

the fight for justice. The Unit played a prominent role in the "Overground Railroad" demonstrations over voter registration concerns, started a Saturday program to help students develop study habits, and held legal redress forums, community health fairs and civic engagement activities.

# OPPOSING THE REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

**HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2011*

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, America is the strongest Nation in the world, we hold our freedoms sacred—and we have fought to protect these freedoms for centuries, and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Yet, there is a great and impending threat to that strength and freedom, a threat that imperils millions of Americans—the repeal of our Nation's Health Care Reform.

As a new member of this Congress, protecting Health Care Reform is the first line in the sand. I was sent to Washington to fight for Rhode Islanders. As I have heard loudly over the past year, and witnessed first-hand as a Mayor for the last 8 years, families in my state have spent enough time awake at night worrying about where they'll find work, or the security of their current job. I will not support any action that places an additional burden on the people of Rhode Island. I will not have them lie awake at night, now having to once again worry that they will lose their health care when they need it most, or wondering how they'll pay for this month's prescriptions, or whether their child will be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition.

Just yesterday I had the privilege of hearing from a Rhode Islander, Alex Lataille, who spoke at the one and only hearings Congress had, to discuss the negative effects of repealing the new health care law.

Alex graduated last May with two bachelor's degrees, and while looking for a job after graduation, he is able to afford health insurance because he can stay on his parents' policy. Repealing this law means Alex and millions of Americans will lose their coverage.

Recently while having breakfast in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, I met a young woman named Beth. She said she was going to be a constituent of mine, and she had only one request. For years she had been, and remains, an insurance sales agent. But for as many years, she has been denied access to health insurance because of a pre-existing condition. Each and every day served as a painful reminder that while she was selling insurance to others, she was being denied the very same coverage. As someone well attuned to the health care industry and the Affordable Care Act itself, this young woman knew that health care reform meant hope, provided certainty, and would finally allow her to get the access to affordable health care she would need—relieving her of years of fear and anxiety. She asked for my commitment to defend health care reform.

The Affordable Care Act establishes a Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan—one that would provide new coverage options for Americans like Beth until 2014, when, finally, all dis-

crimination against Americans with pre-existing conditions will be prohibited. Recently I also had the opportunity to speak with Susan, a mother of five from Rhode Island. Susan and her husband Ed are both middle-income earners. Recently their two sons, age 22 and 23, graduated from college. Both sons found entry level work, but neither receives health insurance from their employers. Under the current law, both sons will be eligible for coverage under their mother's health insurance plan when it renews in eight months. Susan went on to tell me that it would cost her more than \$600 per month to provide coverage to her sons through COBRA. She said that with three children still at home, and despite the fact her and her husband are employed, they cannot support the added expense beyond eight months.

With repeal of the Affordable Care Act, the temporary gap that Susan and her family face would become a permanent gap. We are sending a deplorable message to Americans, and indeed the world, if we abandon hard working men and woman like Susan and Ed, and let their two sons—both college graduates, both duly employed, go without health coverage until they find jobs that provide health insurance.

I come to this Congress to help bring common sense solutions to complex problems. When I look at the impact of repealing the Affordable Care Act, I think about the struggles of Alex, Beth and Susan, Ed and their two sons. I think about the number of Rhode Islanders who will once again find themselves saddled with greater financial burdens. I think about the many men, women, and children of my state who will once again face uncertainty over something as fundamental as their own health and well-being. When I think about these consequences, it is common sense, and an understanding of the struggles faced by so many Rhode Islanders that compels me to object so strongly to this proposed repeal.

I was sent here to find practical solutions to solve the problems facing Rhode Island families. Let's work to improve this law, not repeal it.

## CONVEYANCE OF SUBMERGED LANDS TO THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2011*

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 670, a bill that will give back to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands three miles of submerged lands surrounding our islands.

Exactly two years ago, I introduced the same bill, which was H.R. 934. The bill was lauded by the leaders of the Commonwealth Government and the Legislature. The bill received wide support from both sides of the aisle and in fact was unanimously passed by the House on July 15, 2009. The bill was also approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in May 2010. The bill was made part of Senate Majority Leader REID's The America's Great Outdoors Act of 2010, which was introduced in the closing

days of the 111th Congress. However, the Senate did not act on Senator REID's omnibus lands bill because of many competing priorities.

But allow me to explain why this bill is crucial to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and why it has received such wide support. The Northern Mariana Islands is the only U.S. jurisdiction that does not have ownership of the submerged lands three miles off its shores. We have been a Commonwealth under a permanent Covenant with the United States since 1976. For thousands of years, the Chamorro and Refaluwasch people farmed the land and fished the seas. However on February 25, 2005 the people of the Mariana Islands were shocked to discover that the waters and the submerged lands below them did not belong to them. But that they were the property of the United States of America, as concluded by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In the same breath, the Court recognized the integral connection between the land, water and my people. The Court pointed out that Congress can return these lands back to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. H.R. 670 does exactly that.

I want to thank all those Members who are original cosponsors of this bill and I ask that my colleagues support H.R. 670.

**ROBERT H. RAWLINGS**

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, It is my sincere privilege to rise and pay tribute to the lifetime achievements of Robert H. Rawlings, a man whose personal compass has guided him to business success, philanthropic accomplishment, and given him a deep conviction for civic duty. For all of this Mr. Rawlings will be the recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the Rocky Mountain Council and The Boy Scouts of America. In receipt of this prestigious honor, Robert Rawlings joins an exclusive fraternity whose roster includes Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and President Gerald Ford.

This Las Animas, Colorado, native is most prominently known for his successful ownership and editing of The Pueblo Chieftain, Southern Colorado's most circulated publication. This alone merits recognition, but Mr. Rawlings' accomplishments are far more reaching than simply owning and editing a newspaper. Mr. Rawlings admirably served his country in World War II as a member of the Navy in the South Pacific. Then he endeavored to become the newsman he is today. As his newspaper career began to flourish, so did Mr. Rawlings ability to give back to Southern Colorado. The size and scope of his community involvement has been immense; ranging from the financing and leadership behind the Robert H. Rawlings Outdoors Sports Complex to co-founding of the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Rawlings has also made notable contributions as president of the Colorado Press Association, Colorado Associated Press, Colorado Bar Press; he has been involved with the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, served as chairman of The Pueblo Medal of Honor Committee, and has worked

to establish a water district to help preserve Arkansas Valley water. This may sound like an incredible list of accomplishments, but it only scratches the surface of what Robert H. Rawlings has been able to do for Southern Colorado, and our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of man more deserving of this esteemed honor than Mr. Robert H. Rawlings.

# LARSEN CRITICIZES MAJORITY PARTY FOR FAILING TO PROPOSE A JOBS PLAN

## HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2011*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of investing in our nation's infrastructure to create good, family-wage jobs.

The American people want Congress to focus on growing jobs and getting the economy back on track.

But the new majority has failed to present any plan to tackle our economic problems or create new jobs for Americans left struggling in the wake of the economic recession.

Of course oversight is important. In fact, the Democrats conducted 1,400 oversight hearings in the 110th Congress. But let's not waste two days debating something we are already doing while the American people need us to focus on jobs and the economy.

We need a jobs plan now that will invest in our infrastructure so we can rebuild our nation's crumbling roads, bridges, highways and railroads to keep our economy moving and create good jobs in our communities.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am committed to improving and enhancing our infrastructure so we can expand our workforce and maintain U.S. economic leadership in the world.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided effort and direct our attention instead to policies that will get our economy moving and create jobs.

# TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES B. JACKSON, SR.

## HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2011*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a ministerial wunderkind who at the age of 58 has led his home church for a remarkable 40 years. Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr., is the spiritual leader of Brookland Baptist Church and a community leader in the Columbia, South Carolina, metropolitan area. I am proud to call Dr. Jackson a dear friend, and acknowledge that he has presided over some very important events in my life, including the marriage of my youngest daughter, Angela.

Charles Jackson is a product of West Columbia, South Carolina, and attended the local public schools. Even from a young age, there was no doubt the path that his life would take. At the age of nine, Dr. Jackson responded to the call to preach. The next year he was li-

censed, and at age 12 he became an ordained minister. At the age of 18, when most young men are searching for a direction in life, Dr. Jackson was installed as the Pastor of his home church—Brookland Baptist Church of West Columbia.

At the time he officially took over the ministerial leadership of the church, he was also a student at Benedict College. Despite the demands of his chosen career, he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. As a dedicated student, he received the Distinguished Mathematics and Physics Award for achieving the highest academic average in those disciplines.

Dr. Jackson continued his studies by attending the Interdenominational Theological Center of Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta. He graduated with honors in 1977 with a Master of Divinity. He was also awarded the Distinguished Board of Directors Award for High Academic Achievement. In August 1978, Dr. Jackson completed one year of certification of residency in Clinical Pastoral Education at the South Carolina Academy for Pastoral Education. He has received Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees from Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina, and from his alma mater, Benedict College.

During his 40 years at Brookland Baptist, the church has grown exponentially. As one of the fastest growing churches in the state, Brookland Baptist offers 65 ministries, a full-service Federal Credit Union, the Brookland Foundation—a charitable 501(c)(3)—the Brookland Center for Community and Economic Change, the Brookland-West Columbia Community and Housing Development Corporation, and the Brookland Community Pediatric Center, which is a collaborative effort with the Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center.

Nearly 12 years ago, Dr. Jackson led his growing congregation to a new 2300-seat sanctuary. In addition to the beautiful new church, Brookland Baptist also opened a 68,000 square-foot Community Resource Center in September 2005, which houses an Academy Child Development Center, a Health and Wellness Center, and a Banquet and Conference Center. In 2008, the board of Lexington School District Two awarded Brookland Baptist the building that once housed the former Lakeview/Northside School. This 94,000 square foot educational facility on 11 acres of land will be converted into the Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center. As a result of the church's Economic Empowerment Initiative, over 160 people are employed in Brookland's ministry.

Due to the tremendous growth in the church family, Dr. Jackson opened a second campus of the church. Brookland Baptist Church Northeast opened on October 5, 2008, and Dr. Christopher Leevy Johnson was installed as the Campus Pastor. He has also expanded his ministry overseas. Dr. Jackson has partnered with Providence Baptist Church in Liberia to provide a weekly radio broadcast in that African country.

Dr. Jackson held and still holds membership in a number of denominational, civic and community organizations. He is a former president of the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the Gethsemane Baptist Congress of Christian Education. He is also Past Moderator of the Gethsemane Baptist Association. Dr. Jackson is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Golden

Square Lodge #283, NAACP, 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia, Inc., and the Cayce-West Columbia Rotary Club.

He serves on the Board of Governors for the Capital City Club, the Board of Directors of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Board of Trustees for Morris College in Sumter, SC, the Board of Directors for Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, the Board of Visitors for the University of South Carolina and is the Chairman of the Distressed Areas Task Force for New Carolina.

His honors include: the 1995 Affirmative Action Award from the Black Faculty and Staff Association of the University of South Carolina; the Lincoln C. Jenkins Achievement Award for Economic Empowerment by the Columbia Urban League; the Whitney M. Young, Jr., Service Award by the Boy Scouts of America, the Distinguished Service Award by the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council (2004), West Metro Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year (2005), Lifetime Achievement Award by the 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia, Inc., and the March of Dimes African American Achievement Award (2006).

He has preached revivals throughout the United States and delivered lectures at more than fifteen colleges and universities. In observance of his 30th anniversary as Pastor of the Brookland Baptist Church, Governor Jim Hodges awarded him the Order of the Palmetto, which is the highest honor that the State of South Carolina confers upon its citizens.

Dr. Jackson is married to the former Robin Hoefer, and is the father of two children, Reverend Charles B. Jackson, Jr., pastor of the New Laurel Street Baptist Church in Columbia, SC, and Candace, a graduate of Duke University School of Law, and an associate of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP. A daughter-in-law, the former Iva Gaymon and four grandchildren Kayla, Charles III, Caleb and Carter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Charles Jackson, Sr., on his extraordinary 40 years in the ministry. We are extremely fortunate that Dr. Jackson is still in the prime of his career, and we can look forward to many more years of his growing ministry and his dedicated service. He embodies the admonition of our Christian faith to do "good works." His ministry has touched countless lives over the past 40 years, and he deserves our commendation.

# HONORING PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

SPEECH OF

## HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2011*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan. As Americans celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birthday this month, we not only commemorate his life, but also, and more importantly, the legacy he left to America and the world.

Throughout his life, whether as an actor, spokesperson, governor, or President, he passionately pursued his vision for America, which was rooted in freedom, opportunity, and prosperity.