declared that the passage of mandatory sickle cell screening laws was "more harmful than beneficial."

Serving as a mentor and role model to many, Dr. Bowman was highly respected and beloved among his colleagues and students alike. At the time of his passing, Dr. Bowman served as professor emeritus in the departments of pathology and medicine at the University of Chicago. Dr. Bowman is survived by his wife Barbara Bowman and his daughter, Valerie Bowman Jarrett, a senior advisor to President Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. James Edward Bowman. I greatly appreciate the dedication and innovative contributions he made to medical research. He will truly be missed.

UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE
PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLE-
MENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

After having waited for four years since this agreement was first signed, the time has finally come for Congress to vote to approve it.

This agreement is good for Colombia but is even better for the United States.

According to the International Trade Commission, the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will expand exports of U.S. goods by more than \$1 billion dollars every year, which will allow businesses to create thousands of new jobs for those Americans who are struggling to find one.

In South Florida, Colombia is already our second largest trading partner.

Our two largest economic engines are the Port of Miami and Miami International Airport, both of which will benefit tremendously from the increase in trade with Colombia.

In 2010, Colombia was the 10th largest trading partner with the Port of Miami, with bilateral trade worth \$6.8 billion.

And 96 percent of the flowers that are sent to the U.S. from Colombia come through Miami International Airport, which helps support tens of thousands of jobs related to the airport and several aviation industries.

These figures will grow rapidly once this agreement has been approved.

But there is more at stake here than increased trade.

Colombia has been a strong democracy and a steadfast ally in a region where U.S. interests are under assault.

We have jointly battled narco-terrorists, leftist guerrillas, and the aggressive actions of Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez.

This agreement will strengthen that vital partnership between our two nations and demonstrate to our friends and enemies alike that the U.S. intends to remain a strong presence in the region.

Madam Speaker, it is time to put American interests first instead of the partisan political considerations that have delayed this agreement for four years.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote yes on the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement and allow our businesses to finally begin creating the jobs that so many Americans are searching for.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, ratification of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement—or KORUS—is economically im-

portant, for the nation and for my home state of Virginia. According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, U.S. exports to South Korea would increase by more than \$10 billion. Increased U.S. exports mean more U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Korea is the 14th largest export market for Virginia goods, and the trade agreement would strengthen that relationship. Upon implementation of KORUS, Virginia exporters would have a \$4 million cost advantage over similar global competitors without a Korean agreement. Eight out of Virginia's ten top exports would enter Korea duty free immediately.

The U.S. tech industry, which has a significant presence in Northern Virginia, also stands to gain from KORUS. According to industry groups, exports from the U.S. to South Korea could increase by up to 49 percent. Korean businesses have a strong presence in Virginia and we must ensure that businesses in Virginia and throughout the nation have equal access. I urge my colleagues to support the Korean Free Trade Agreement.

PANAMA AND COLOMBIA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to provide qualified support of the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and to express my opposition to the U.S.-Colombia and U.S.-South Korea Trade Agreements.

The original Panama and Colombia FTAs, negotiated by the Bush Administration, were fatally flawed. The Democratic congressional leadership negotiated substantial improvements to the accords, among them ensuring that generic medicines could be made available in these countries at the same time as the United States. There is no reason that intellectual property rules in free trade agreements should force our trading partners in the developing world to wait longer than the United States to have access to affordable medicines, and I strongly believe that we need to make more progress on this issue in future agreements. I am deeply concerned that the proposal USTR has made for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) may result in generic medicines becoming available in TPP developing countries later than in the United States. Denying poor countries access to generic competition can mean the difference between life and death. I am prepared to support the Panama FTA, consistent with my previous support of the Peru FTA, because the issue of access to medicines is positively addressed; and I will continue to argue that, at the minimum, the precedent in the Peru and Panama treaties be followed.

Unfortunately, I regret I am unable to support the Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Colombia is a great friend of the United States. We are strong economic partners and have strong cultural ties. And Colombia has been an important ally at the UN Security Council, opposing the unilateral bid for statehood for Palestine. But this trade agreement contains a fatal flaw at the heart of what trade must be about: raising the quality of life for the people living and working here in the United States

and in the countries we trade with. Jobs, job security, and labor rights are fundamental to a successful trade relationship. Regrettably, Colombia has had a long and painful struggle with labor abuses and violence and retribution against labor rights activists. Although Colombia has taken significant steps to reform labor and workplace protections by carrying out the Action Plan on Workers Rights that was negotiated with the help of the Obama Administration, the plan is not yet fully implemented and significant benchmarks for labor reform are still outstanding. Moreover, the Republican leadership has refused to allow the Action Plan to be referenced in the FTA implementing legislation we are voting on today. If the Action Plan had been incorporated directly into this legislation, I would have been inclined to vote for the Colombia FTA today. But this inherent deficiency prevents me from supporting this measure for a country I respect and value as a strategic ally.

Finally, I regret that I am unable to support the U.S.-South Korea Trade Agreement. I am pleased that the agreement makes transformative progress in copyright protection by strengthening enforcement against counterfeiters and extending intellectual property protection to the digital and online domain. But the agreement includes a harmful provision exempting American vehicles from South Korea's progressive greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards. I have consistently believed in the principle that trade agreements negotiated by the United States should not compromise environmental standards in the US or abroad, and I believe the provisions in this FTA, by weakening South Korea's overall environmental benchmarks, sets a dangerous precedent for future FTAs. The global market for automobiles increasingly demands more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly vehicles. We should strengthen the competitiveness of our auto industry by raising our own standards, not by weakening those of others.

I am disappointed that further progress on these core issues could not be made as the Colombia and Korea trade agreements were finalized. I remain committed to strong economic ties between the United States and these vital markets in Latin America and Asia.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITY TO
WORK ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2433, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011.

I commend Chairman MILLER for introducing legislation to allow veterans to receive retraining assistance. However, with unemployment of veterans at an all time high, and those coming back from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan not having jobs, I don't understand the reasoning of limiting the age of eligibility to those between 35 and 60.

I also don't understand the funding mechanism for the program. In this time of budget tightening, and a refusal to discuss tax increases for any issue, this bill taxes veterans with higher interest rates to pay for more government programs. This legislation doubles